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**DISTRICT ATTORNEY RICHARD A. BROWN CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH
BY PRESENTING 8TH ANNUAL WILLIAM TUCKER GARVIN AWARD
TO STATE SENATE MAJORITY LEADER MALCOLM A. SMITH**

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown celebrated Black History Month today by presenting New York State Senate Majority Leader Malcolm A. Smith with the William Tucker Garvin Public Service Award.

The William Tucker Garvin Public Service Award was established in 2001 in honor of the first African-American Assistant District Attorney appointed in Queens County. The award is presented annually during Black History Month to an individual of African-American descent in recognition of his or her notable contributions to public service.

“William Tucker Garvin was an assistant district attorney here in our office for fourteen years, until his retirement in 1966. He was an individual of courage and tenacity who was the first African-American assistant district attorney in our office. He was committed to public service and bettering his community – while serving as a trailblazer on many fronts,” said District Attorney Brown. “Like Bill Garvin, Malcolm Smith has been committed to public service. He has broken new ground in his role as an elected official and is an inspiration to others. He last month became New York State’s first African-American Senate Majority Leader and Temporary President – and the first Democratic leader in almost 40 years.”

Malcolm Smith began his public life as a senior aide to former Congressman Floyd H. Flake in 1986 and served through 1991. He also served as a chief aide to former City Councilman Archie Spigner, was a City Hall assistant to former Mayor Edward I. Koch and was a member of the national advance staff for Vice Presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro. He won election to the 14th Senatorial District in Queens in a special election in March 2000.

As Senate Majority Leader, Mr. Smith has taken action to make the State Senate more transparent and bipartisan, passing rule changes to fundamentally reform the way the Senate operates and establishing a temporary committee on rules and administration to examine and make recommendations for changes in the operation and rules of the Senate.

Included among the Senator’s many accomplishments in elected office is helping to launch “Operation Protect Your Home” in 2007 to educate homeowners on how to prevent foreclosure and which

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ultimately helped to save 1,500 homes from Buffalo to Long Island from being foreclosed upon. Another area in which the Senator has focused is helping to improve relations between civilians and police officers. In the aftermath of the Sean Bell shooting in 2006, Mr. Smith created and chaired a Tri-Level Legislative Task Force that last year released its findings in a report entitled “A Report On Improving Public Confidence In Law Enforcement And Our Criminal Justice System.” Last June, legislation recommended by the Task Force was passed establishing the Municipal Police Training Council in the State Division of Criminal Justice Services.

Also last year, Mr. Smith was successful in passing legislation to help protect children who have been the victims of sexual assault. He introduced a bill that was signed by Governor David A. Paterson that created a new statute that made facilitating the sexual performance by a child with a controlled substance illegal.

Senator Smith received his undergraduate degree in Business Administration from Fordham University. He obtained a certificate in negotiations from Harvard Law School and an MBA from Adelphi University. The MBA was received with honors leading him to be inducted into the prestigious International Honor Society in Business Administration – Delta Mu Delta – founded in 1913.

Prior to his career in public service, Senator Smith had a distinguished career in real estate and was named president of Neighborhood Housing Services of Jamaica in 1985. He founded Smith Development Corporation in 1991 and subsequently built more than 100 housing units in southeast Queens, Far Rockaway and Brooklyn.

Senator Smith is married to Michele Lisby-Smith. They have two children, Julian and Amanda.

The Garvin Award was presented in the District Attorney’s third-floor conference room at his office in Kew Gardens at a reception attended by numerous judges, public officials, assistant district attorneys and members of Mr. Garvin’s family, including his sister, Earline Garvin Hollingsworth and nieces Jerilynne Smart and Sandra Hollingsworth.

William Tucker Garvin was born on November 28, 1898, in South Carolina. Upon graduating from Orangeburg State College in South Carolina, Mr. Garvin moved to Manhattan where he worked in the post office while attending law school. He graduated from St. John’s University Law School in 1931 as one of two of the first African-American graduates from the Law School. He went on to establish a civil practice in Harlem and later moved to Queens where in 1943 he was appointed by the Queens Borough President to serve on local School Board 50 – the first African-American to hold that position. Mr. Garvin was appointed as an Assistant District Attorney on January 1, 1952, and he retired after a distinguished career in July 1966, one month prior to his death. He is buried in Maple Grove Cemetery in Kew Gardens.

Previous recipients of the Garvin Award have included former New York City Mayor David M. Dinkins, U.S. Congressman Gregory W. Meeks, Queens Administrative Judge Leslie G. Leach, United States Attorney General Eric H. Holder, New York State Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives Juanita Bing Newton and Governor David A. Paterson.

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