

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 14, 2009**  
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## SHIRLEY WILLIAMS WINS SCOUTT AWARD

The District of Columbia Bar Foundation has selected Shirley M. Williams to receive the **2009 Jerrold Scoutt Prize**. The prize is awarded annually to an attorney who has worked for a significant portion of his or her career at a non-profit organization providing direct hands-on legal services to the needy in the District of Columbia; has demonstrated compassionate concern for his or her clients; and has exhibited a high degree of skill on their behalf.

Shirley Williams has devoted her 24-year legal career advocating for people living in poverty, starting as a staff attorney first for Neighborhood Legal Services Program and then for **AARP's Legal Counsel for the Elderly (LCE)**. Since 1998, Ms. Williams has served as LCE's pro bono manager, and outreach services coordinator. In this capacity, she has doubled the number of pro bono cases placed by the project to over 700 cases annually, mentoring many of the attorneys who handle the cases. Shirley is recognized as an expert in areas of law affecting the District's older citizens, including wills, powers of attorney, and protective arrangements, and has been at the forefront of efforts to expand and improve efforts to address systemic issues for the District's elderly poor. She manages a range of innovative outreach efforts, ensuring that legal information is carried into senior centers and underserved neighborhoods across the city. Shirley also generously mentors pro bono attorneys, providing a core of expertise in critical and time-sensitive cases. Ms. Williams holds a B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania, and a J.D. from the Antioch School of Law.

The Scoutt Prize is named in honor of **Jerrold Scoutt, Jr.**, a founding partner of Zuckert, Scoutt & Rasenberger LLP, for his longtime support of legal services. The prize carries a stipend of \$2,500 and is endowed by the firm.

The Bar Foundation will present the 2009 Scoutt Prize during the Judicial Reception at the D.C. Bar Conference on March 30, 2009. Requests for further information should be addressed to Katherine L. Garrett by email at [garrett@dcbfoundation.org](mailto:garrett@dcbfoundation.org) or by phone at 202-467-3750 ext. 12.

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*The District of Columbia Bar Foundation was established in 1977 to provide lawyers and law firms with an effective vehicle for fulfilling their ethical obligation to ensure that all residents of our community have access to competent legal representation by funding legal services for the underprivileged. The Foundation awards grants to DC legal services organizations, and administers a DC poverty lawyer Loan Repayment Assistance Program.*