

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 21, 2008

**Contact: Katherine L. Garrett
202-467-3750 ext 12
garrett@dcbarfoundation.org**

DC Bar Foundation Selected as 2008 Outstanding Foundation Partner

The D.C. Bar Foundation has been selected as the *2008 Outstanding Foundation Partner* by the Association of Fundraising Professionals –DC. The award will be presented at AFP-DC's "National Capital Philanthropy Day," on November 17, 2008. The award is a mark of real achievement for the Bar Foundation, as it recognizes the breadth and depth of our approach to philanthropy: funding, strengthening, and helping to grow effective legal services across the city.

"We are delighted and honored to receive this recognition of our work," said Stephen J. Pollak, President of the D.C. Bar Foundation. "The Foundation has worked closely with the legal services community to develop grant programs that help expand and strengthen the network that responds to critical legal needs of our city's poorest and most vulnerable residents." The Bar Foundation has awarded over \$25,000,000 to support legal services since its founding. Since 2005 alone, the Foundation's awards have totaled over \$12 million, including \$5.6 million appropriated for legal services expansion by the D.C. City Council. The remaining funding has come from the Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts (IOLTA) Program, which the Foundation administers, and \$2 million in contributions from local law firms and lawyers. "Our funding translates directly into legal assistance for people who need it most," said Katherine L. Garrett, DC Bar Foundation Executive Director. "Poverty lawyers make real the rights of people to stay in their homes, they help women and children secure lives free of violence, and they help all from the very young to our elders get the support and security they so desperately need. We are proud to continue our work with this essential part of our community."

The Bar Foundation was nominated for the award by the Legal Counsel for the Elderly, and joins a select group of past recipients, including The Meyer Foundation, and The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation.

#

The DC Bar Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization established in 1977, is the largest private funder of civil legal services in the District. It provides direct grants and training and technical assistance to local non-profit legal services organizations, and awards loans to D.C. poverty lawyers to help with their educational debt.