

TO: Hillary Rodham Clinton
FROM: Pauline Abernathy
CC: Melanne Vermeer, Jen Klein
DATE: April 23, 1997
RE: Response to your challenge to D.C. law firms to partner with a D.C. public school

Before I left, I wanted to be sure you knew that D.C. law firms *are* responding to your call for them to partner with D.C. public schools. The Washington Lawyers' Committee says that *at least 12 new law firm-school partnerships are in the process of forming*, and that at least 8 other firms have expressed interest in forming one. The Lawyers' Committee attributes this outpouring directly to your visit to Cleveland Elementary School and your subsequent letter to the managing partners of D.C. law firms in February. Prior to your visit to Cleveland, Iris Toyer, who facilitates partnerships at the Lawyers' Committee and participated in the panel discussion at Cleveland, had been having a tough time enlisting the participation of additional law firms.

Iris is encouraging firms to partner with schools in NE and SE and with schools that do not have any partners, and is pleased that some are doing so. Hogan and Hartson is establishing a partnership with Spingarn High School in NE, and King & Spalding is establishing a partnership with Martin Luther King Elementary School in SE. Arnold and Porter is establishing a partnership at Garrison, the NW elementary school you visited with the President in February.

Attached are a letter you just received from Ted Small, the lawyer from Holland & Knight who moderated the panel discussion at Cleveland, and thank you notes from second graders at Cleveland. Ted says your letter to the law firms has won the managing partners' attention, and that the discussion has moved from whether to partner with a school, to how to do it. Over 30 firms attended a panel discussion last week sponsored by the Washington Lawyers' Committee to discuss how to partner with a school. General Becton was planning to attend, but had to attend a last minute City Council hearing instead.

The Washington Lawyers' Committee has invited you to speak at their annual awards luncheon on June 10th. The program will feature a tribute to law firms that have partnered with D.C. public schools, and the Lawyers' Committee believes your participation at the luncheon would help them secure commitments from additional law firms and help energize the firms.

I could not be more pleased with the response to your challenge. Based on the experience of the existing partnerships, I believe these additional partnerships have the potential to make a real difference in the lives of thousands of District children and in their communities. Bravo!

Attachments

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April 22, 1997

Ted W. Small
202-457-7031

VIA HAND DELIVERY

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20037

Re: Thank-you for your visit to Cleveland Tri-School Learning Academy, Lower Campus B and Shaw Neighborhood.

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

I am writing to thank you for visiting with us at Cleveland Tri-School Learning Academy, Lower Campus B on February 14, 1997. After weeks of attempting unsuccessfully to find just the right words, I delegated the task of expressing our appreciation to some young writers who are hardly ever at a loss for words. The attached envelope contains some very special thank you notes from the second graders who you met during the visit.

Expanding on their notes only briefly, we thank you for providing some much needed recognition for the teachers and administrators of Cleveland school, particularly Principal Annie Mair, who have worked hard for many years to develop a challenging learning environment for Shaw children. In conversations with teachers and administrators, I have noticed a renewed sense of dedication about their plans for the coming year. Several Cleveland parents have also commented how proud they were to watch television and read newspaper articles where their school was cited as a example of what is working well in the District of Columbia. Even our other non-profit clients in Shaw have interpreted your visit as a sign that their community building efforts are working and getting noticed in "high" places. In short, you have encouraged an entire community to continue working to rebuild Shaw into a place where it is safe for kids to learn and play.

In my role as chair of the ABA's Public Schools Committee, I also greatly appreciate your assistance in stimulating interest and issuing a challenge to other D.C. law firms to develop similar school partnerships. In the weeks following your visit to Cleveland, I have participated in two panel discussions on this

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
April 22, 1997
Page 2

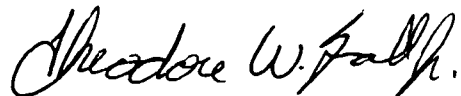
topic, one sponsored by the D.C. Bar and the other sponsored by the Washington Lawyers' Committee. Both were well-attended by lawyers as well as other professional organizations interested in obtaining some practical information about how they might meet your school partnership challenge. The project director at the Washington Lawyers' Committee, Iris Toyer, has already obtained commitments from several of these law firms that they will begin school partnerships. With this renewed interest and commitment, D.C. law firms have an opportunity to lead a movement for increasing lawyer involvement in public schools across the nation.

Lastly, on behalf of Holland & Knight's Community Services Team and the entire firm, we thank you for your kind words of support for our partnership with Cleveland school and our pro bono commitment to the larger Shaw community. We are working very hard to live up to your high praise by strengthening our relationships with Cleveland school and other Shaw groups. We hope to develop a model for law firms to combine their pro bono and community services commitments into partnerships with other neighborhoods. Their involvement would become one part of an integrated series of solutions to the complex problems of America's inner cities.

I very much enjoyed meeting you and also working with your assistant, Pauline Abernathy who worked so hard in the background to make this very inspiring event possible. As the children have so eloquently written in the enclosed thank-you cards, we look forward to you visiting again very soon.

Very truly yours,

HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP



Ted W. Small

Enclosures

cc: Pauline Abernathy (via facsimile)
The White House

*See - for
your files*
— Pam

plp
Sixth Floor
1250 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.
20005-5937
(202) 737-4700
FAX (202) 626-3471



THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BAR

April 10, 1997

Ms. Melanne Verveer
Deputy Assistant to the President and
Deputy Chief of Staff to the First Lady
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20502

Dear Ms. Verveer:

Thank you for sending me copies of the photograph of the First Lady and me at the February 14 ceremony at Cleveland Elementary School.

Please find enclosed for your information a copy of my "President's Page" column from the March/April 1997 issue of The Washington Lawyer magazine, which is distributed to over 45,000 members of the District of Columbia Bar around the country. In my column I commend the First Lady's initiative and her speech at Cleveland Elementary School, and urge lawyers to accept her challenge and follow the example of Holland & Knight and other law firms in adopting needy public schools in the District of Columbia.

Thank you again. We deeply appreciate the First Lady's support for the District of Columbia community. With all best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Myles V. Lynk
Myles V. Lynk

MVL:ao
Enclosure

E-mail address: 2099238@MCIMAIL.COM

Copy to: Carolyn B. Lamm, Esq.
Katherine A. Mazzaferri, Esq.

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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

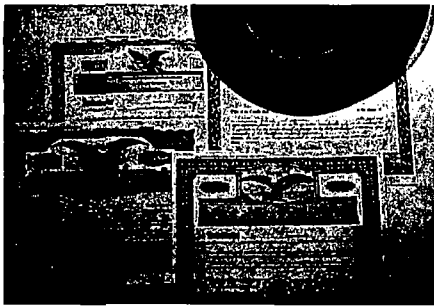
most valuable thing that has happened in [the] Shaw [neighborhood] since urban renewal in 1966."

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

continued on page 85

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

STOCK OPTION



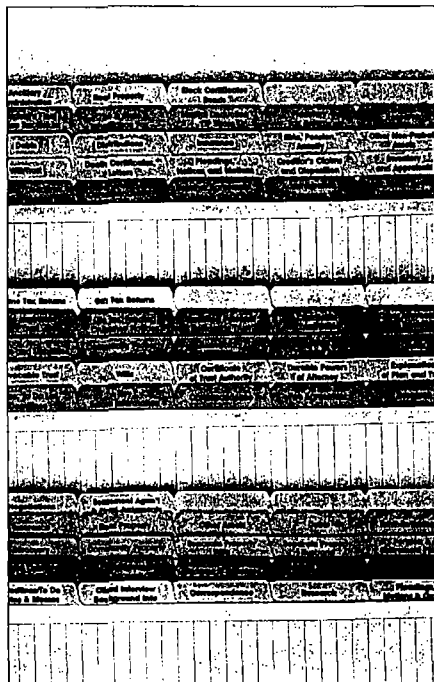
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KEEPING TABS

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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BarReport

THE OFFICIAL
NEWS PAPER OF
THE D.C. BAR

Budget hearing set

A public hearing on the Bar's proposed 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 rooms, 1250 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.

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

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."

Outstanding members, projects to be saluted

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 Taxa-

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

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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 District of Columbia to share its talents and

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. Becton 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.

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.

Another revision establishes a 20-day

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."

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 of the revised ACAB Fee Arbitration Rules

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 recommendations to the Board of Governors.