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HCVT Partner Named Top 25 OZ Tax Specialist for Third Straight Year

HCVT tax partner Blake Christian was named one of the Top 25 *Opportunity Zone Magazine* OZ Tax Specialists and OZ Influencer at the October OZ Expo Tax Conference in Phoenix, Arizona. The OZ Expo parent, OpportunityZone.com, polls its members annually to determine the most expert and influential OZ practitioners. This is the third year that Blake has been recognized as a national OZ expert. Blake is among a select group of CPAs who have been named to the Top 25 list.

“The OZ community is very appreciative of Ali Jahangiri and the OpportunityZone.com team for their leadership in the OZ industry,” Blake commented in response to being honored. “While we are only four years into this powerful and flexible tax program, we are seeing increasing community impact every year.” The outlook panel discussion participants shared during the Phoenix OZ Expo Conference provided the attendees with further optimism for the program’s national impact in the coming years.

Blake has specialized in various federal and state tax incentive programs for three decades and has been specializing in the OZ Program since the program’s 2017 adoption as part of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA). To date, HCVT has assisted clients with establishing over 200 Qualified Opportunity Funds (QOF), and Qualified Opportunity Zone Businesses (QOZB) comprised of hundreds of millions of dollars that are invested in real estate projects and operating businesses throughout the country. The OZ program has attracted a minimum of \$32 billion of equity dollars through June 2022. Still, in counting OZ fund dollars and debt leverage that have been invested into non-public funds such as family offices, the total OZ Project funding is likely well over \$100 billion already. Blake is also a contributing author of “[How to OZ](#)” a publication produced by OpportunityZone.com

Blake credits this award to a variety of other co-workers, clients and professionals he works with. "While I am very honored and humbled by this recognition, my involvement in this transformative program is a result of numerous collaborations. My talented and hard-working HCVT OZ Team, my partners, and the many clients who were early adopters, as well as OZ attorneys and consultants who have supported our OZ practice. The OZ Program is clearly the most flexible and impactful economic development tool in decades."

The Top 25 OZ Attorneys and OZ Program Influencers were also recognized for their work in this relatively new and impactful economic development program. Past awardees have included OZ co-sponsors Senators Tim Scott and Cory Booker, as well as former Presidents Obama and Trump who were instrumental in the development and passage of the OZ Program. While formulated under the Obama Administration, the Trump Administration championed the program, with unprecedented cooperation from the IRS and Treasury."

More information about Blake and the HCVT OZ Practice can be found at www.hcvt.com

About HCVT:

HCVT is a growing, Top 50 firm. We provide tax, accounting, business management, and mergers & acquisitions services to private companies, closely held businesses, public companies and high-net-worth individuals and family offices. We also provide audit and assurance services to privately held businesses and employee benefit plan sponsors. The team consists of more than 750 members, including over 100 partners and principals. HCVT serves its clients from nine offices in Southern California in addition to offices located in Northern California; Fort Worth, Texas; Park City, Utah; and Phoenix, Arizona. The firm is highly specialized and focuses on specific industries and market niches, including real estate developers, private equity firms, entertainment and serial entrepreneurs. To learn more about HCVT and the OZ Program, please visit www.hcvt.com and <https://www.hcvt.com/services-federal-qualified-opportunity-zone>.