MARK MOREAU AND CARLTON SMITH

RECEIVE JANET SPRAGENS PRO BONO AWARD

FROM AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION SECTION OF TAXATION

WASHINGTON, D.C., Feb. 20, 2013 – The American Bar Association Section of Taxation presented its annual Janet Spragens Pro Bono Award to Mark Moreau, Co-Executive Director, Southeast Louisiana Legal Services in New Orleans, and Carlton Smith, Clinical Associate Professor of Law and Director, Tax Clinic, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law at Yeshiva University, during a luncheon on Jan. 26 at the Section’s 2013 Midyear Meeting in Orlando, Fla.

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 legal services, particularly with respect to federal and state tax law.

“Mark Moreau and Carlton Smith are both pioneers in providing pro bono tax assistance,” Rudolph Ramelli, Section Chair said. “Mark established a disaster-relief tax practice and has written numerous related publications as a resource to low-income taxpayers, victims of natural disasters and their representatives. Mark’s work is not only timely, but also provides an inspiration to other practitioners,” Ramelli added.
“Carl has focused on high-impact litigation, including coordinating a national campaign on innocent spouse litigation and collection due process issues,” continued Ramelli. “Carl provides a model for others to replicate in identifying systemic legal issues affecting low-income taxpayers and actively pursuing solutions.”

Section Pro Bono Award Committee Chair Alice Abreu added, “The dedication and innovation of Mark and Carl in their pro bono work is exceptional. Both have made extraordinary contributions to low-income taxpayers and the tax system by going above and beyond the duties of their positions to effect meaningful change.”

The ABA Section of Taxation Pro Bono Award was initiated in 2002. Its name was changed to the Janet Spragens Pro Bono Award in 2007 to honor the work and legacy of the late Professor Janet Spragens.

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 one of the largest voluntary professional membership organizations 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.