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Contact: Anne Nicholas
Phone: 202-662-8648
E-mail: nicholaa@staff.abanet.org

**WASHINGTON, D.C. PROFESSOR OF LAW RONALD A. PEARLMAN
RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD
FROM ABA TAX SECTION**

WASHINGTON, D.C., May 4, 2010 –The American Bar Association Section of Taxation announced that its 2010 Distinguished Service Award recipient is Ronald A. Pearlman, professor of law at the Georgetown University Law Center. The award was presented during the section’s 2010 May Meeting, at the plenary luncheon on May 8, in Washington, D.C.

The Distinguished Service Award was established in 1995, and is presented each year in recognition of a lawyer’s exceptional contributions to the tax system and tax bar. This year’s award honors Ronald Pearlman for his lifelong contributions to the tax profession and to the development of tax law and policy.

“Ron Pearlman has been a leader in the tax law community for many years, both in government and in private practice,” said Stuart M. Lewis, chair of the Section of Taxation. “At Treasury, Ron was instrumental in helping shape the Tax Reform Act of 1986,” he said. “That experience served him well when he joined the Joint Committee on Taxation, where he was able to provide members of Congress valuable perspectives on

tax policy and implications for the taxpaying public,” Lewis continued. “His insights continue to benefit students of tax law at Georgetown, who are learning from one of the best tax lawyers — and public servants — in the country,” he said. “Ron can speak to both the client and practitioner perspective, and can discern the many nuances that arise in tax policy: the administrative, legislative and regulatory issues that come to bear in the field of tax.”

Pearlman began his law career after earning a B.A. with honors from Northwestern University, and going on to receive a J.D. *cum laude* and Order of the Coif from Northwestern’s School of Law, where he was a member of the Northwestern University Law Review. In 1965, Pearlman took his first job as attorney-advisor in the Office of Chief Counsel (Interpretive Division) at the Internal Revenue Service. He attended graduate school in the evenings, achieving his LL.M. in Taxation from Georgetown University Law Center in 1967.

Pearlman left the IRS to practice law in St. Louis, where he worked at the firm Thompson & Mitchell (now Thompson & Coburn) for 16 years, and taught as an adjunct professor at Washington University School of Law. In 1983, Pearlman became deputy assistant secretary for Tax Policy at the Department of Treasury, quickly moving to the position of assistant secretary for Tax Policy a year later. Pearlman’s responsibilities focused on developing Treasury’s 1984 tax reform proposals, and then President Reagan’s tax reform recommendations to Congress. Pearlman was very involved in the tax legislative process during the House of Representatives debate on the Tax Reform Act of 1986. For his Treasury service, Pearlman was awarded the Alexander Hamilton Medal.

Pearlman returned to private practice in St. Louis in 1986, but moved back to Washington, D.C. some two years later to become chief of staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation. Pearlman spent the next three years in the post, where he provided support to members of Congress on tax policy and legislative proposals.

After leaving the Joint Committee, Pearlman went back to private practice, becoming a tax partner at Covington & Burling in Washington, D.C. He retired from the firm after 10 years to teach law full time as a professor at Georgetown University Law Center, where he continues to teach today. Pearlman has been on the faculty since 1999, and directed the Law Center's Graduate Tax Program from 1999-2002.

Pearlman has long been active in the organized bar, serving on the council of the American Bar Association Section of Taxation and as its vice chair of government relations. Pearlman has consulted on two tax policy projects at the American Law Institute and served as president of the American Tax Policy Institute. He has testified before Congress numerous times on tax policy matters, and has been published on a wide variety of tax issues.

For more information about the Section of Taxation's May Meeting, visit the Section of Taxation website, <http://meetings.abanet.org/meeting/tax/MAY10/>.

The American Bar Association Section of Taxation is the national voice of tax lawyers with approximately 21,000 members nationwide. Its goals include helping taxpayers better understand their rights and obligations under the tax laws and working to make the tax system fairer, simpler and easier to administer.

With nearly 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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***Editor's Note:** Reporters are invited to cover any or all sessions of the May Meeting. Course materials are available upon request. To obtain press credentials or to make arrangements for electronic coverage of any sessions, or for more information, call Anne Nicholas at 202/662-8648, or e-mail nicholaa@staff.abanet.org.*