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Section of Taxation
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**SAN ANTONIO LAWYER STANLEY L. BLEND SELECTED TO LEAD
NATION'S LARGEST TAX LAWYERS GROUP**

Washington, D.C. lawyer William J. Wilkins is named chair-elect

WASHINGTON, D.C., Aug., 14, 2007 – Stanley L. Blend, a shareholder and chairman of the board of the San Antonio law firm Oppenheimer, Blend, Harrison and Tate, Inc., has been selected to chair the American Bar Association's Section of Taxation, the nation's largest organization of tax lawyers.

Blend becomes chair today, at the close of the ABA's Annual Meeting in San Francisco. He will serve a one-year term, to be succeeded by William J. Wilkins of the Washington, D.C. office of WilmerHale who was chosen to serve as chair-elect.

Blend is practice group leader of the Property Exchange Group and the Tax Group in his firm. His practice area covers income and estate tax planning, income tax controversy, and mergers and acquisitions negotiations. Prior to entering private practice, Blend was a staff attorney in the Tax Court Litigation Division of the Office of the Chief Counsel at the Internal Revenue Service in Washington, D.C. He served as assistant branch chief of that division until he joined Oppenheimer Blend in 1972.

Blend, who previously served as the ABA Tax Section's chair-elect, also served as the section's vice chair of administration (2002-2004), and council director (1999-2002). He served in various positions with the Partnership Committee, including as its chair (1986-1988). In addition to his ABA activities, Blend has served in several capacities with the Section of Taxation of the State Bar of Texas, including as its chair (1987-1988). Blend was listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*® 2007, and was named by *Texas Monthly* and *Law & Politics* as a "Texas Super Lawyer" in the area of tax law, and identified as one of the Top 50 Lawyers in Central and West Texas.

Wilkins is a partner in the Washington, D.C. office of WilmerHale. He works in the firm's tax group, advising clients on tax aspects of business transactions and counseling nonprofits on tax and governance issues. Wilkins has previously served in several leadership positions within the Tax Section, including as its vice chair of government relations, its vice chair of communications and as chair of two section committees.

The American Bar Association Section of Taxation is the national voice of tax lawyers with approximately 19,000 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.