

For Immediate Release
December 24, 2009

McCandlish & Lillard Paralegal Named Fairfax Bar Association's 2009 Pro Bono Paralegal of Year

Susan McClean, was awarded the "2009 Pro Bono Paralegal of the Year" by the Fairfax Bar Association at its December, 2009 "State of the Judiciary" luncheon. Ms. McClean, a paralegal with McCandlish & Lillard, PC since 2002, also is a member of the Fairfax Bar Association's Paralegal and Wills, Estates and Trust Sections. The Pro Bono Paralegal of the Year award recognizes Ms. McClean's volunteer work since 2007 with the Northern Virginia Pro Bono Law Center's Neighborhood Outreach Program at several of Fairfax County's homeless shelters. Through this project, attorneys meet with clients to provide legal advice and referral information in locations that are convenient and accessible to clients. Ms. McClean's role as a paralegal for the Program is to establish bonds with the clients, helping to put them at ease while professionally assisting the lawyer. In the process she has often become involved with the problems of the clients and helping to provide insights to the lawyers, who may not be as familiar with the particular poverty legal issues. In the challenging environments of homeless shelters, Ms. McClean has shown both compassion and legal skill in helping in this hands-on project.

In addition to volunteering in the Neighborhood Outreach Program Ms. McClean also volunteers with the "Florian Foundation." This is an organization that assists attorneys to prepare estate planning documents for police officers, fire fighters and other first responders in the metropolitan Washington, D.C. area. Outside of the legal community, she also finds time to volunteer with her parish.

Ms. McClean earned a Masters of Arts degree for Legal Administration from the School of Business Administration at Marymount University, Arlington, Virginia, in 2008. Her 3.96 GPAA earned her the School's student of "Academic Excellence" award. Since 2007 she has sat on the Advisory Board for the paralegal studies program at Marymount University. This volunteer board assists the university in overseeing the metropolitan Washington D.C. area's only ABA-approved program awarding a graduate degree in paralegal studies.

Previously Ms. McClean was an active member of the National Capital Area Paralegal Association ("NCAPA") from 1993 to 2004, and sat on that organization's Board of Directors from 2000 to 2002. In 2001 she was awarded NCAPA's "Chairperson of the Year" for her work with the Speaker's Bureau. While on the board, she was on a panel of paralegals who spoke about the responsibilities of being a paralegal in the United States to a visiting group of attorneys from El

Salvador who were guests of the U.S. Department of State. Her article about this experience was printed in the *National Paralegal Reporter* in August, 2001.

McCandlish & Lillard is proud of the contributions that Ms. McClean has made to the community, and salutes her also for the recognition she has earned. She is but one of many people at the firm who contribute significantly to the betterment of the northern Virginia community. The firm has 24 attorneys, with offices in Fairfax and Leesburg. The law firm has been meeting the legal needs of businesses and individuals in Northern Virginia and throughout the Commonwealth for more than a century. For more information regarding McCandlish & Lillard, P.C., call the firm at 703-273-2288 or visit our website at www.mccandlaw.com. # # #