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**RETIRED TAX PROFESSIONAL LORETTA COLLINS ARGRETT  
TO RECEIVE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD  
FROM ABA TAX SECTION**

WASHINGTON, D.C., May 7, 2007 –The American Bar Association Section of Taxation today announced that its 2007 Distinguished Service Award will be presented to Loretta Collins Argrett, former assistant attorney general for the Tax Division at the U.S. Department of Justice, and former professor of Law at the Howard University School of Law. The award will be presented during the section’s 2007 May Meeting, at the plenary breakfast on May 11, 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 Loretta Collins Argrett for her outstanding service to the legal profession, the tax system and tax education.

“Loretta Argrett is an outstanding tax lawyer,” said Susan P. Serota, chair of the Section of Taxation. “She is also an inspiration. She chose a career in tax law when very few women were doing so; even fewer were women of color. Loretta achieved the highest levels of success in the profession, and always helped those young people –

especially women and persons of color – coming behind her. She continues to work toward improving the legal system and to inspire other young persons to become lawyers.”

A graduate of Howard University, Argrett began her career as a research chemist before choosing to go to law school. Argrett became a lawyer to help improve the economic status of minority and underserved communities, and decided that providing legal advice would increase opportunities for minority-owned businesses. Argrett earned her law degree from Harvard in 1976 and spent time in private practice before becoming the first African American staff member on the Joint Committee on Taxation in 1979. She was the first African American woman partner at Wald, Harkrader and Ross in Washington, D.C. before joining the faculty of Howard University School of Law in 1986. There, she taught tax, business planning and ethics, and encouraged her students to pursue careers in tax. She also taught as an adjunct professor at Georgetown and American University law schools.

In 1993, then-President Clinton nominated Argrett to serve as assistant attorney general in the Tax Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. Upon her confirmation by the U.S. Senate, she became the first African-American to serve in that position. During her six-year tenure there, Argrett restructured the division’s operations to maximize its efficiency and effectiveness at available budgetary levels. She also actively championed the careers of women and minorities and recruited them for positions of leadership. In addition, she created opportunities for career advancement for legal support staff, many of whom were African American single mothers.

Argrett has been an active member of the Section of Taxation since her earliest years as a lawyer and later served several years as an elected member of its council. She also has served the ABA in other capacities: as a member of the ABA Standing Committee on Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility, the ABA Joint Commission to Evaluate the Model Code of Judicial Conduct, the ABA Task Force on Gatekeeper Regulation and the Board of Directors of the American Bar Retirement Funds.

Argrett has received numerous awards in recognition of her professional excellence, including the Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award, the National Bar Association's "Charlotte E. Ray Award," the Treasury Department's "Chief Counsel's Award" and the Harvard Black Law Student Association's "Lifetime Achievement Award for Black Alumni."

For more information about the Section of Taxation's May Meeting, visit the Section of Taxation Web site, <http://meetings.abanet.org/meeting/tax/may07>.

The American Bar Association Section of Taxation is the national voice of tax lawyers with approximately 20,000 lawyers 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 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 in a democratic society.

***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](mailto:nicholaa@staff.abanet.org).