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Section of Taxation
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**NEW YORK LAWYER SUSAN P. SEROTA SELECTED TO LEAD
NATION'S LARGEST TAX LAWYERS GROUP**

San Antonio lawyer Stanley L. Blend is named chair-elect

WASHINGTON, D.C., August, 8, 2006 – Susan P. Serota, a tax partner in the New York office of Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP, has been selected to chair the American Bar Association's Section of Taxation, the nation's largest organization of tax lawyers.

Serota becomes chair today, at the close of the ABA's Annual Meeting in Hawaii. She will serve a one-year term, to be succeeded by Stanley L. Blend of the San Antonio law firm Oppenheimer, Blend, Harrison and Tate, Inc., who was chosen to serve as chair-elect.

Serota chairs the executive compensation and employee benefits practice at her firm. Prior to becoming chair of the Tax Section, Serota chaired both the Section's Employee Benefits Committee and the ABA Joint Committee on Employee Benefits. She is a former member of the board of directors of the American Bar Retirement Foundation (1994-2004), serving as its president from 1999-2000, and is also a former member of the executive committee of the New York State Bar Association's Tax Section.

Serota is a charter member and immediate past-president of the American College of Employee Benefits Counsel, member of the Board of Regents of the American College of Tax Counsel (2000-2006), member of the Center for Labor and Employment Law of NYU School of Law and of the Editorial Advisory Boards of the *Benefits Law Journal* and *Tax Management*. Ms. Serota is the editor of *ERISA Fiduciary Law* (BNA Books 1995, Supp. 2003).

Blend is a shareholder in and chairman of the board of the San Antonio law firm Oppenheimer, Blend, Harrison and Tate, Inc. He previously served as vice chair of Administration (2002-2004) and council director (1999-2002) for the Tax Section, and has served in various positions with the Partnership Committee, including as its chair (1986-1988).

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 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 in a democratic society.