At its May meeting, the Section of Taxation will present its Distinguished Service Award for 2001 to Sherwin P. Simmons. Sherwin is a partner and the chair of the tax group of the Miami, Florida law firm of Steel, Hector & Davis LLP. He also served as Section Chair in 1975-76, the youngest member to have been elected at that time.

Sherwin’s career has been marked by distinguished service to the tax law, including the maintenance of the highest professional standards. From the time of his clerkship on the United States Tax Court following graduation from the Columbia University School of Law in 1954, Sherwin has been a practicing tax lawyer laboring in the vineyards of the tax system. But he has also found time to produce more than 800 books and articles on a variety of tax, business, and estate planning publications, setting an example of scholarship for all to aspire to match.

Sherwin has taught in the law schools of the University of Miami and Stetson and continues to lecture frequently at all of the major national tax institutes in the areas of employee benefits, exempt organizations, and estate planning.

Although you will find Sherwin’s name on published lists of the “Best Tax Lawyers in America” and even the "Best Lawyers in America," he has found the time to be a civic leader in his community. Whether it is the symphony, the performing arts, the Salvation Army, or the Chamber of Commerce who need assistance, Sherwin has been there giving his time and talents to make his community a better place for everyone to live.

Professionally, Sherwin has been an active participant in a range of activities. He belongs to the International Academy of Estate and Trust Law, the National Tax Association, the National Association of Bond Lawyers, the International Bar Association, the Federal Bar Association, the American Bar Foundation, the American Tax Policy Institute (Founding Trustee and Chair), the American College of Tax Counsel (Chair), the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, the American Law Institute (Council and Executive Committee), and the American and Florida Bar Associations, having served as Chair of the Section of Taxation of both of the latter associations. For many years Sherwin served as the Tax Section’s delegate to the House of Delegates of the ABA, and then on its Board of Governors where he served as chair of the Finance Committee. In both capacities, Sherwin provided wise counsel on the relationship of the Section to the Board of Governors and other officialdom of the ABA.

Sherwin has often been recognized for his leadership abilities, serving on the Advisory Committee on Tax Litigation for the U.S. Department of Justice, the IRS Advisory Committee for both Commissioners Kurtz and Gibbs, and as Chair of the Special Committee on Project 2000 for the ABA. Most recently, Sherwin served as Chair of the Commission on Multidisciplinary Practice. Although the Commission’s report was not adopted by the House of Delegates, the report’s findings and conclusions will provide a resource for future discussions.

The Section of Taxation is proud to present the Distinguished Service Award to Sherwin P. Simmons in honor of his 45 years of contributions to the tax system and the high professional standards he has set by his personal example for succeeding generations of tax lawyers.