

For Immediate Release:
March 23, 2017

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Honoring Richmond Resident and VCU Graduate Kathy Pryor

Kathy Pryor will be honored as the 2017 recipient of the Darrel Tillar Mason Excellence in Advocacy Award, presented by the disAbility Law Center of Virginia Foundation. This award is presented to an individual or group whose work embodies the spirit of the mission of the disAbility Law Center, namely to fight abuse and neglect and to encourage people with disabilities to have choice, independence, and inclusion in all aspects of life. This year, the Foundation chose to honor an advocate who has worked on behalf of elders with disabilities.

Ms. Pryor is a staff attorney specializing in elder law at the statewide nonprofit agency Virginia Poverty Law Center. Based in the metro Richmond area, she has a career serving the elder community that spans nearly 30 years. She is considered a statewide expert on a long list of issues facing seniors, including unlawful nursing home discharges, prevention of abuse, and securing and maintaining social security benefits. On this latter issue, she even argued a case before the United States Supreme Court. She formed an Elder Law Task Force and an Elder Law Coalition to address systemic issues and to work collaboratively on policy and legislative matters and helped to launch Project 2025 to expand legal services to the elderly.

Her nomination for the Advocacy Award included numerous letters of support from across the Commonwealth. One letter from a local legal aid office said: *"I and my staff...have heavily relied on Kathy's experience in numerous complicated cases to protect the rights of vulnerable nursing home patients and other elderly and disabled low income clients. Our success in these cases is directly attributable to Kathy's generosity in sharing her expertise and dogged determination to vindicate our clients' rights."*

The Darrel Tillar Mason Excellence in Advocacy Award will be presented to Ms. Pryor at the annual "Liberty and Justice for ALL" Gala, on April 28, 2017, at "The Place" in Glen Allen Virginia. The evening's events will be hosted by Master of Ceremonies Bill Fitzgerald of Richmond Channel 6, and will include music by Richmond artist Susan Greenbaum and personal stories of dLCV constituents.

The disAbility Law Center of Virginia Foundation is a nonprofit organization charged with resource development for the disAbility Law Center of Virginia (dLCV). dLCV serves as the Commonwealth's designated protection and advocacy system.

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