



2004-2005

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

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ABA TIPS AWARDS INAUGURAL KIRSTEN CHRISTOPHE MEMORIAL AWARD

CHICAGO, May 24, 2005— The American Bar Association Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section (TIPS) today announced that it will honor Francine L. Semaya, of New York City, with the inaugural Kirsten Christophe Memorial Award for Excellence in Trial and Insurance Law.

The award will be presented during the 2005 ABA Annual Meeting at the TIPS Leadership Dinner, Sunday, Aug. 7, from 7-10 p.m. at the Civic Opera House in Chicago.

The award is named in honor of Kirsten Christophe, a former member of the TIPS Council who lost her life in the World Trade Center on September 11th. Christophe was Vice President and Director of Risk Management Services for Aon Corporation and a nationally recognized expert in risk management, the author of several papers and books, an active member of the New York Junior League, and an active TIPS member for more than 15 years. A Chicago native, Christophe was a new mother, and an inspiration to her colleagues. The award was created to honor her dedication to the legal profession and pay tribute to her ability to balance career, philanthropy, and family life. The section will present the award annually to recognize a Section member or members who demonstrate expertise in an area of trial practice or insurance law, and who personify Christophe's exemplary attributes.

"Given the qualities in the areas of profession, family values and civic activities represented by this Award, it would be very difficult to find or even imagine a better first-time recipient than Fran Semaya," said Section Chair James K. Carroll. "Her ability to manage her practice, contribute to her profession, give back to the community, and still manage to be there for her family, particularly her children, is phenomenal."

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**CHRISTOPHE MEMORIAL AWARD, add one**

A senior member of the law firm of Cozen O'Connor, Semaya is chair of its Insurance, Corporate and Regulatory Practice Group, primarily handling insurance regulatory, reinsurance and insolvency issues for property, casualty, surety, life and annuities matters. A frequent speaker and author, Semaya has been active in TIPS for a number of years. She has served as section delegate to the ABA House of Delegates, on the TIPS council, and is the current chair of TIPS' Task Force on Federal Involvement in Insurance Regulation Modernization. Semaya is a past chair of several TIPS committees, including the Professionalism Committee, Public Relations Committee, Public Regulation of Insurance Law Committee, and the task forces on the Implementation of TIPS Insolvency Report and Insurance Insolvency. In addition to her many ABA activities, she is a member of the Practising Law Institute's Insurance Law Advisory Board, the Federation of Regulatory Counsel, Inc., the Insurance Law Committee of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, the New York State Bar Association, and the International Association of Insurance Receivers Board of Directors

Semaya earned her law degree from New York Law School and volunteers as a mentor to law students there. She actively supports several religious and civic organizations, including the Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC. Semaya balances her many professional responsibilities, the needs of her three children, and still finds time to serve on the Board of Trustees and the committee for Religion and Constitutional Law at her synagogue.

For more information about the Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section visit the TIPS Web site, [www.abanet.org/tips](http://www.abanet.org/tips).

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**CHRISTOPHE MEMORIAL AWARD, add two**

The ABA Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section is the only national professional group to bring together plaintiffs' lawyers, defense lawyers and insurance and corporate counsel for the exchange of information and ideas. The section's more than 30,000 members and 36 general committees focus on substantive and procedural matters in areas including aviation and space law, fidelity and surety law, medical malpractice, transportation law and others.

With more than 400,000 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 in a democratic society.

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Fall Meeting • October 6-11, 2004 • Rockport, ME  
Midyear Meeting • February 9-15, 2005 • Salt Lake City, UT  
Spring Meeting • April 27-May 2, 2005 • New Orleans, LA  
ABA Annual Meeting • August 4-9, 2005 • Chicago, IL