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**BALTIMORE LAWYER CAROLINE CIRAOLO AND  
HOUSTON LAWYER JUAN VASQUEZ, JR.  
RECEIVE NATIONAL PRO BONO AWARD  
FROM AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION TAX SECTION**

WASHINGTON, D.C., Jan. 25, 2010 -- The American Bar Association Section of Taxation presented its annual Janet Spragens Pro Bono Award to Baltimore lawyer Caroline Ciraolo and Houston lawyer Juan Vasquez, Jr. during a luncheon Jan. 23rd at the section's 2010 Midyear Meeting in San Antonio. Ciraolo is a lawyer in the Baltimore law firm Rosenberg | Martin | Greenberg, LLP and Vasquez, Jr. is a lawyer in the Houston office of Chamberlain Hrdlicka White Williams & Martin.

The Janet Spragens Pro Bono Award, named after the late American University Law professor who greatly contributed to ensuring representation for low-income taxpayers, is presented each year to an individual lawyer or law firm that has demonstrated outstanding and sustained commitment to *pro bono* (free) legal services, particularly with respect to federal and state tax law.

“We are fortunate to have two outstanding lawyers receiving the award this year,” said Stuart M. Lewis, section chair. “Each devotes a good deal of time and energy

to assisting taxpayers who may not otherwise receive legal assistance,” he said. “These two individuals exemplify the Tax Section’s ongoing commitment to providing *pro bono* assistance to those taxpayers who need it most.”

Ciraolo helped found the U.S. Tax Court Pro Bono Program in Maryland, and continues to provide *pro bono* consultation services to unrepresented, or *pro se*, taxpayers at Tax Court calendar calls. Ciraolo serves on the board of directors and is an active volunteer with Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service and participates in the Maryland Low Income Taxpayer Return Preparation Clinics. She both represents individual clients on a *pro bono* basis and instructs potential volunteers in how to represent low-income taxpayers in tax controversies. She instructs and mentors students at the University of Maryland School of Law and the University of Baltimore School of Law tax clinics. Ciraolo is the immediate past chair of the Taxation Section of the Maryland State Bar Association and is active in the *pro bono* committees of both the MSBA and the ABA Sections of Taxation.

In addition to her tax *pro bono* work, Ciraolo serves as co-chair of the Homeless Persons Representation Project Annual Campaign in Baltimore, and is a member of the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals, Criminal Justice Act Panel. Ciraolo has also represented clients from the Caroline Center, a Baltimore program that helps women and their families in need. Ciraolo was selected *Educator of the Year* in 2008 by the Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service.

Juan Vasquez, Jr. has provided *pro bono* services for several taxpayers facing audit and collection issues in Houston. He regularly represents unrepresented *pro se* clients before the U.S. Tax Court and attends Tax Court calendar call to provide

consultation services. He has successfully resolved the tax issues facing a number of clients, including an innocent spouse case and a case involving a nonprofit, both before the U.S. Tax Court, and an unemployment benefits case before the Texas Supreme Court.

In addition to his tax *pro bono* work, Vasquez has served on the board of directors of Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Greater Houston, and served as a big brother to a young man for more than nine years. Vasquez is immediate past president of the Mexican American Bar Association of Houston, and is the current vice president of the Hispanic Bar Association of Houston.

Vasquez chairs the ABA Section of Taxation Diversity Committee and is a former Nolan Fellowship recipient.

The ABA Section of Taxation Pro Bono Award was initiated in 2002 at the recommendation of the section's Special Pro Bono Task Force. Its name was changed to the Janet Spragens Pro Bono Award in 2007. For more information about the Midyear Meeting, visit the ABA Section of Taxation Web site, <http://meetings.abanet.org/meeting/tax/MID10/>.

The American Bar Association Section of Taxation is the largest professional association of tax lawyers, with more than 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.