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Massachusetts Lawyer Neil Sugarman to Receive Pursuit of Justice Award

Award recognizes commitment to access to justice

CHICAGO, Jan. 16, 2009 — The American Bar Association Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section is honoring Neil Sugarman of Boston with the Pursuit of Justice Award, which recognizes lawyers and judges who have shown outstanding merit and who excel in providing access to justice for all.

The award will be presented to Sugarman on Feb. 14 during the ABA Midyear Meeting in Boston at the TIPS Pursuit of Justice Awards dinner at the EMC Club at Fenway Park, 20 Yawkey Way beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Sugarman has been a principal of Sugarman & Sugarman in Boston, which concentrates in the areas of products liability, medical malpractice, construction site accidents, admiralty, and complex personal injury lawsuits, since 1967. Over the course of his 40-year career, Sugarman has successfully handled some of the most catastrophic explosion and fire accident cases in Massachusetts, many involving multiple victims. In addition, he has successfully argued leading appellate cases involving the expansion of personal injury law and consumer rights.

Also a frequent lecturer and published writer, Sugarman, has held executive and leadership positions with every major legal association in Massachusetts. In addition, he is on the advisory board of the N. Neal Pike Institute on Law and Disability at Boston University School of Law, is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, is a past president of the Boston University School of Law Alumni Association, and is a past president of the Massachusetts Academy of Trial Attorneys. He also served as a Captain in the U.S. Army Signal Corp and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal in the Vietnam conflict.

Sugarman received a Juris Doctor from Boston University School of Law in 1965 and a Bachelor of Science from Northeastern University in 1962. He was admitted to the Massachusetts Bar in 1965, the United States District Court in Massachusetts in 1967 and the United States Court of Appeals, First Circuit in 1976.

In 1993, the Boston University School of Law honored Sugarman with the Silver Shingle Alumni Award, which is presented in recognition of notable contributions to the legal profession, leadership within the community, unfailing service to the School of Law, and superlative contributions to society. Sugarman also received the American ORT Federation Jurisprudence Award in 1993, was named one of "The Best Lawyers in America," from 1987 to 2007, was included in the "Top 10 Massachusetts Super Lawyers," list by Law and Politics from 2004 to 2008 and was a Fellow to the American College of Trial Lawyers, the International Society of Barristers and the International Academy of Trial Lawyers.

Additionally, Sugarman is a member of the Boston Bar Association, the Middlesex Bar Association, the Norfolk Bar Association, the Massachusetts Bar Association, the American Bar Association, the American Association for Justice, the Massachusetts Trial Lawyers Association, the Massachusetts Academy of Trial Attorneys, the Massachusetts Bar Foundation and the American Board of Trial Advocates.

In naming Sugarman as a recipient of the Pursuit of Justice award, Section Chair Timothy W. Bouch of Charleston, S.C., said "TIPS is proud to recognize Neil Sugarman for his lifetime of leadership in the Massachusetts personal injury bar. He has participated in numerous programs on access to justice and judicial independence, has held executive and leadership positions with every major legal association in Massachusetts. He has brought important cases vindicating individuals who were injured and assured them of their right to access to justice. Not only has he been recognized continuously since 1987 as one of the best lawyers in America, but he has also served as a mentor to a new generation of lawyers who have followed him into leadership positions with the Massachusetts bar."

The ABA Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section unites plaintiff, defense, insurance and corporate counsel to advance the civil justice system. TIPS is a national source of expertise in tort, trial and insurance practice and brings lawyers together to share information and speak out on issues of importance. The section, with over 32,000 members, has 34 general committees that focus on substantive and procedural matters in areas across the broad spectrum of civil law and practice. For more information about the Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section visit the TIPS Web site, www.abanet.org/tips.

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.

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Editors Note: Reporters are welcome to attend the award presentation at the ABA Midyear Meeting. Media credentials can be obtained by contacting the ABA Press Room in the Hynes Convention Center, Exhibit Hall D, beginning Thursday, Feb. 12 or registering in advance at www.abanews.org. For more information on the award or TIPS contact Deborah Weixl, ABA Division for Media Relations and Communication Services, at 312/988-6126 or e-mail weixld@staff.abanet.org. On site, call 847/902-9019.