



WEDNESDAY JUNE 17, 2015

**WILEY A. BRANTON
AWARDS LUNCHEON**

GRAND HYATT 12:00 PM

Washington Lawyers' Committee
for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs

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WASHINGTON LAWYERS' COMMITTEE
FOR CIVIL RIGHTS AND URBAN AFFAIRS

“ *The arc of history is long,
but it bends toward justice.* ”

– Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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Message from the Co-Chairs & the Executive Director

The Washington Lawyers' Committee's Wiley A. Branton Awards Luncheon provides an especially appropriate time to acknowledge the distance we have traveled these past 47 years toward equal justice in our nation and the significant role that our area's law firms and lawyers have played in moving us closer to this goal. It is also a time to remind ourselves that there is still important work for the Washington Lawyers' Committee to do in all of its areas of service, and opportunities for old friends and new supporters to join in our work.

Our Branton Luncheon is an occasion to express our deep appreciation to the nearly 100 law firms and thousands of individual volunteers whose pro bono efforts form the foundation of the Committee's singular ability to provide essential legal services to its many clients. These efforts encompass a broad range of matters, including virtually every area of civil rights and poverty law practice. The law firms and individual lawyers of our community, in combination with our foundation and corporate donors, also provide the core funding vital to the Committee's past accomplishments and essential to its continued success.

We want to take this moment to thank all of our volunteer attorneys and financial contributors for their generous support. A special thank you as well goes to the Committee's dedicated staff of lawyers, paralegals, and administrators. These talented and resourceful individuals combine excellent legal skills with the critical ability to develop effective legal strategies and to co-counsel on a vast array of diverse cases with pro bono lawyers at dozens of law firms.

The Committee's plans for the year ahead will call upon all the staff and volunteer resources it can muster. We continue to face an increasing volume of work in virtually all of our areas of service. At the same time, we appreciate our relationships with civil rights enforcement officials at the Justice Department and other federal agencies, as well as our collaborative efforts with state and local government agencies.

To meet the challenge of providing expanded services, we will, as always, look to area law firms and volunteer attorneys for their continuing support. In moving forward, we welcome the engagement of all of the friends and supporters who have worked with us in the past, and we encourage new firms and individuals to join us as well.



Roderic V.O. Boggs
Executive Director



Steven P. Hollman
Co-Chair



Lewis S. Wiener
Co-Chair

Luncheon Program

Welcoming Remarks	Lewis S. Wiener <i>Co-Chair, Washington Lawyers' Committee</i>
Presentation of 2015 Outstanding Achievement Awards	Roderic V.O. Boggs <i>Executive Director, Washington Lawyers' Committee</i>
Presentation of Vincent E. Reed Award by Kaya Henderson <i>Chancellor of DC Public Schools</i>	Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP Charles W. Johnson IV, Laura Dunning, and Diane Swanson
Presentation of Francis P. Cotter/Elliot S. Hall Corporate Service Award by Rhonda Cunningham Holmes <i>Deputy Director, Washington Lawyers' Committee</i>	Richard P. Rome <i>Savills Studley</i>
Lunch	
Video Presentation	"Pursuing Justice"
Presentation of Alfred McKenzie Award by Matthew Handley <i>Director of Litigation, Washington Lawyers' Committee</i>	American Council of the Blind Melanie Brunson <i>Executive Director</i>
Presentation of Wiley A. Branton Award by Deborah Golden <i>Director, DC Prisoners' Project, Washington Lawyers' Committee</i> by Roderic V.O. Boggs <i>Executive Director, Washington Lawyers' Committee</i>	Theodore A. Howard John P. Relman
Closing Remarks	Steven P. Hollman <i>Co-Chair, Washington Lawyers' Committee</i>

History of the Washington Lawyers' Committee

From its inception in 1968, the Washington Lawyers' Committee has seen its basic mission as mobilizing the resources of the private bar to address issues of discrimination and poverty in our community. The primary motivating force behind the creation of the Committee and its counterparts in other cities was the publication of the Report of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders, which identified discrimination and poverty as the root causes of the riots that erupted in cities around the nation during the late 1960s and in Washington, DC in April 1968 following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Over the past 47 years, the Washington Lawyers' Committee has expanded from a small staff addressing a limited number of matters into a larger organization operating multiple projects that address a broad range of civil rights and poverty issues. Most recently, the Committee launched initiatives focused on the employment rights of military veterans and the civil rights of LGBT individuals.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Committee's first project – its Equal Employment Opportunity Project – was established in 1971, at a time when the Washington area was beginning the construction of its Metro system and Congress was about to enact major new legislation providing federal, state and local workers with their first meaningful protections against employment discrimination. Working with a coalition of community organizations, the Committee initiated an extensive litigation campaign challenging denials of training and job referrals by unions and contractors throughout the region. In addition, major lawsuits were filed seeking enforcement of affirmative action plans covering federal and local government construction projects. Committee cases, co-counseled by over a dozen area law firms, won precedent-setting victories against many of the region's largest unions and contractors, opening significant employment opportunities for thousands of African-American workers.

During the same period, the Committee began a special outreach campaign directed at minority and female federal employees. Working with employee task forces at scores of agencies, the Committee provided representation in dozens of major cases, winning many of the first judgments upholding the claims of federal workers under the newly enacted provisions of the 1972 Civil Rights Act. The Committee has built on this early record to bring class actions affecting over 25 federal agencies and dozens of private sector defendants, securing millions of dollars of back pay and damages, as well as injunctive relief for thousands of workers.

As the categories of protected classes have expanded since the establishment of the Committee, so has the focus of the Equal Employment Opportunity Project. In addition to cases involving race, gender, religion and national-origin discrimination, the Committee increasingly pursues cases involving discrimination based on sexual orientation, pregnancy, and other protected classes.

FAIR HOUSING

Established in the mid-1970s, the Fair Housing Project addresses denials of equal housing opportunity. Over the years, the Project's work has expanded into new and emerging areas, including predatory lending, redlining, discriminatory real estate advertising, insurance discrimination, exclusionary zoning and other discriminatory practices by municipalities, discrimination against families with children, and discrimination against low-income individuals who use housing subsidies. In many of its cases, the Project has worked with the Equal Rights Center (ERC) in the ERC's ground-breaking efforts to utilize paired testers to investigate allegations of discrimination. Over the past decade, the Project has brought a number of high-profile cases against multi-family housing developers that have failed to design and construct properties in accordance with the accessibility requirements of the Fair Housing Act. During the past two years, the Project has also fought foreclosure rescue and loan modification scams in the Washington, DC metropolitan area, particularly in Prince George's County, Maryland.

IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE RIGHTS

In 1978, the Committee initiated a special project to address the legal services needs of immigrants and refugees that was the first such program in the DC area. Over the years, the Committee's Immigrant and Refugee Rights (IRR) Project has received support from over 1,000 volunteers on matters of political asylum, challenges to restrictive immigration laws, as well as the preparation of comprehensive policy papers on legal issues affecting the Latino community. The IRR Project assists both documented and undocumented immigrants as they face denials of basic civil rights due to their national origin and immigration status. As part of this effort, the Committee has filed a number of cases challenging discrimination in employment and housing. In recent years, the IRR Project has devoted special attention to bringing suits on behalf of individuals and on a class-wide basis against employers who engage in wage theft and other violations of wage and hour laws.

PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS

Since 1988, beginning with a case against Holiday Spas Health Clubs, the Committee has played a leading role in over a half-dozen national cases challenging widespread denials of service to persons of color at major hotel and restaurant chains, including Denny's, Cracker Barrel, and Adams Mark Hotels. Several years ago, the Committee achieved a major settlement in such a case against a large Avis Rent-a-Car franchise in South Carolina. In recent years, this project has represented the NAACP in a series of lawsuits challenging denials of civil rights affecting African Americans attending a large holiday rally in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

DISABILITY RIGHTS

In 1991, the Committee began a special project to assist individuals seeking to enforce their rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Working closely with the Disability Rights Council of Greater Washington (now merged with the Equal Rights Center), the Committee has won a series of important victories opening and improving access to hospitals, pharmacies, banks, restaurants, and grocery stores, as well as many other retail establishments. In addition, the Committee has assured access for people with disabilities to public transportation, voting machines and the polls, 911 phone access for the deaf community, and interpreter services for deaf individuals dealing with police and other critical services. Finally, the Committee has filed group and class actions, including cases on behalf of federal employees with disabilities and inmates with disabilities, to ensure the rights of those groups.

DC PRISONERS' RIGHTS

In 2006, the DC Prisoners' Legal Services Project, the foremost private prisoners' rights legal advocacy group in the District of Columbia, joined the Committee and became the DC Prisoners' Project. The Project advocates on behalf of the more than 12,000 prisoners held annually in DC jail facilities as well as over 5,000 individuals incarcerated under DC law in Federal Bureau of Prisons facilities nationwide. The Project's work, which complements the Committee's prior work on prisoners' rights and prison reform issues, utilizes advocacy, litigation, education, outreach and policy reform to carry out its mission, and seeks to address systemic failures in our prison and parole systems. Currently, the Project, with co-counsel Arnold & Porter LLP, is litigating a putative class action to address the needs of men with serious mental health issues at the federal Supermax prison in Florence, Colorado.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

The Committee began its work in support of public education in the District of Columbia in 1979, when then Superintendent of Schools Vincent Reed invited law firms to represent parent organizations at a number of schools. This work initially involved direct representation of parents at local schools and system-wide advocacy for education reforms. From these efforts, a major program evolved that is focused on building partnerships linking area law firms and businesses with DC public schools. Today, these partnerships are active at 50 schools, providing multiple resources for thousands of students and their school communities — especially tutoring, mentoring, other academic enrichment programs, and support for parents and teachers.

SPECIAL PROJECTS & CASES

The Committee has, over the years, handled significant matters on an ad hoc basis and administered special projects for limited periods of time. These special Committee projects have focused on securing meaningful treatment for narcotics addicts, providing quality child care for low-income parents, representing African-American servicemen in challenges to less than honorable military discharges, providing supplemental instruction to hundreds of minority students about to enter area law schools, and providing pro bono legal assistance to non-governmental organizations doing relief work in Haiti after the catastrophic earthquake there in 2010.

Perhaps the most noteworthy single case – *Runyon v. McCrary* – was a successful U.S. Supreme Court challenge under Section 1981 of the 1866 Civil Rights Act to the racially discriminatory admissions policies of a Virginia nursery school, brought by the Committee and decided in 1976. The Court held that federal law prohibits private schools from discriminating on the basis of race.

The Committee's achievements are largely attributable to the thousands of lawyers from over 100 area law firms who have given generously of their pro bono time and financial contributions. The Committee's record also reflects the skill and dedication of the talented men and women who have served with distinction on its staff and as co-chairs, directors, and trustees.

“Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope.”

— Robert F. Kennedy

The Wiley A. Branton Award



The Wiley A. Branton Award was first presented by the Washington Lawyers' Committee in 1989. It takes its name from Wiley A. Branton, Sr., an extraordinary man whose life embodied civil rights advocacy of the highest order.

Wiley Branton first gained fame as a civil rights lawyer practicing in Arkansas in the 1950s, where his work was lonely, dangerous and heroic. He went on to a distinguished career in government service. He also served as Dean of the Howard Law School and later, while in private practice, as a leader in several highly respected civil rights organizations. He served as Co-Chair of the Washington Lawyers' Committee in 1987 and 1988.

Wiley Branton was an inspiration to everyone who had the privilege of knowing and working with him. He personified the legal profession's ideal of pro bono service that is at the heart of the Washington Lawyers' Committee's mission.

The Wiley Branton Award is annually bestowed upon members of the legal community whose careers embody a deep and abiding commitment to civil rights advocacy.

The Wiley A. Branton Award

2015 Wiley Branton Award Citation

THEODORE A. HOWARD



Throughout his distinguished career as litigator in private practice in the District of Columbia, Ted Howard has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to the cause of civil rights and the highest standards of pro bono representation. A graduate of the University of Notre Dame and Harvard Law School, Ted began his legal career in 1981 and joined the firm of Wiley Rein LLP in 2001 with a focus on insurance practice. His exemplary work in this field has earned him recognition as one of DC's "Super Lawyers" for Insurance Coverage. Since 2006, Ted has been a member of the Board of the Washington Lawyers' Committee, serving as one of the organization's Co-Chairs from 2011-14.

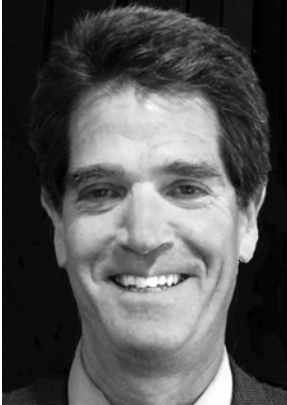
Beginning early in his career and continuing as a central part of his professional life, Ted has made pro bono representation a matter of highest priority. Among other things, this work has encompassed extensive litigation including death penalty, landlord-tenant, child custody and adoption matters. For this fine work, Ted was awarded the Legal Aid Society of Washington's Servant of Justice Award in 2006. In May 2014, Ted was appointed to serve as Wiley Rein LLP's first full-time Pro Bono Partner. Ted's pro bono service has had perhaps its greatest impact and relevance to the Washington Lawyers' Committee in the field of prisoners' rights and criminal justice reform. In 1992, he was appointed to the Board of the DC Prisoners' Legal Services Project, becoming its Chair in 1995. While in this position, he served as chief counsel in a landmark case successfully challenging serious overcrowding in the DC Jail.

In 2006, Ted was instrumental in facilitating the merger of the DC Prisoners' Project with the Washington Lawyers' Committee. The expanded capacity created by this partnership has led to a substantial growth in the scope of the project's litigation docket and its advocacy work. These results are reflected in the project's reports documenting the serious racial disparities in arrests in the District of Columbia and collateral consequences of arrests and convictions. The results are also evident in a series of major litigation victories, perhaps none more important than the recent settlement of a case, in which Ted serves as lead counsel, successfully challenging the denial of basic health care services to a class of over 1,200 women in one of Virginia's largest state prisons.

In all of these endeavors, Ted Howard has exemplified the qualities of leadership and dedication to equal justice we associate so strongly with Wiley Branton. He is a most deserving recipient of this award.

2015 Wiley Branton Award Citation

JOHN P. RELMAN



The Washington Lawyers' Committee is extremely pleased to present one of this year's Wiley Branton Awards to John Relman. John's stellar work over three decades, as the Director of the Committee's Fair Housing Project for over ten years and as the founder of one of the country's leading for-profit civil rights firms, has made a truly major contribution to the cause of equal justice in our society. John's many accomplishments have earned him repeated recognition as one of Washington, DC's "Best Civil Rights Lawyers" and the respect of his peers in the civil rights legal community throughout the country.

Following his graduation from Harvard College and the University of Michigan Law School, John clerked for the Honorable Sam J. Ervin, III, of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, and the Honorable Joyce Hens Green of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. He joined the staff of the Washington Lawyers' Committee in 1989 and served as director of its Fair Housing Project until 1999, when he left to establish the firm of Relman, Dane & Colfax. Today, John serves on the Washington Lawyers' Committee's Board of Directors and his firm is serving with our office as co-counsel on a number of significant cases.

Both during his time as a Committee Project Director and as a leader of his own firm, John has represented significant numbers of individual plaintiffs, cities and leading civil rights organizations in many of the country's most important cases. These have included his role as lead counsel in the Denny's Restaurant public accommodations discrimination class action, which resulted in a national settlement of more than \$17 million, and in many other cases of national prominence involving fair housing and lending. Among the better known matters handled by his firm are ground-breaking reverse red-lining cases against Wells Fargo on behalf of the cities of Baltimore and Memphis, a \$10 million jury verdict for members of an African American community in Zanesville, Ohio denied the right to public water, and a landmark Fair Housing and False Claims Act settlement with Westchester County, New York requiring the County to pay \$50 million to build affordable housing in areas of opportunity. In addition to his exceptional work as a litigator, John has long been active as an author and lecturer in the area of civil rights. In all of these efforts, he has brought a special combination of passion, creativity and leadership.

The Committee is pleased to count John among its most distinguished alumni. He is a truly gifted civil rights leader whose commitment and record reflect the spirit and dedication of Wiley Branton.

“The Washington Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs is among the most effective and productive pro bono civil rights organizations in the country.”

– David J. Cynamon
Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP

The Alfred McKenzie Award



The Alfred McKenzie Award was established in 1994 to recognize Committee clients whose dedication and courage have produced civil rights victories of particular significance. It takes its name from a man whose efforts as a Committee plaintiff helped to change an institution.

During World War II, Alfred McKenzie left his entry-level position in the Government Printing Office (GPO) to join the Army Air Corps, where he served with distinction as one of the famed Tuskegee Airmen. When he returned to the GPO in 1946, he was assigned to the same low-level position he had held before his military service. He then began a career-long struggle to win equal treatment for himself and his fellow African-American GPO employees.

In 1972, represented by Committee staff and the firm of Hogan and Hartson, Mr. McKenzie initiated a class action lawsuit to challenge racial discrimination against African-American pressmen at the GPO. Fifteen years later, his determination led to a landmark victory that secured a record \$2.4 million payment to hundreds of African-American workers and, more importantly, a fundamental restructuring of personnel policies that opened the door of equal opportunity to countless minority workers.

2015 Alfred McKenzie Award Citation

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF THE BLIND



Founded in 1961, but with state affiliates and chapters dating back to the 1880s, the American Council of the Blind (ACB) has long been in the forefront of advocacy on behalf of blind individuals in our country. Since the 1960s, the organization has concentrated on developing and maintaining policies that have substantially determined what services are appropriate for people who are blind. The fundamental premise of its work is the belief that every blind person has a right to be included in society.

The list of the Council's accomplishments is extensive, including major support for virtually every piece of national legislation protecting the rights of people with disabilities over the past 50 years, as well as, when needed, support for litigation to enforce these rights. The Council's efforts have been instrumental in opening the door of opportunity and independence to thousands of blind individuals. In recent years, this work has focused special attention on issues affected by technology, in fields such as voting rights and public transportation. The Washington Lawyers' Committee is proud to note that it has worked closely with ACB for over 20 years, dating back to the creation of its Disabilities Rights Project in the early 1990s. The Council has also been a key participant in several of the Committee's most important disability rights cases.

In 2004, the Council played a central role in the recruitment of blind plaintiffs in the Committee's landmark class action successfully challenging the failure of WMATA's Metro Access program to provide legally mandated services to thousands of people with disabilities. More recently, the organization has served as the Committee's client in a major case challenging the refusal of local taxi cab companies to provide service to blind patrons with service animals and a case of first impression seeking to require a major federal agency to assure that its website is fully accessible to the blind.

In all of these matters, ACB has provided the same kind of exceptional leadership, commitment and dedication to civil rights that the Committee saw so clearly in the life of Alfred McKenzie. We are delighted to honor the Council for all that it has accomplished and look forward to joining with them in meeting the challenges that lie ahead.

“The Committee’s unique combination of experienced staff lawyers and the pro bono support of hundreds of excellent law firm volunteers has produced an unprecedented record of victories in virtually every area of civil rights practice and provided essential legal services to thousands of individual clients.”

– Roger E. Warin
Steptoe & Johnson LLP

The Vincent E. Reed Award



The Vincent E. Reed Award was first presented by the Washington Lawyers’ Committee in 2003. The award is given in the name of Dr. Vincent Reed, the distinguished educator whose encouragement and support were directly responsible for the Committee’s decision to establish its public education support programs.

Following his graduation from West Virginia State College and military service during the Korean War, Vincent Reed began his career as an educator in the DC Public Schools in 1956. Within several years, he was promoted from a teaching position to a series of important administrative posts in the school system, culminating in his appointment as DC School Superintendent in 1975. His appointment to this post came at a time when the local schools were experiencing enormous stress and public criticism. Dr. Reed’s charismatic leadership and the rigorous educational programs he championed helped immeasurably to restore public confidence in the city’s schools.

In 1978, Dr. Reed met with the staff of the Washington Lawyers’ Committee and encouraged them to seek law firm volunteers to serve as legal counsel for parent leaders at a dozen public schools in Southeast Washington. This initial effort became the basis for the Committee’s representation of Parents United for the DC Public Schools and the DC Public School Partnership Program, which now operates in 50 schools across the city.

Following his tenure as DC School Superintendent, Dr. Reed went on to serve as an Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education at the U.S. Department of Education and as Vice President for Communications at the Washington Post Company.

2015 Vincent Reed Award Citation

AKIN GUMP STRAUSS HAUER & FELD LLP

The Washington Lawyers' Committee is extremely proud to recognize the firm of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP and three of its key staff members, Charlie Johnson, Laura Dunning and Diane Swanson, for their exceptional leadership over nearly two decades in building and sustaining a thriving partnership with Tyler Elementary School as part of the Committee's Public Education Project. The firm's work with their own partner school has been remarkable in its breadth and depth, engaging dozens of firm employees in a range of innovative and successful enrichment programs. Of equal significance, the firm has provided invaluable support for the Committee's Public Education Project by regularly hosting highly productive and informative meetings for representatives of law firms and public schools engaged in partnerships or considering the prospect of creating such an enterprise. The firm's support for these well-attended events, now encompassing dozens of luncheon meetings over 15 years, has contributed greatly to the Committee's success in expanding the number of partnerships to 50 schools across the city.

Akin Gump's partnership with Tyler has embraced a remarkable number of programs and initiatives including: tutoring; field trip funding; catering for back-to-school, parent teacher conferences, and teacher appreciation events; funding for staffing an annual end-of-school-year Fun Fair, and other special events; support for the Tyler PTA; and scholarships for Tyler students to attend summer camp. The firm also has assisted with the construction and identification of funding for a hands-on outdoor environmental classroom. The firm created a separate 501(c)(3) organization to manage this project. In addition, the firm helped to fund a major library renovation at the school. Beyond these expansive efforts, the firm has been a key participant in efforts to produce a tool kit documenting best practices for assisting parents engaged in fundraising and the management of funds supporting partnership activities. Finally, the firm has been an active participant in supporting students participating in the city-wide GeoPlunge geography competition and in helping coach high school students in city-wide moot court competitions.

All of these diverse and expansive activities have been led by an energetic team who have produced remarkable results benefitting thousands of the city's public school students and helping the Committee to build a program in which it takes special pride. Akin Gump's work exemplifies precisely the kind of civic engagement that Vincent Reed would have supported and extolled.

“The Washington Lawyers’ Committee serves as an indispensable resource to clients seeking redress for violations of their civil rights, while at the same time providing exceptional opportunities for young attorneys to hone their practical litigation skills.”

— Thomas S. Williamson, Jr.
Covington & Burling LLP

The Cotter-Hall Corporate Service Award



Francis P. Cotter



Elliott S. Hall

This year, the Washington Lawyers’ Committee is presenting the Corporate Support Award to a member of the business community who has made notable contributions to the cause of civil rights and public education in our community.

This award is named in honor of two distinguished corporate leaders—Francis P. Cotter of the Westinghouse Corporation and Elliott S. Hall of the Ford Motor Company—who in the 1980s and 90s worked closely with the Committee on some of its pioneering efforts to support the District of Columbia Public Schools. Both of these men were instrumental in establishing a special Committee program that, for over a decade, provided corporate matching funds to support educational enrichment programs at dozens of public schools in low-income neighborhoods throughout the city. Their efforts lay the groundwork for the expanding network of school partnerships that is now the centerpiece of the Committee’s Public Education Project.

In the case of both men, their support for the Committee’s education work was a direct and logical extension of their lifelong commitments to racial equality in the workplace and in all aspects of their professional and personal lives. One notable example of this basic conviction was evident in the early 1940s when Frank Cotter, as captain of the New York University (NYU) track team, successfully challenged the refusal of a major national university to provide housing facilities to the racially integrated NYU track team that was attending a local meet. Similarly, in his work as a corporate leader, attorney in private practice, and as Corporation Counsel for the city of Detroit, Elliott Hall achieved an exemplary record as a champion of equal opportunity.

2015 Cotter-Hall Corporate Service Award Citation

RICHARD P. ROME

Savills Studley



It is with distinct pleasure that the Committee presents its 2015 Cotter-Hall Award to Richard P. Rome, Executive Vice President and co-Regional Manager of Savills Studley. A graduate of Wesleyan University, Rick Rome has been a leader in the real estate industry for over 30 years, in the process earning a reputation as both a successful business leader and a staunch champion of civil rights and equal opportunity. This commitment to racial justice has a long history dating back to the late 1960s when his father, as Mayor of Bloomfield, Connecticut, led the fight to desegregate the local public schools. Rick has made support for civil rights and diversity a priority throughout his career in business and in his personal life.

This strong commitment has been evident in his service on the Board of Directors of the Community Connections Foundation (providing mental health services and housing) and fundraising efforts on behalf the Global Fund for Children, the National Partnership for Women and Families, the National Caucus and Center for Black Aging, and FAIR Girls. The Washington Lawyers' Committee was introduced to Rick and his company three years ago at which time he and Savills Studley accepted an invitation to join our Corporate Advisory Board (CAB).

From his first days as a CAB member, Rick demonstrated exceptional energy, creativity and commitment to the Committee's work and mission. This commitment has been strongly evident in the decision of Savills Studley to establish a model school partnership with Hendley Elementary School. This partnership has led to the firm's active efforts in working with its partner school in a variety ways, including active tutoring of Hendley students by more than 20 company employees and support for a number of special projects. Of equal importance to the Committee, Rick's enthusiastic leadership has been indispensable to the Committee's efforts to expand its engagement with other leading businesses that share our commitment to equal justice and the provision of a quality public education to all children in our city.

We are most grateful for the contributions that Rick Rome and Savills Studley have made to the cause of civil rights. Their work exemplifies the notable achievements of Francis Cotter and Elliot Hall and we are proud to recognize them at today's Branton Luncheon.

2015 Outstanding Achievement Awards to Cooperating Law Firms

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY & IMMIGRANT RIGHTS

Arnold & Porter LLP

The major commitment of an exceptional team of lawyers at Arnold & Porter LLP led to the successful resolution of a suit against the D.C. Department of Corrections on behalf of four female employees who suffered egregious sexual harassment by their superiors. The clients also faced retaliation after they reported the harassment. The team did an excellent job of advocating for the best result for each of their clients, achieving superior results for all of them.

Beveridge & Diamond, P.C.

A group of dedicated attorneys at Beveridge & Diamond, P.C. negotiated a large settlement on behalf of an African American client who was denied a job as a loan officer because of a conviction on his record when he was sixteen. Beveridge & Diamond was able to convince the employer that its criminal background check policy would have a disparate impact on African Americans, and the employer agreed to settle before a complaint was filed.

Debevoise & Plimpton LLP

The skillful work of a strong team of attorneys at Debevoise & Plimpton LLP led to a particularly impressive settlement on behalf of an immigrant woman who was assaulted and falsely arrested by members of a local police department. Debevoise brought the lawsuit with multiple tort and constitutional claims, which the Country agreed to settle early in the litigation.

Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP

An excellent team of attorneys at Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP won significant relief on behalf of a group of workers in a discrimination and wage and hour case against a local restaurant.

McDermott Will & Emery LLP

After a hard-fought battle, a stellar team at McDermott Will & Emery LLP reached a major settlement with a federal law enforcement agency on behalf of a pregnant detective who was forced into a limited duty assignment because the agency's policy required her to get her doctor's approval for her to continue work while pregnant. The case was set to go to trial, but the team at McDermott not only convinced the agency to pay a substantial monetary settlement but also to remove their discriminatory pregnancy policy.

Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

A committed legal team at Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP resolved a case on behalf of an immigrant woman who was sexually assaulted by her boss for several years. The case involved heart-wrenching facts, but the team was able not only to help the client recover financially, but also to help her and her family move forward emotionally.

Another group of attorneys at Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP worked hard to reach a strong settlement agreement with a fast-food franchise that had systematically refused to pay a client for all of the hours she worked, which were significantly over forty in a week.

FAIR HOUSING

Arnold & Porter LLP

Arnold & Porter LLP secured a gratifying victory for a disabled elderly client by persuading the Department of Housing and Urban Development to agree to authorize the landlord's use of certain HUD funds to cover the costs of renovations to the client's building entrance and his individual unit. Arnold and Porter's exceptional efforts also secured an agreement requiring the landlord to complete the renovations within five months and waive rent during a one-year period.

BuckleySandler LLP

A skilled and dedicated group of attorneys at BuckleySander LLP negotiated a consent decree in DC Superior Court against an individual and company that fraudulently induced the client into turning over title to her home in a foreclosure rescue scam. In a companion loan modification scam case, Buckley's capable team secured a default judgment awarding damages to the client and attorney's fees in the Maryland Montgomery County Circuit Court.

K&L Gates LLP

Excellent attorneys at K&L Gates LLP worked hard to secure a favorable settlement for a client who paid thousands of dollars to a group of scammers who lied to her about her loan modification agreement that nearly led to foreclosure of the property.

Troutman Sanders LLP

A team of Troutman Sanders LLP attorneys did exemplary work in crafting an amicus brief in a very significant disability discrimination appeal before the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. The firm's brief helped achieve an important decision overturning a district court's decision granting defendants' motion for summary judgment. In its opinion, the Second Circuit confirmed, among other points, that the plaintiff's evidence showing that her child qualified as disabled due to the child's epilepsy and autism was sufficient to defeat defendants' motion. The court specifically noted medical and scientific research supporting the plaintiff's position regarding her child's disability, which the firm had cited in its brief.

Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP

A committed team of attorneys at Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP was able to establish favorable case law in the District of Columbia Court of Appeals which upholds the organizational standing of the Equal Rights Center in a source of income discrimination case involving a property management company. In this case, Weil Gotshal also achieved a successful monetary payment for its client.

DISABILITY RIGHTS

Foley & Lardner LLP and Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP

Dedicated and highly effective teams at these firms achieved impressive results for deaf prisoners in two cases against state prison systems in Maryland and Kentucky. The firms in both cases filed complaints, engaged in initial pre-trial work, and extensively negotiated landmark settlements in the two state-wide cases. Under the settlements, both of which were reached in May 2015, deaf prisoners will have adequate access to videophones, visual notification of oral announcements, sign language interpreters, and other auxiliary aids and services, and the settlements provide for implementation of necessary policies, training, outreach, and monitoring to ensure the protection of deaf prisoners' rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Foley & Lardner LLP was the firm in the Maryland case. Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP and Belzley Bathurst Attorneys were the firms in the Kentucky case.

McDermott Will & Emery LLP

Over an extended period, McDermott Will & Emery LLP worked diligently to ensure that the seating, event space, and bathrooms at Busboys and Poets restaurants will be completely accessible for customers with disabilities.

DC PRISONERS' RIGHTS

Covington & Burling LLP

Two separate teams at Covington & Burling LLP drafted significant and widely praised reports advocating for reforms in the criminal justice system. Last October, Covington and the Committee released "Collateral Consequences of Arrests and Convictions under D.C., Maryland, and Virginia Law." Just last week, the Committee released another report prepared by Covington on the conditions of confinement in both of the District of Columbia's jails. Each of these reports was meticulously researched and well-documented reflecting the excellent skill and commitment of their authors.

Dentons US LLP

Dentons US LLP attorneys won a significant appellate victory on behalf of all DC men and women who were sentenced before 1985. The case challenged US Parole Commission parole regulations that we contend violate the ex post facto clause. Despite having the putative class action dismissed at District Court level, the firm's skilled appellate advocacy won a unanimous reversal in the DC Court of Appeals. Because of this work, hundreds of men and women who would have remained wrongfully incarcerated for extended periods will have new opportunities for parole hearings.

Wiley Rein LLP

An extraordinary team at Wiley Rein LLP, headed by Wiley Branton honoree Ted Howard, challenged the abysmal medical care provided at the Virginia prison designed to serve the sickest women. After brutal motions practice, the team was able to secure class certification and a major victory on a motion for partial summary judgment. After those wins, the Commonwealth settled, agreeing to improve care across the state.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Baker Botts LLP

For many years, Baker Botts LLP has provided mentors for different high schools involved in the DC-wide Mock Trial. Since 2012, it also has organized and hosted a mentor-training orientation for all attorneys from every firm involved in Mock Trial preparations. This year, Baker Botts provided mentors for International Human Rights discussions and made its coaching expertise in mock trials a centerpiece of its new partnership with Roosevelt High School in Ward 4.

Hogan Lovells US LLP

Hogan Lovells US LLP has an outstanding partnership with Kimball Elementary in Ward 7. Volunteers read with many students on a weekly basis, coach GeoPlunge teams, and help out with annual Earth Day clean-up events. The firm raises funds through the Committee's annual Cooking for Kids Bake Sale and Taste Off, and the more than \$1,200 it raised this year will be used to support field trips and celebrations that reward positive behavior and attendance. The firm hosted a book drive, resulting in a gift of 472 books, and assisted the PTA in achieving 501(c)(3) status. The firm has also sponsored career days, will form a Girls on the Run team, and will support the school's annual Beautification Day efforts in August.

Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP

As part of its successful partnership with Anacostia High School in Ward 8, attorneys at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP have done an extraordinary job for years in mentoring students in the DC-wide Mock Trial at their partner school, Anacostia High School in Ward 8, often sending a surplus of mentors to other high schools as well. This year, the firm had more than 15 attorney mentors, several of whom taught extra classes on civil rights at the school. By providing mentors for nearly every class for two months, Paul Weiss helped the Anacostia High School team win the DC-wide Mock Trial this year, outscoring teams from several application-only schools in the process.

Lewis Baach PLLC; Dickstein Shapiro LLP; and Gilbert LLP

Attorneys from three firms – Lewis Baach PLLC; Dickstein Shapiro LLP; and Gilbert LLP – worked together to represent a diverse group of DC public education leaders from throughout the city. The firms worked closely with these education advocates and prepared an excellent amicus brief on their behalf supporting the DC Attorney General's motion to dismiss a lawsuit that challenged the DC Council's Home Rule authority to make equitable adjustments in public school funding.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Buckley Sandler LLP; Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner LLP; Goodwin Procter LLP; Hunton & Williams LLP; and K&L Gates LLP

A team of five law firms, led by Buckley Sandler LLP, prepared a detailed report entitled *Protecting Civil Rights in the DC Region: A Comparative Assessment of State and Local Human Rights Laws*, which assesses the human rights protections available in the District of Columbia and surrounding area jurisdictions. This report provides a valuable tool for helping local human rights agencies to develop stronger and more effective civil rights laws and procedures. It is the first comparative assessment of this kind compiled in many years.

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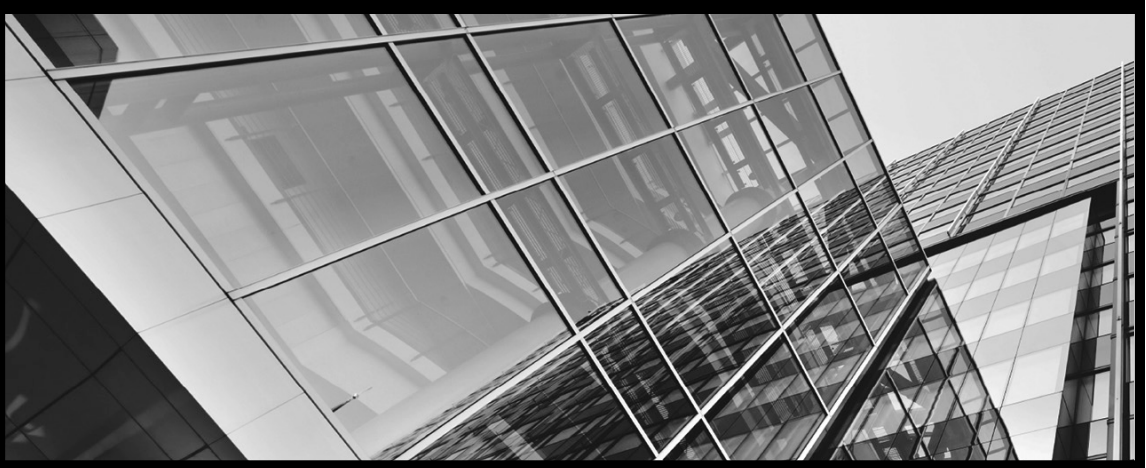
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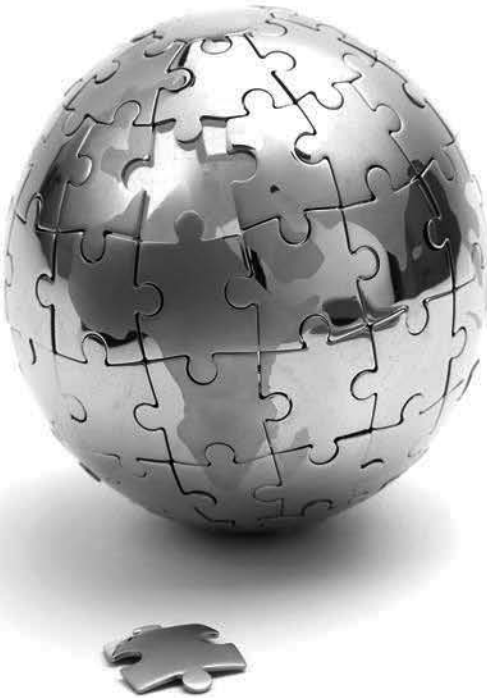
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