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**MIAMI LAWYER JOSEPH BARRY SCHIMMEL
RECEIVES NATIONAL PRO BONO AWARD
FROM AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION TAX SECTION**

WASHINGTON, D.C., Jan. 22, 2008 -- The American Bar Association Section of Taxation presented its annual Janet Spragens Pro Bono Award to Miami lawyer Joseph Barry Schimmel, during a luncheon January 19th at the section's 2008 Midyear Meeting in Lake Las Vegas, Nevada. Schimmel is a partner in the Miami firm, Cohen, Chase, Hoffman & Schimmel.

The Janet Spragens Pro Bono Award, named after the late American University Law professor who greatly contributed to ensuring representation for low-income taxpayers, is presented each year to an individual lawyer or law firm that has demonstrated outstanding and sustained commitment to *pro bono* (free) legal services, particularly with respect to federal and state tax law.

“Joe Schimmel has shown a great commitment to the *pro bono* community, and to the importance of access to legal services for low-income taxpayers,” said Stanley L. Blend, section chair. “His hours of dedicated *pro bono* service, along with his

contributions to Tax Section comment projects affecting low-income taxpayers, represent meaningful contributions to the *pro bono* tax community.”

Schimmel has been active with the Legal Services of Greater Miami, Inc., federally funded tax clinic since 2000. He provides *pro bono* assistance to the clinic, accepts low-income taxpayer cases, and presents volunteer training to other lawyers and non-lawyers at the clinic.

Schimmel has worked on a number of Tax Section comment projects, including those on uniform definition of a qualifying child, processing of offers in compromise, and collections due process procedures. He chairs the section’s Low Income Taxpayer Committee, and serves as vice chair of the Membership & Marketing Committee.

Also an active member of the Florida Bar, Schimmel chairs its Council of Sections, and has served on the Tax Section Director’s Committee and Executive Council, as well as the Tax Law Certification Committee.

“Joe Schimmel is a dedicated and caring individual who is highly valued in the world of *pro bono* attorneys who serve low-income taxpayers,” said George Willis, associate clinical professor at Chapman University School of Law in California. “He has contributed many hours and much effort to the needs of low income taxpayers, and his activities in that regard should be a model for tax lawyers nationwide,” he said.

The ABA Section of Taxation Pro Bono Award was initiated in 2002 at the recommendation of the section’s Special Pro Bono Task Force. Its name was changed to the Janet Spragens Pro Bono Award in 2007. For more information about the Midyear Meeting, visit the ABA Section of Taxation Web site, <http://www.abanet.org/tax/meetings/midyear08/>.

The American Bar Association Section of Taxation is the largest professional association of tax lawyers, with approximately 21,000 members nationwide. Its goals include helping taxpayers better understand their rights and obligations under the tax laws and working to achieve a simplified tax system that is equitable and efficient.

With more than 413,000 members, the American Bar Association is the largest voluntary professional membership organization in the world. As the national voice of the legal profession, the ABA works to improve the administration of justice, promotes programs that assist lawyers and judges in their work, accredits law schools, provides continuing legal education, and works to build public understanding around the world of the importance of the rule of law.