

**THE WASHINGTON LAWYERS' COMMITTEE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS
AND URBAN AFFAIRS: EDUCATION PROJECTS**

WHO WE ARE: The Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs, along with counterparts in cities across the country is first and foremost an organization of lawyers working to assure that the legal profession fulfills its responsibilities to those in need of representation to secure their basic rights.

WHAT WE DO: The Committee provides assistance in cases of gender bias, national origin discrimination, and disability rights. The Washington Lawyers' Committee believes that its approach must always be two-pronged: the first, to help the individual or group that turns to us for assistance; and second, to achieve the systemic change that will ensure social justice for the community in which our clients live and work. Because such litigation successes often benefit only those individuals with the educational backgrounds to work effectively in the job market, the Committee has expanded its areas of service to include gender bias, national discrimination, disability rights and public education.

Through its public education projects, the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs has assumed the role of the District's major link between the public school system and the legal community. **The Public Education Legal Services Project** brings together individual lawyers and/or law firms with the organized parent groups at selected D.C. public schools to serve as pro bono counsel and/or to adopt the schools in the traditional sense. **The Public Education Reform Project** carries out research, analysis and reporting on education reform, budget and staffing in the D.C. Public Schools and arranges pro bono legal services in support of education reform. Together these projects aim to:

Engage the resources of the legal community to support education reform by helping law firms to partner with public schools in the District

Identify, coordinate and supervise volunteer attorneys to assist children and parents in up to 40 schools in low-income neighborhoods.

Build capacity through local parent groups to empower parents to participate in their own children's education, local school improvement and citywide education discussions

Create a network of parent advocates who will work continually and cooperatively to press for continuing improvement in the quality of educational opportunity for all children in the District and to create a tradition of parent activism that will enable this network to recreate itself, year after year.

Continue intensive participation in the formulation and development of an integrated, broadly acceptable systemic reform package

Provide independent and reliable basic information and data about D.C. Public Schools and school reform.

Act as a source of technical assistance, data and information for education reform activities led by others, including DCPS, the D.C. Agenda Project, parent and community organizations.

FUNDING: The Committee's Public Education Projects are funded by payments from client organizations and foundation grants.

Feb/Mar 1997
Bar Report

A pre budget for fiscal year 1997-98 will be held at 1:45 p.m. on Tuesday, April 8, in the D.C. Bar's meeting room, H Street, NW.

As Bar Report went to press, the Bar's Budget Committee approved a proposed budget. Highlights of the proposal include a recommendation that Bar dues remain at current levels and a proposal that the late fee charged to members who fail to pay their Bar dues promptly be increased by \$10 to \$30. The Committee's full report will be published in the March/April edition of *The Washington Lawyer* magazine, distributed by mail to all D.C. Bar members.

Following the public hearing, the proposal will be submitted to the Bar's Board of Governors for consideration.



Members of the law firm of Holland & Knight in the District of Columbia joined the First Lady on Valentine's Day in reading a story to students at Cleveland Elementary School in Northwest Washington. The firm has "adopted" the students at Cleveland, providing volunteer music instructors, tutors, sports coaches, and advocates. The First Lady challenged other firms and individual lawyers to follow Holland & Knight's example in order to make a difference in the lives of the District's youngsters.

First Lady hails Holland & Knight's D.C. public school partnership

On Valentine's Day, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton went back to school to present a bouquet to the law firm of Holland & Knight for "adopting" a D.C. public school and to challenge other firms to follow suit.

At a program on D.C. schools/D.C. law firm partnerships held at the Cleveland Elementary School, Holland & Knight's partner, the First Lady demonstrated how much law firms can do for schools by enumerating Holland & Knight's contributions. "Lawyers and staff have tutored students and have spent afternoons reading with them. They have taken children on field trips, helped repair school facilities, and helped reclaim historic Kennedy Park from drug dealers. They have donated computers, supplies, and clothing, and they have helped parents with legal problems."

Over the last 15 months, Holland & Knight spent 650 hours—valued at \$115,000—to help the school and donated an additional 920 hours of pro bono work for organizations in the Shaw neighborhood, said Clinton, who applauded other legal organizations with partnership programs: Covington & Burling; Steptoe & Johnson; Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson; Crowell & Moring; Patton Boggs; GWAC-Greater Washington Area Chapter, Women Lawyers Division, National Bar Association; and the D.C. Office of Corporation Counsel. The First Lady concluded by throwing down a gauntlet. "I would like today to challenge every single law firm in the Dis-

trict to match the resources with a school in this city. I challenge each managing partner to call the Washington Lawyers' Committee and volunteer to adopt a school."

The Washington Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs, the link between the schools and the legal community, can be reached at 202/835-0031.

During an ensuing panel discussion, Julius W. Beeton Jr., chief executive officer and superintendent of D.C. Public Schools, noted that 23 of the District's 156 schools lack partners and invited firms to call the D.C. Schools hotline (202/724-4016) to inquire about vacancies.

Panel moderator Theodore W. Small of Holland & Knight emphasized the value of the partnership to his law firm. "By working here at Cleveland, we have established that much needed connection to the community."

Holland & Knight's Melinda Burrows hoped that other firms would accept the First Lady's challenge. "We're doing what she and the President are trying very hard to promote, and in a small way it's working. We lawyers take an awful lot from the city; this is one way to give something back."

Board revises ACAB rules, sets up pilot mediation program

The D.C. Bar Board of Governors has approved a number of significant changes in the Attorney/Client Arbitration Board (ACAB) Rules of Procedure for the Fee Arbitration Service and endorsed implementation of a six-month Voluntary Fee Dispute Mediation Pilot Program.

In one of the most substantive rule changes, the ACAB has codified its policy of enforcing a predispute agreement to arbitrate a fee dispute only if the agreement meets specific criteria laid out by the Legal Ethics Committee in its Opinion 218. In general, the agreement must advise the client in writing about the availability of written materials on the ACAB process and the client may contact ACAB staff for counseling about the ACAB program.

time limit within which parties must file a response to a petition to arbitrate, a request to dismiss based on the jurisdiction of the ACAB to process the petition, or a counterclaim.

New language in one revision extends the definition of "client" to allow inclusion of a party who has no client relationship with a lawyer but who assumes the client's legal right to collect a refund of legal fees or who is legally responsible for paying fees on behalf of the client.

Under the revised rules, the ACAB can now accept a petition to arbitrate a fee dispute even when the dispute is the subject of a pending lawsuit.

"The new rules reflect changes in the program made as a result of implementation of mandatory arbitration," said Carla Freudenburg, ACAB director. For a full text

to be submitted

The D.C. Bar will recognize outstanding members and projects at its Annual Awards Luncheon and Business Meeting, set for June 18 at the Capital Hilton Hotel.

Among the awards to be presented are the Frederick B. Abramson President's Award for extraordinary service to the profession; and the William J. Brennan Jr. and Thurgood Marshall Awards for excellence in public interest law.

Also to be presented are awards for Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year, Pro Bono Law Firm of the Year, Best Section Community Outreach Project, Best Section Committee, Best Section, Best Bar Committee, and Best Bar Project.

Honored last year were: The Hon. William B. Bryant (Brennan Award), Judith L. Lichtman (Marshall Award), the Reproductive Cancer Task Force (Frederick B. Abramson Award); Michael J. Zoeller of Crowell & Moring (Pro Bono Lawyer Award); the law firms of Covington & Burling and Shea & Gardner (Law Firm Pro Bono Awards); the D.C. Affairs Section's Children's Initiative Forum (Best Section Community Outreach Project); the Employee Benefits Committee of the Taxation Section (Best Section Committee); the Health Law Section (Best Section); the Pro Bono Initiative Working Group (Best Bar Committee); and the Examination of Rule 49 Committee (Best Bar Project).

Nominations must be submitted to the D.C. Bar Executive Director, 1250 H Street NW, Sixth Floor, Washington, DC 20005-5937, by April 1.

of Procedure, contact Wendy Mays, 202/737-4700, ext. 216.

Acting on requests for mediation of fee disputes by numerous clients and attorneys, the ACAB requested and received permission to offer the option of mediation to every party to a fee dispute. Beginning on February 1, along with an Agreement to Mediate form, each party receives information explaining the voluntary mediation process and how it differs from arbitration. If both parties agree in writing to mediate, a volunteer mediator is assigned who has been selected from among ACAB's volunteer arbitrators and a mediation session is scheduled. Cases that cannot be mediated will be returned to arbitration.

After the conclusion of the pilot program, on July 31, 1997, the ACAB will evaluate the program and make its recom-



P R E S I D E N T ' S
P A G E

A Sense of Community

By Myles V. Lynk

As I write this month's column the D.C. Bar has just completed its 1997 Winter Convention. Attendance at the Keynote Luncheon on Wednesday, February 26, was one of the highest ever. We had more than 670 attendees. Those who came heard very moving remarks from our Beatrice Rosenberg Award recipient, Elizabeth Noël, and an extraordinary keynote address from Joseph A. Califano Jr., on the lessons to be learned for the practice of law today, from his experiences representing parties and witnesses in litigation arising out of the Watergate scandal 20 years ago. We were truly enriched by our speakers.

The Convention's Presidential Showcase programs addressed the problems faced by the District of Columbia in this time of fiscal crisis. In one way or another these programs all asked the question "What should each of us be doing to help solve these problems?" A difficult question to answer. So difficult, in fact, that we risk being overwhelmed by the depth and breadth of the needs of District of Columbia residents and the diminution of city services, as compared with our limited personal resources to address these needs. This sense of being overwhelmed is compounded by the dilemma we face as lawyers in distinguishing between our obligation to provide pro bono legal services to the poor, and our capacity to provide community services that draw on our abilities as educated and caring human beings, not on our legal skills. This is not an either-or proposition. We should do both. Yet while we all have some understanding of what it means to provide pro bono legal services, we have no common definition of community service.

Three years ago, another D.C. Bar Winter Convention keynote speaker tried to provide us with that common definition. On March 2, 1994, United

States Attorney Eric Holder, speaking at the D.C. Bar Winter Convention, challenged D.C. Bar members "to look beyond the narrow confines of the field of law" to determine "how many livable hours we devote to our fellow citizens." He urged Bar members to become involved in the greater Washington community through a number of activities that would not invoke our skills as lawyers as much as they would require our commitment as responsible adults: tutoring and mentoring children; providing internships in our offices for students we meet in our volunteer activities; being guest teachers in schools to teach students from our own experiences; establishing extracurricular clubs at schools based on our hobbies or skills; getting involved in games, sports or other recreational activity with children after school.

Since then, Bar members, law firms, government legal agencies and corporate law departments have become involved in the community. In particular, many law firms and government agencies have "adopted" public schools in the District of Columbia. They work with the children in these schools on many of the activities Eric Holder referred to in 1994. The Office of the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia has adopted the Margaret A. Amidon Elementary School in southwest Washington. Covington & Burling has adopted Cardozo Senior High School. Steptoe & Johnson, Howrey & Simon and Patton Boggs also have adopted schools. The District of Columbia Office of the Corporation Counsel has adopted the Walker-Jones Elementary School. Angela Harvey, assistant corporation counsel, began the D.C.

Bar's Children's Initiative Forum for our D.C. Affairs Section. In 1996 the Children's Initiative Forum received the D.C. Bar's Community Outreach Project of the Year Award.

What does it mean to adopt a school? Different things to different law firms or agencies. Within each firm or agency it means different things to the people who actually donate time to the effort, and to those who do not.

For example, last month First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, General Julius Becton and others met at the Cleveland Elementary School in the District of Columbia to honor the contributions made to the school by the law firm of Holland & Knight. As Mrs. Clinton wrote in a letter she sent to Washington area law firms after her visit, "Holland & Knight lawyers and staff provide . . . pro bono legal assistance; tutor students . . . ; take children on field trips; help repair school

facilities; donate . . . used computers, supplies, clothing and grocery register receipts; and much more. I was told how letters that had fallen on deaf ears when written by a parent, received an immediate response when sent on an law firm's letterhead. One long-time community leader told us the law firm partnership was 'the

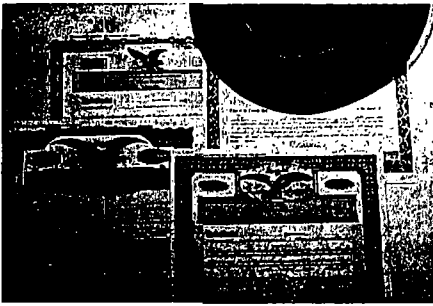
most valuable thing that has happened in [the] Shaw [neighborhood] since urban renewal in 1966."

It was an inspiring event. Teachers and parents were uniform in the view that lawyers and other staff from Holland & Knight had contributed to the success of their efforts with the children. They greatly appreciated having volunteers spend time with the children. The resources and adult involvement we may

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**We should
provide community
services that
draw on our
abilities
as educated,
caring people.**

STOCK OPTION



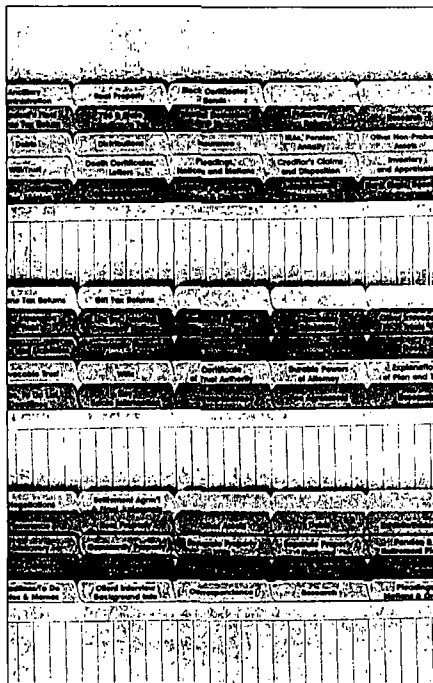
Corporate lawyers and paralegals can track clients' general corporate and securities information, prepare stockholder and director consents and print to stock certificate forms with Corporate Focus-Professional, Version 2.1, a new, more powerful version of Two-Step Software's Corporate Focus. The software runs on Windows in both single-user PC and multi-user networked versions. Costs start at \$795. Free upgrade for current users.

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KEEPING TABS

New index tabs for family law, estate planning and probate are available from Bindertek LawFiles. The family law organizer covers all phases of a divorce proceeding; the estate planning tabs include all relevant estate documents; the probate organizer provides access to the documents necessary to transfer assets and handle tax compliance. Tabs fit two- or three-ring binders and two-prong file folders. Cost: \$6 per set.

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President's Page

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take for granted in the lives of our own children cannot be taken for granted in the lives of these children. Lawyers and law firms willing to commit some of their time and energy to these young lives can make a big difference.

Mrs. Clinton asked law firms in the District to establish or strengthen ties to one or more public schools in the city. Law firms, government agencies, corporate law departments and individual attorneys who wish to become involved in such community service projects should contact Col. Harvey Dickerson at the D.C. Public Schools, 202/724-4222, or Iris Toyer at the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs, or the D.C. Bar's Children's Initiative Forum. This year's forum will be held on Wednesday, May 14, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m., at the law firm of Hogan & Hartson.

Please consider making a commitment to community service. Such activities are twice blessed; they reward those who undertake them, and those whose lives are enriched by the benefits they receive through the service of others.



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Around this time last year I had the pleasure of addressing the audience at the Washington Lawyers' Committee Wiley Branton Annual Awards Luncheon. As you may recall I remarked on how I had the opportunity to reflect on the legacy of Wiley Branton and how his life long commitment to civil rights embodied his belief that through positive interaction and the law this nation could achieve social progress. I was also pleased to learn about how law firms, like yours, in the city of Washington have taken a leadership role in expanding the breadth of their pro bono and community services work by forming partnerships with a D.C. public school.

As you know this school year has been a particularly challenging one for the city's public schools. Your firm's provision of sorely needed community support to the schools during this period has been especially important. I believe that the often quoted African proverb "It takes an entire village to raise a child." exemplifies the spirit in which school volunteers approach the work they perform. It is not glamorous and it often takes a long time to see results. But, when suddenly the child you are tutoring can sound out words or the high school student begins to understand the connections between school and work there are no more rewarding feelings.

While it may be possible to calculate the number of hours spent working at the school by your firm's volunteers, it is certainly unlikely that anyone would be able to assess the true value of the services that are provided to the students. I commend you and your firm for your outstanding sense of community and willingness to take an active role in improving the lives of our city's children. The efforts by law firms in Washington stand as a shining example of how citizens nationwide can help to improve the quality of life for America's children.

With warmest regards,

Hillary Rodham Clinton



WASHINGTON LAWYERS' COMMITTEE
FOR CIVIL RIGHTS AND URBAN AFFAIRS

FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

FAX NUMBER: (202) 835-0309

Telephone: (202) 835-0031

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June 3, 1997

TO:

Jennifer Kline

Facsimile Number:

(202) 456-2878

Long Distance?: ☐ Y ☒ N

FROM:

Iris Goyer

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We are beginning to send a communication of 7 pages (including this cover page).

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COMMENTS: Faying a brief description of Education Project and chart of active law firm/DC Public School partnerships. This years awardees have been indicated - Newly established partners are also shown

**EXAMPLES OF
D. C PUBLIC SCHOOLS & LAW FIRM PARTNERSHIPS**

SCHOOL	PARTNER	CONTACT	ACTIVITIES
Bancroft ES	Howrey & Simon <i>1997 Awardee</i>	Lois G. Williams (202)383-6676	Active for several years providing mentoring and afterschool tutoring by lawyer and nonlawyer staff. Individual activities include assistance with singing group; twice annual cleanup activities; computer assistance (established e-mail between firm & school); lap reading for younger children; conflict resolution training & program; annual holiday party (student design appears on firms holiday card to clients) and various special activities.
Cleveland Tri-School Learning Academy (Lower Campus)	Holland & Knight <i>1997 Awardee</i>	Ted Small Hank Brothers, Melinda Burrows (202) 955-3000	Afterschool Tutoring; Christmas in April; enrichment trips to Botanical Gardens, to Stand for Children March; Donations of gently used items (computer, books and clothing); Scholarship to the Studio School (housed in Cleveland); collection of cash register receipts for computers. Reading Is Fundamental book distribution.
Garnett-Patterson	Crowell & Moring	Susan Hoffman (202) 624-2591	C & M Law Club; Saturday Morning Enrichment; Beautification Project; Grocery Receipts Collection Program; Christmas for G-P Families in Need; Parental Participation Projects; Library/Gymnasium Development Project; School Uniforms Contribution Drive; Furniture and Equipment donations

SCHOOL	PARTNER	CONTACT	ACTIVITIES
Cardozo SHS	Covington & Burling	Jan Flack (202) 662-5044	Saturday Academy; employ 7 to 9 students each summer and several students afterschool during the year. Provide speakers, Mentors, Mini-Courses, Teacher Partners, Enrichment Activities, Computer Assistance, School Beautification Projects
Seaton ES	Weil, Gotshal & Manges	Rhett Weiss (202) 682-7000	Undertake beautification projects to improve the appearance of the school itself. "Adopted" the sixth grade students. Meet directly with 6th graders in various activities arranged by WGM & teachers including mentoring, tutoring, conflict resolution, classroom lectures and presentations and field trips.
School Without Walls	Fried Frank Harris Shriver & Jacobson	Karen Grisez (202) 639-7000	Conducts Street Law program (2 month intensive course instruction Feb/March - May). Conducts classes and assists students with preparation for mock trial competition. Provides opportunities for visits to the firm, the local courts and Lorton complex. (Participates via project of National Institute of Citizens in the Law (NICIL))
Raymond ES	Steptoe & Johnson	Barbara Kagan (202) 429-6258	Lunchtime Tutorial Program for 3rd Grade Students; School Beautification projects; Special Events such as Kite Day, book drive called Sweet Treats for the Mind (Valentine's Day activity) parent advocacy

SCHOOL	PARTNER	CONTACT	ACTIVITIES
Francis JHS	Patton Boggs, L.L.P. <i>1997 Awarded</i>	Melanie Gerber (202) 457-6312 Bill Krulak (202) 457-5649	Mentoring; monthly speaker series (theme based) featuring firm attorneys (firm librarian tapes series for future use). Firm Librarian provides instruction on Internet use. Coaches soccer and other team sports; Provides music lessons. Created poetry workshop. Other activities include Clean-up days, judging science fair projects, chess club. Plans underway for peer mediation and parent activities.
Park View ES	Reed Smith	Marnie Sarver (202) 414-9209	Annual power lunches w/5th grade students (in groups of 10-12) at firm to talk about jobs at the firm and to learn more about students in small group setting. Drawing contest; winning piece used for firm's holiday card; annual essay contest; clean-up, fix-up day; development of a Park View brochure to attract other corporate and community partners to work with it; involvement at the All-School Career Fair; coordination of collection of safeway and Giant receipts at the Firm to purchase equipment needed by the school; other special activities.
Eastern, Dunbar, Arch Bishop Carroll, School Without Walls, Duke Ellington	Piper & Marbury	Andrew Herscowitz (202) 861-6466	Firm sponsors an Explorer Post for high school students interested in learning about law-related careers. Attorneys make presentations to the students twice each month. Students' parents are invited to attend some meetings.
Bell Multicultural HS	Sutherland, Asbill & Brennan	Monique LaForce (202) 383-6365	Assists in teaching Bell's Street Law program. Coaches school's mock trial team for annual Street Law competition.

SCHOOL	PARTNER	CONTACT	ACTIVITIES
Walker Jones ES	D.C. Office of the Corporation Counsel	Angela Thornton Harvey, Deputy Family Services Division (202) 727-3839	Goldilocks Moot Court (Superior Court program); Thanksgiving Basket Food Drive, Chess Club; Tutoring; Annual activities include: Family Fun Day, Career Day, Children's Holiday Party, Register Tape Drive, and Book Drive. Up to 75 employees including attorneys participate during the year.
Adams ES	Swidler & Berlin	Brian Friel (202) 424-7500	Lunch time tutorial program for 3rd and 6th grade students; major financial supporter of School's Saturday Morning Math and Science Academy; special activities, including book drive, school cleanup, school trips, and holiday parties; provide funding for school supplies and equipment; plan to initiate free legal services center for parents of students.
Garrison ES	Arnold & Porter	Marsha Tucker	Newly established. Plans include enhancing school library. Presenting seminars for parents on the new welfare reform initiatives, special education, etc.
Martin Luther King, Jr. ES	King & Spaulding	Kevin Canada	Newly established. Activities not yet reported
Malcolm X Elementary School	Greater Washington Area Council of Female Attorneys (GWAC)	Kathy Ellis (292) 686-5896	Mentoring and tutoring to approximately thirty 5th & 6th grade girls. Meet w/'little sisters' every Tues. 6-7:30pm at the school. Provide individual counseling using life experiences; and exposure to cultural events.
Spingarn SHS	Hogan and Hartson	Karen M. Hardwick (202) 637-5600	This is a new partnership. Plans are underway to establish a homework center for the students.
Stanton ES	Pepper, Hamilton & Scheetz	Don Green (202) 828-1200	Newly established partnership. Activities not yet defined.

* Established after Mr. Clinton's
visit to Cleveland

*

Marie Reed LC	FannieMae Legal Dept.	Debra House (202) 752-3521	Newly established partnership. Possible activities include buildings and grounds enhancements; workshops for parents on obtaining mortgages (available in English, Spanish & Chines) Activity planning session scheduled.
Thompson ES	Sidley & Austin	Ron Flagg (202) 736-8171	Currently providing peer mediation for students (in connection with Lawyers for Children)

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