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**BASIL PATERSON OF NEW YORK AND BOSTON LAW COLLABORATIVE TO
RECEIVE
2009 ABA LAWYER AS PROBLEM SOLVER AWARDS**

For Immediate Release

The 2009 American Bar Association Lawyer as Problem Awards will be presented to Basil A. Paterson of New York, NY, and the Boston Law Collaborative of Boston, MA.

The ABA Section of Dispute Resolution established the Lawyer as Problem Solver Awards in 2002 to recognize individuals and organizations that use their legal skills in creative and often non-traditional ways to solve problems for their clients and within their communities.

Basil A. Paterson is a Member of the law firm of Meyer, Suozzi, English & Klein, P.C. in Garden City, New York, and is co-chair of the firm's labor practice. Mr Paterson has served as New York's Secretary of State, as the New York City Deputy Mayor for Labor Relations and Personnel, as a New York State Senator, and as a Commissioner of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

Mr. Paterson has spent his legal career finding creative solutions to difficult problems. He has unique talents as a negotiator in some of the most difficult labor disputes in the State of New York if not in the United States. Mr. Paterson's colleagues describe him as a lawyer who can produce solutions because of his ability to detect the interests of all parties involved when others seem to have lost sight of anything more than their respective positions.

Mr. Paterson was an integral part of the founding of the Institute for Mediation and Conflict Resolution ("IMCR") in New York City. The concept pioneered by Paterson and his colleagues at IMCR was to see if practices like negotiation, mediation and arbitration that were used to manage labor-management disputes could be applied to resolving community conflict and interpersonal disputes. While those goals are modest by today's standards, they were visionary in 1969. Paterson was one of the strongest proponents of the use of negotiation and mediation as alternatives to violence in resolving what appeared to be intractable problems in the City of New York.

The Boston Law Collaborative, LLC, (BLC) is a small firm, consisting of seven lawyers and four paralegals, that provides legal representation and dispute resolution services, as well as training and consulting. BLC's primary focus is solving problems and resolving conflict in family, business, and employment cases. BLC takes a holistic approach to solving clients' problems; it is one of the few firms in the U.S. to use multi-disciplinary personnel in both its legal representation and its dispute resolution work. BLC's efforts are focused on conflict resolution in every case, regardless of whether the case has already been filed in court or the parties are seeking to avoid court at all costs. BLC's lawyers are among the pioneers in the field of collaborative law, a process in which the lawyers represent the clients solely for the purpose of negotiation – similar to the role of "settlement counsel."

BLC has also pioneered the use of “cooperative process agreements,” which are similar to collaborative law participation agreements but without the disqualification of counsel from involvement in the case if an impasse is reached. BLC also uses “unbundling” to provide a broad array of client services and ADR services.

The Lawyer As Problem Solver Awards will be presented to Basil Paterson and Boston Law Collaborative during the opening plenary of the ABA Section of Dispute Resolution’s Spring Conference on April 16th in New York City.

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