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LOS ANGELES LAWYER THOMAS V. GIRARDI TO RECEIVE ABA AWARD

CHICAGO, Jan. 29, 2008 — The American Bar Association Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section (TIPS) will honor Thomas V. Girardi with the Pursuit of Justice Award. The award will be presented during the 2008 ABA Midyear Meeting at the Joint Pursuit of Justice Award and Diversity in the Profession Reception at 6 p.m. on Feb. 8 in the Grand Salon Ballroom, Hotel InterContinental Century City, Los Angeles. Girardi is a name partner in the Los Angeles firm of Girardi & Keese.

TIPS presents the Pursuit of Justice Award periodically to recognize lawyers and judges who have shown outstanding merit and excelled at ensuring access to justice. Section Chair Peter Bennett of Portland, Maine, said of Girardi, "Tom is a dedicated lawyer and loyal member of TIPS. He exemplifies the fine attributes that this award represents: integrity, honesty and commitment to ensuring access to justice for all."

Girardi has been practicing law since 1965, specializing in medical malpractice, product liability law, wrongful death, commercial litigation, toxic torts and bad faith insurance cases. Regarded as one of the nation's top trial lawyers, Girardi has obtained numerous multimillion dollar verdicts and settlements. He has tried more than 100 jury cases, and in the 1970s won the first California medical malpractice of more than \$1 million. He received his J. D. from Loyola Law School in 1964, and an L.L.M. from New York University in 1965. He earned a B.A. from Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles in 1961.

Girardi's recognitions and awards are many. His accomplishments include being recognized as one of the "Best Lawyers in America" by Best Lawyers, 1987-2007. Girardi was also named by the Los Angeles Daily Journal as one of the "Top 100: California's Leading Lawyers" for 2006 and 2007. Girardi was selected as one of Southern California's "Super Lawyers," Highest Vote-Getter in California by Los Angeles Magazine, 2004-2007. In addition, Best Lawyers recognized him as one of "The Los Angeles Area's Best Lawyers" for 2006.

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GIRARDI, ADD ONE

In 2003, Girardi was inducted into the Trial Lawyer Hall of Fame by the California State Bar. Girardi is a member of the board of directors and former president of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers, an invitation-only worldwide organization, limited to 500 trial lawyers. He is also the first trial lawyer to be appointed to the California Judicial Council, the policymaking body of the state courts.

Girardi is a member of the American Bar Association's Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section; the California Judicial Council; and member and past president of the American Board of Trial Advocates. He has been an associate professor at Loyola Law School since 1976.

Girardi has authored multiple articles published in *California Law Business*, *Lawdragon Magazine*, the *Los Angeles Daily Journal* and the *National Law Journal*. Currently he hosts the legal radio talk show "*Champions of Justice*," that airs on KRLA 870 AM in Southern California.

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 36,000 members and 34 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. 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.