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**AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION TAX SECTION ANNOUNCES TWO YOUNG
LAWYERS AS PUBLIC SERVICE FELLOWS**

Winners to Provide Two Years of Public Service Tax Work for 501(c)(3) Organizations

WASHINGTON, D.C., Dec. 28, 2009 -- The American Bar Association Section of Taxation has named two young lawyers to serve as 2009-2011 Public Service Fellows. The new Fellows join those selected last year, the first year of the program, in providing services to low-income taxpayers through sponsoring non-profit organizations.

The 2009 Public Service Fellows are:

- Katie Tolliver, scheduled to earn her J.D. from the University of Tennessee College of Law in May 2010. After graduating, Tolliver will direct the Appalachian Community Partnership for Tax Advocacy, serving low-income taxpayers in Tennessee, as well as regions of Kentucky, Virginia and North Carolina. Organizations partnering with ACPTA will collaborate to provide access to a variety of services; Tolliver's work will involve direct tax advocacy.
- Douglas Smith, currently a lawyer in private practice in Lancaster, Penn. Smith will be working with the Community Action Program of Lancaster County, Penn.,

where he will develop a low-income taxpayer clinic to serve the population in southeast and central Pennsylvania.

Both Tolliver and Smith have committed to two years of tax-related public service with their sponsoring organizations.

“We were pleased to receive 25 applications from well-qualified young lawyers interested in providing tax legal assistance to those who need it most,” said Stuart M. Lewis, chair of the ABA Section of Taxation. “The applications demonstrated a strong commitment to help underserved taxpayers in a variety of ways,” he continued. “Katie and Doug are very motivated, and are an inspiration to those of us in the profession,” said Lewis. “We know that their work will be extremely helpful in addressing some of the unmet needs of low income taxpayers who have little or no access to tax legal assistance.”

Katie Tolliver will be developing the Appalachian Community Partnership for Tax Advocacy, which will work with other community organizations in rural Appalachia to reach impoverished taxpayers who currently have no access to legal assistance. By partnering with service groups already working in the region, the ACPTA will more readily have access to those clients who need assistance, and can provide tax advocacy not previously available. ACPTA and its partners will combine resources to help taxpayers in impoverished populations achieve financial independence.

“The assistance that Katie Tolliver will provide through this fellowship will be a terrific resource to taxpayers in rural Appalachia,” said Neil McBride, general counsel of the Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberland, the organization sponsoring the fellowship. “This population is very difficult to reach, and yet is in

tremendous need of assistance,” he continued. “Katie brings a great compassion and understanding, along with a sincere commitment to help with tax issues,” he said.

“Traditionally, there has not been a resource for those taxpayers facing foreclosure, tax debt and other controversies with the IRS,” said McBride. “We believe that Katie’s work will have a have a long-lasting, systemic effect in helping taxpayers in rural Appalachia.”

Douglas Smith will be developing a low-income taxpayer clinic in an area of Pennsylvania that currently does not have taxpayer legal services for low-income populations. He will be assisting clients in controversy matters, providing education and tax services to immigrant and low-income taxpayers, working with English as a Second Language and elderly taxpayers on tax issues relevant to their needs, increasing the public service involvement of private attorneys, and training other legal service attorneys in tax law.

“Having an LITC available to our clients will greatly enhance the breadth and depth of services we’re able to provide to low-income taxpayers in southeast and central Pennsylvania,” said Mark Esterbrook, CEO of the Community Action Program of Lancaster County. “We currently provide income tax preparation services, but there is a tremendous need in the area of tax controversy assistance,” he said. “Doug brings a great deal of experience, along with a strong commitment to public service work,” Esterbrook continued. “His efforts through this fellowship will have a significant impact on the lives of low-income taxpayers in this area.”

The Public Service Fellowships were developed in 2008 to address the need for tax legal assistance, and to foster an interest in tax-related public service among those individuals who participate. Two individuals were named for the 2008-2010 term, and

are now working at 501(c)(3) organizations that assist low-income taxpayers in the “collar” counties of Chicago and Washington, D.C. The fellowships provide funding for the Fellows’ salaries and benefits, as well as law school debt assistance, by means of charitable contributions to the sponsoring organizations. All applications were reviewed and the successful applicants selected by the Tax Section’s Public Service Fellowship Committee. The section plans to award as many as two fellowships each year.

For more information about the ABA Tax Section Public Service Fellowships, please go to <http://www.abanet.org/tax/awards/publicservice>.

The American Bar Association Section of Taxation is the largest professional association of tax lawyers, with approximately 23,000 members nationwide. Its goals include helping taxpayers better understand their rights and obligations under the tax laws and working to achieve a simplified tax system that is equitable and efficient.

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.