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Darcee S. Siegel of Florida Is Recipient of the 2008 Kirsten Christophe Memorial Award

CHICAGO, June 13, 2008 — The American Bar Association Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section will honor Darcee S. Siegel of Bal Harbour, Fla., with the Kirsten Christophe Memorial Award for Excellence in Tort, Trial and Insurance Law. The award will be presented during the 2008 ABA Annual Meeting in New York City at the section's 75th Anniversary Dinner on Aug. 10. The event will be held in the Delegates Dining Room at the United Nations Building from 7 - 10 p.m.

The award is named for Kirsten Christophe, a former TIPS council member who perished on Sept. 11, 2001, in the World Trade Center attack. Beginning in 2005, the award has been presented annually to recognize a section member who demonstrates expertise in the areas of insurance law or trial practice, and who personifies the exemplary attributes of Christophe - balancing career, profession and family, in both life and practice.

Section Chair Peter Bennett of Portland, Maine said of Siegel, "Darcee has been a dedicated and loyal member of TIPS for the past 20 years as well as serving as chair of a number of substantive standing committees. She is the embodiment of the Kirsten Christophe award as she has proven, without a doubt, that through hard work and education one can achieve balance in career and family. What we recall from Kirsten's dedication to her family and the profession is just as evident in Darcee. A dedicated public servant, mother of three sons and wife, she has made invaluable contributions to her community and the profession. We are honored to present Darcee with this award."

Siegel received her Juris Doctor from the Walter F. George Mercer School of Law in 1985 and her Bachelor of Arts in 1981 at Tulane University.

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TIPS Fall Meeting • October 4-7, 2007 • Palm Beach, FL
ABA Midyear Meeting • February 6-12, 2008 • Los Angeles, CA
TIPS Spring Meeting • May 1-4, 2008 • Las Vegas, NV
ABA Annual Meeting • August 7-12, 2008 • New York, NY

Siegel, Add One

She began her legal career as chief law clerk with the city of Miami in 1985. From 1988-1992, she served as city prosecutor, chief trial attorney and assistant city attorney for the city of Hollywood. Siegel, who is currently the assistant city attorney for the city of North Miami Beach, has been a long-time member of the ABA and TIPS, holding various leadership positions. She is the 2007-2008 chair of the ABA Government and Public Sector Lawyers Division and is active in the Standing Committee on Public Education.

Her commitment to excellence extends beyond the ABA. Siegel is admitted to the Supreme Court of Florida, the Supreme Court of the United States, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit, the U.S. District Court Trial Bar and the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida. Siegel's special appointments have included serving as a special master for the cities of Miami, Sunny Isle Beach and Bal Harbour Village. Additionally, Siegel is a member of the Dade County Bar Association and the American Association of Justice.

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 has more than 35,000 members and 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 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.

Editors Note: *Reporters are invited to attend TIPS 75th Anniversary Dinner Celebration at the ABA Annual Meeting. Space is limited. Media credentials can be obtained in the ABA Press Room at the New York Hilton from Aug. 7-12 or by contacting 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.*