

## Awards

### Robert F. Drinan Award

Former American Bar Association President **Jerome J. Shestack** will receive the annual Robert F. Drinan Award from the ABA Section of Individual Rights and Responsibilities during the 2006 ABA Midyear Meeting, for his longstanding commitment to human and civil rights throughout a long ABA career. A partner at the **Philadelphia** firm of Wolf, Block, Schorr and Solis-Cohen, Shestack was a founding member of the ABA Section of Individual Rights and Responsibilities, and has dedicated his service to the Center for Human Rights. For more information, contact Jeff Lubbers at [lubbersj@staff.abanet.org](mailto:lubbersj@staff.abanet.org) or 202/662-1027.

### Spirit of Excellence Awards

The annual Spirit of Excellence Awards will be given to six lawyers at the 2006 ABA Midyear Meeting for their individual contributions to diversity in the legal profession, from their personal achievements to creating opportunities for others. The recipients are **Paula Boggs** of Starbucks Coffee Company, **Seattle**; **Harry Gee Jr.** of the law office of Harry Gee Jr., **Houston**; **Michael Dennis Marin** of Vinson & Elkins LLP, **Austin, Texas**; **Roderick A. Palmore** of Sara Lee Corp., **Chicago**; **Rachel Patrick** of the American Bar Association, **Chicago**; and **Judge Ann Claire Williams** of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, **Chicago**. For more information, contact Sharon Tindall at [tindalls@staff.abanet.org](mailto:tindalls@staff.abanet.org) or 312/988-5642.

### Pursuit of Justice Award

The ABA Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section has selected **San Francisco** trial lawyer **Mary Alexander** for the quarterly Pursuit of Justice Award. She was recognized for her work fighting for consumer rights and the legal rights of families during her tenure as president of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America. She also organized Trial Lawyers Care, an effort of some 1,100 trial lawyers who provided volunteer help to the victims of Sept. 11. Alexander is a former president of the Consumer Attorneys of California and serves as president of the Roscoe Pound Institute. Please contact Sarai Shacklett for more information at [shackles@staff.abanet.org](mailto:shackles@staff.abanet.org) or 312/988-5574.

## Awards continued

### **National Arbitration Competition** **The University of Texas School of Law, Austin**

won the inaugural National Arbitration Competition co-sponsored by the ABA Law Student Division and the National Arbitration Forum. Members of the winning team were **Andrew Cook, Portia Bettis Culver, Casey Kaplan** and **Sarah Munson**. The competition, held Nov. 18-20 at William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul, Minn., was created to increase law students' knowledge of arbitration by simulating realistic hearings. Students from 20 ABA-approved law schools prepared and presented an arbitration case including opening statements, witness examinations, exhibit introductions, evidentiary presentations and summations. For more information, contact Peggy Pissarreck at [pissarrm@staff.abanet.org](mailto:pissarrm@staff.abanet.org) or 312/988-5621.

### **2005 TIPS Law Student Writing Competition**

**Coby Warren Logan**, a law student at the **University of Arkansas School of Law** in **Fayetteville, Ark.**, won the writing competition for his essay titled, "Federal Class Action Reform Legislation: The 'Unfair' Approach to Addressing the Issues of Modern Mass Tort Litigation." For his essay, Logan received \$1,500, round-trip airfare and accommodations at the 2005 ABA Annual Meeting in Chicago, and the chance to be published in the *Tort Trial & Insurance Law Journal*. The second place winner was **Aaron Walter** from the **University of Georgia School of Law** in **Athens, Ga.** For more information, contact Sarai Shacklett at [shackles@staff.abanet.org](mailto:shackles@staff.abanet.org) or 312/988-5574.

### **2005 Andrew C. Hecker Memorial Award**

Recognized for her expertise in coverage litigation and mediation for insurers and insureds, **Jill Berkeley**, partner at Schiff Hardin LLP in **Chicago**, was awarded the 2005 Andrew C. Hecker Award at this year's ABA Annual Meeting. Berkeley has authored several treatises on insurance and served on the ABA Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section Council and numerous leadership positions within the section. The award is given annually to recognize a commitment to the advancement of justice, scholarship and the legal profession, demonstrated through outstanding contributions to the fields of tort, trial and insurance law. Please contact Sarai Shacklett for more information at [shackles@staff.abanet.org](mailto:shackles@staff.abanet.org) or 312/988-5574.

## Looking for Nominees

### 2006 Thurgood Marshall Award

The Thurgood Marshall Award, established by the ABA Section of Individual Rights and Responsibilities, recognizes long-term contributions to civil rights, civil liberties or human rights in the United States. Nominations must be postmarked by **Jan. 6, 2006**. The award will be presented at the 2006 ABA Annual Meeting. For more information on the award and its guidelines, visit [www.abanet.org/irr](http://www.abanet.org/irr) or contact Jeff Lubbers at [lubbersj@staff.abanet.org](mailto:lubbersj@staff.abanet.org) or 202/662-1027.

### Paul G. Hearne Award

The ABA Commission on Mental and Physical Disability Law is seeking nominations for its 2006 Paul G. Hearne Award. This award honors an individual or organization that has performed exemplary service in furthering the rights, dignity and access to justice for persons with disabilities. Nominations are welcome from individuals and organizations, and must be received by **March 1, 2006**. Please contact Jamie Hochman Herz at [herzj@staff.abanet.org](mailto:herzj@staff.abanet.org) or 312/988-5682.

### Law Student Writing Competition

The ABA Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section is seeking entries for its annual Law Student Writing Competition. The goal of the competition is to encourage and reward law student writing on legal subjects within the scope of the Section and general and current interest. The winner will receive \$1,500, as well as paid air and hotel accommodations to the 2006 ABA Annual Meeting in Honolulu. Entries must be received by **March 6, 2006**. For more information on the competition, visit [www.abanet.org/tips/lawstudent](http://www.abanet.org/tips/lawstudent) or contact Sarai Shacklett at [shackles@staff.abanet.org](mailto:shackles@staff.abanet.org) or 312/988-5574.

### 2006 E. Smythe Gambrell Professionalism Awards

The ABA Standing Committee on Professionalism and the Center for Professional Responsibility seek nominations for the 2006 E. Smythe Gambrell Professionalism Awards. The committee distributes up to three awards of \$3,500 each and honors bar associations, law schools, law firms, and other law related organizations for contributions to professionalism among lawyers. Visit [www.abanet.org/cpr/gambrell.html](http://www.abanet.org/cpr/gambrell.html) or contact Kathleen Maher at 312/988-5307 or [MaherK@staff.abanet.org](mailto:MaherK@staff.abanet.org) for more information. Nominations are due **March 31, 2006**.

### Howard C. Schwab Memorial Essay Contest

The ABA Section of Family Law is accepting entries for its annual Howard C. Schwab Memorial Essay Contest. Entries must be original works by individual second- and third-year full-time students (and second- through fourth-year part-time students) enrolled in ABA-approved law schools, and first-year students enrolled in approved schools where the subject of family law is part of the first-year curriculum. The focus of the essay may be any aspect of family law. Entries must be submitted by **April 15, 2006**. For more information, contact Stephanie Kimme at [kimmes@staff.abanet.org](mailto:kimmes@staff.abanet.org) or 312/988-5145.