

FINANCE

Outstanding Service Awards

Finance honors top workers plus six individuals for their exemplary service.



Honorees (from left) Warren Sibille, Jova Salazar, Bea Suga, Elizabeth Salumbides, Elba Pallais and Mark Choi.

Story by Yvonne Liu, Office of Finance;
Photos courtesy Finance

On June 10, the Office of Finance celebrated the top 2 percent of its workforce at the Department's eighth annual Outstanding Service Awards, held at the Kyoto Grand Hotel and Gardens. Antoinette Christovale, Director of Finance, presented awards to six employees for their exceptional performance and dedication to the job, saying, "This year, four of our recipients have less than five years' experience with the Department. It gives me great pleasure to recognize the new talents among the veteran employees for their contribution and their ability to excel in a highly specialized field of City service."

Antoinette Christovale and Chief Management Analyst Jan Zatorski, Administration Division, opened the proceedings by praising all honorees for their exceptional professionalism and contributions to the Office. They also took the opportunity to thank all Office of Finance staff for their service and dedication throughout the year.

The Office of Finance was created in 2000 as a result of Charter reform efforts, and collects approximately \$2.5 billion in revenue annually from various sources including taxes, licenses, fees and permits. This revenue pays for essential municipal services to City residents and businesses.

The following six honorees were recognized for their service during fiscal year 2009-10 at levels above and beyond the normal duties of their jobs:

ANDREA ANGELES

- Personnel Analyst II,
Personnel Services Section

■ *Andrea Angeles, Personnel Analyst II, Personnel Services Section*, has worked in the Department's Personnel Services Section since September 2007. She is a dedicated worker who takes pride in her work and is willing to come in on days off or stay late as necessary. Aside from consistently submitting a thorough and complete work product, she encompasses all of the qualities to be a true asset to the section and Department.

MARK CHOI

- Sr. Systems Analyst I,
Finance Systems Support

■ *Mark Choi, Sr. Systems Analyst I, Finance Systems Support*, came to the Department in January 2008. He has been invaluable in ensuring that very important system processes function on a daily basis and that the systems support needs for Finance staff assigned to revenue collection activities are met. Mark was tasked with the responsibility to plan and coordinate all of the work required by the Department for the Google migration implemented across the City. Finance is the only City department whose IT team implemented the Google migration without having the users complete the migration. Frequent contact group addresses, archived mail and calendar history were migrated seamlessly without disruption.

BEA SUGA

- Finance Collection Investigator II,
Citywide Collection Unit (CCU)

■ *Bea Suga, Finance Collection Investigator II, Citywide Collection Unit (CCU)*, has worked for the City since December 1975. As the lead

employee in the Special Projects Unit, she is responsible for maintaining the spreadsheet with the cases that CCU has referred to the City Attorney's Office. She has assumed a leadership role in administering, tracking, general support and interfacing directly with the City Attorney's Office.

With minimal supervision, she has been and continues to be responsible for maintaining the log to track the City Attorney referrals. She assisted management and the City Attorney in developing the protocols for case referral, which included a checklist of items required by the City Attorney and Finance for possible litigation.

JOVITA SALAZAR

- Tax Auditor II,
Field Audit

■ *Jovita Salazar, Tax Auditor II, Field Audit*, has been employed with the Department for almost three years. She consistently demonstrates reliability and diligence in producing high quality and a large quantity of audits with high recovery amounts. Because of her expertise, Jovita is always relied upon to do complex and challenging audits. Her list of complex audits of multi-location taxpayers, lawyers, hotels and investment companies involved difficult audit issues with minimal hearings and revisions. These audit cases have resulted in recoveries of \$4.5 million for the current fiscal year through April 30.

WARREN SIBILLE

- Tax Compliance Officer II,
Field Enforcement

■ *Warren Sibille, Tax Compliance Officer II, Field Enforcement*, was hired by the Department in July 2006. Since then, he has increasingly taken on a list of assignments significantly beyond normal job requirements. He single-handedly was responsible for programming and setting up

10 point-of-sale credit and debit card terminals for the discovery units and the Westchester and Watts branch locations. He played a critical role working with LATAX personnel to cross-match names and addresses from the State Board of Equalization database to the LATAX database and trained two other supervisors in this process. These vital technical improvements have helped reduce errors and speed up revenue collection.

ELIZABETH SALUMBIDES

- Tax Compliance Officer III,
Field Enforcement

■ *Elizabeth Salumbides, Tax Compliance Officer III, Field Enforcement*, started with the Tax and Permit Division of the City Clerk's Office as a Management Assistant in May 2000. In 2003, she earned a commendation for her work performance with the Renewal Processing Unit. In 2005, Elizabeth earned another recognition for her valuable contribution to the LATAX implementation.

Over the past year, Elizabeth has performed at a very high level, overseeing a very busy public counter, as well as serving as supervisor of the Central field district. She played an integral part in the very successful 2009 Tax Amnesty Program. Elizabeth managed to motivate and lead a team that had never worked together before to become a productive group within the short three months of their term of service with us.

Through her team building contributions as an experienced supervisor, Elizabeth has earned the designation as the Office of Finance Employee of the Year for 2010.

Antoinette Christovale closed the event by thanking her management team for their generosity and support in funding the breakfast event.

For more information about the Office of Finance, please go to <http://finance.lacity.org/>



Employee of the Year: Antoinette Christovale, Elizabeth Salumbides and Larry Manocchio. Elba Pallais, Personnel Director received the award on Andrea Angeles' behalf. Andrea was on vacation.



Warren Sibille (center), award recipient, with Robert Gagnon (left) and Antoinette Christovale.



Tax and Permit Audit, from left: Antoinette Christovale, Jova Salazar, Ed Cabrera and Henry Fong.



Administrators (from left) Antoinette Christovale, Elba Pallais and Jan Zatorski.



LATAX section, from left: Antoinette Christovale, Mark Choi and Carl Sampson.



Revenue Management, from left: Antoinette Christovale, Bea Suga, Brad Moe and Jeff Whitmore.