



Willard InterContinental Hotel Receives DC Chamber of Commerce's "2009 Business of the Year" Award

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Washington, DC, July 6, 2009 -- The DC Chamber of Commerce announced its Chamber Choice Awards, with top honors going to the Willard InterContinental Hotel for 2009 Business of the Year. This achievement recognizes the hotel as an industry leader modeling quality processes, fiscal responsibility, positive financial results, sustainable hospitality and social responsibility.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the Chamber's Choice Awards. A gala will be held on Saturday, October 17. For more information, visit www.dcchamber.org. Other award recipients include James Bennett, President & CEO of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority for Business Leader of the Year, The Washington Capitals for Economic Impact Award; the Washington Mystics for the Emerging Business of the Year Award and Dr. Dorothy Height, Chair of the National Council of Negro Women for the 2009 Chair's Award.

"All our awardees truly reflect the mission of the DC Chamber of Commerce, they are all committed to success, have made tremendous contributions to the fabric of the city and are successfully bearing up in this tough financial climate", said Barbara B. Lang, President and CEO of the DC Chamber of Commerce.

"The award recognizes our exceptional Willard employees and the excellent work they do every day in exceeding clients' expectations. We realize the Willard has a great legacy and work to continue this for generations of customers and employees to come, by establishing our strategy based on the "Triple Bottom Line" of Profit, People and Planet," said Hervé Houdré, General Manager, Willard InterContinental Washington. "We are extremely lucky to be supported in our efforts by the ownership of our property, Willard Associates represented by their management arm Carr Hospitality, and by our mother company, InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG)."