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Contact: Anne Nicholas
Phone: 202/662-8648
E-mail: nicholaa@staff.abanet.org

**AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION TAX SECTION ANNOUNCES TWO YOUNG
LAWYERS AS PUBLIC SERVICE FELLOWS**

Winners to Provide Two Years of Public Service Tax Work for 501(c)(3) Organizations

WASHINGTON, D.C., Dec. 15, 2008 -- The American Bar Association Section of Taxation named two young lawyers as its first two Public Service Fellows. The Fellows will be directly involved in providing services to low-income taxpayers in the Washington, D.C. and suburban Chicago areas.

The awardees are:

- Laura Newland, scheduled to earn her J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center in May 2009. After graduating, Newland will be working on tax-related matters at the AARP's Legal Counsel for the Elderly program in Washington, D.C.
- Vijay Raghavan, currently an associate in the tax practice at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP in Chicago. He will be implementing a new tax law project with Prairie State Legal Services in Carol Stream, Ill.

Both Newland and Raghavan have committed to two years of service with their sponsoring organizations.

“We are very pleased with the number of applications we received in the first year of the Public Service Fellowship program,” said William J. Wilkins, chair of the ABA Section of Taxation. “We saw a tremendous interest and commitment from many young lawyers to public service work in the tax area,” he continued. “Laura and Vijay exemplify the types of lawyers we support and encourage, and we know their service will go a long way to assisting taxpayers, and to developing their individual careers in tax law.”

Laura Newland will be providing legal services to AARP’s Legal Counsel for the Elderly program, assisting low-income senior residents of the District of Columbia in the area of affordable housing (tax lien foreclosure), debt forgiveness, bankruptcy matters, and educational outreach on stimulus payment and other protocols. With Laura’s assistance, the organization hopes to expand tax assistance to its clients as well.

“The assistance that Laura Newland will provide through this fellowship will double LCE’s efforts in the area of tax,” said Jan Allen May, director of LCE. “This increased capacity is so critical right now with the rising tide of foreclosures and consumer issues dominating our economy and dramatically increasing the need for this kind of help,” he continued. “Laura brings great experience, having worked on issues such as predatory lending and affordable housing,” added Rawle Andrews, LCE’s managing attorney and a member of the D.C. Access to Justice Commission. “She’ll be a terrific asset for our program, and will expand our efforts to assist the many elderly D.C. residents who need tax-related help,” said Andrews.

Vijay Raghavan will be leading Prairie Legal Services’ tax project, which will include assisting low-income taxpayers who reside in four highly populated “collar

counties” near Chicago. He will be representing clients in controversy matters, providing education and tax services to immigrant and low-income taxpayers, working with English as a Second Language and elderly taxpayers on tax issues relevant to their needs, increasing the public service involvement of private attorneys, and training other legal service attorneys in tax law.

“Having Vijay on board will greatly expand the quantity and quality of services we’re able to provide to low-income taxpayers in northern and central Illinois,” said David Wolowitz, associate director of PSLS. “There is a tremendous need in the area of tax assistance,” he said. “Vijay brings experience and a commitment to public service work; his efforts through this fellowship will have a significant impact on the lives of the poor in this area.”

The Public Service Fellowships were developed this year to address the need for tax legal assistance, and to foster an interest in tax-related public service among those individuals who participate. More than 25 recent law school graduates applied for the Fellowships, which provide funding for the Fellows’ salaries and benefits, as well as law school debt assistance, by means of charitable contributions to the sponsoring organizations. All applications were reviewed and the successful applications selected by the Tax Section’s Public Service Fellowship Committee. The section plans to award as many as two fellowships each year.

For more information about the ABA Tax Section Public Service Fellowships, please go to <http://www.abanet.org/tax/awards/publicservice>.

The American Bar Association Section of Taxation is the largest professional association of tax lawyers, with approximately 21,000 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 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.