AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION SECTION OF TAXATION

ANNOUNCES TWO PUBLIC SERVICE FELLOWS

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 4, 2013 – The American Bar Association Section of Taxation has named its 2013-2015 Public Service Fellows. The Fellows will be providing services to low-income taxpayers through sponsoring non-profit organizations for two years.

The 2013 Public Service Fellows are:

- Susanna Birdsong, scheduled to earn her J.D. from the American University College of Law in May 2013, will be working as policy counsel with the National Women’s Law Center in Washington, D.C. She will focus on tax credits available to low-income families at the federal and state level.

- Susanna Ratner, a recent graduate of the Yeshiva University’s Benjamin Cardozo School of Law, is working with the SeniorLAW Center in Philadelphia, Pa. to provide direct legal services to low-income seniors with tax issues relating to home ownership.

“We were very pleased with the number of quality applications from young lawyers interested in public service tax work,” said Rudolph Ramelli, Chair of the ABA Section of Taxation. “Susanna Birdsong and Susanna Ratner are dedicated to working to improve the lives of underserved taxpayers,” he continued. “They created innovative
partnerships with their host organizations that focus on areas that are particularly
germaine in the current economic climate.”

Susanna Birdsong will be working with the National Women’s Law Center on specific projects to preserve and strengthen the quality of tax credits available to low-income families, at both state and federal levels.

“The ABA Section of Taxation Fellowship will greatly enhance our advocacy capacity,” said Nancy Duff Campbell, Co-President of the National Women’s Law Center. “Susanna’s experience helping poor families access public benefits and her knowledge of tax law will allow her to hit the ground running as an advocate at the state and federal level to protect and strengthen tax credits that help low-income families,” Campbell continued. “In addition, her background will enable her to engage state advocates for children and low-income families in critical tax reform debates and to expand outreach efforts to inform eligible families about available tax credits—in particular, the federal health insurance tax credits available in 2014.”

Susanna Ratner will be working in conjunction with the SeniorLAW Center to provide direct representation and education to vulnerable low-income senior citizens in Philadelphia. She will assist seniors with real estate tax matters affecting home ownership and shelter, inheritance tax issues, and personal income tax issues.

“Susanna’s fellowship project serving low-income and vulnerable elders facing tax crises is compelling, innovative, and unique,” noted Karen Buck, Executive Director of the SeniorLAW Center. “This is particularly critical in Philadelphia which is home to one of the largest and poorest populations of seniors in the country. One in 5 of our seniors lives in poverty. Susanna’s project addresses issues which are devastating to
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.