



WASHINGTON LAWYERS' COMMITTEE
FOR CIVIL RIGHTS AND URBAN AFFAIRS

FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

FAX NUMBER: (202) 835-0309

Telephone: (202) 835-0031

DATE:

June 3, 1997

TO:

Jennifer Kline

Facsimile Number:

(202) 456-2878 Long Distance?: ☐ Y ☒ N

FROM:

Iris Rieger

Project Billing Code:

800

Client:

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

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COMMENTS:

Faxing 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)

**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.

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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

~~Call Katy~~

Waiting for list for
letters from
Boggs.

And

den, are you following
up on this project (The
D.C. law firms partner-
ships w/ D.C. public
schools)? Pauline had
worked on it back then,
PE is not sure what we
should do next. Let's
discuss. Nicole



WASHINGTON LAWYERS' COMMITTEE
FOR CIVIL RIGHTS AND URBAN AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM

December 12, 1997

Ms. Katie Button
Domestic Policy Council
The White House
1700 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Ms. Button:

Recently you and Rod Boggs, Executive Director of the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs had an opportunity to discuss the Committee's Public Education Legal Services Project (PELSP). As you know during her visit in February to Cleveland Elementary School and later as the featured speaker at the Committee's Wiley Branton luncheon, Ms. Clinton graciously expressed her support for the project. As Project Director, I am delighted to update you on the status of the PELSP.

When Ms. Clinton issued her initial call to action to the Washington legal community to join the Committee in its efforts to link law firms and public school, we received a flurry of calls from law firms seeking information on how to get involved. At that time there were approximately fourteen partnerships established. I believe as a direct result of her appearance at our Wiley Branton luncheon and her letter to managing partners, the interest in this project markedly increased. To date we have been able to establish twenty-nine partnerships between D.C. law firms and public schools. At the beginning of this school year we set a goal to establish 40 law firm/public school partnerships by the end of the school year. We are just about at 75% of achieving that goal!

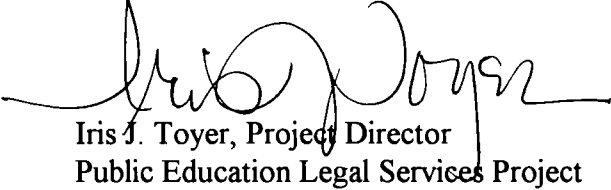
Most of the schools in the District have several partners. However, because of the unique skills lawyers and their staffs possess we are able to distinguish these partnerships in a variety of ways. Not only do the firms work with the students as tutors and mentors, or providing special events, but they also advise parents on a number of quality of life issues. For example, one firm plans to provide seminars for parents on welfare reform. Another will provide information on home ownership, i.e., securing a mortgage. And still another, has already sought to help a graduating senior to bring her grandmother who lives in El Salvador here for her graduation ceremony. We encourage them to work with the parent organization at their particular school to assist the parents to become skilled advocates for their own children.

To make the partnerships as effective as possible the PELSP convenes monthly meetings with representatives of the law firms to discuss partnership activities. The meetings are intended to create a forum for the exchange of information on school partnership activities, how law firms can get started, accurate information on the D.C. Public School system and how the Committee through its Public Education Project can be supportive of the firms' partnerships. From our perspective these meetings are excellent opportunities to share information on the state of this city's education reform efforts and to discuss ways in which law firms, the local schools and parents can work together to achieve the common goal of better schools for the city's children. The meetings have been very well attended.

The project has also developed a newsletter, *Partners Unlimited Bulletin Board* that focuses on the activities of the law firm/school partnerships. (See attached) Articles are contributed by the firms as well as project staff. It too provides an opportunity for firms to exchange information and ideas on successful ways to support our schools.

I look forward to providing more information on the progress of this project. We believe that this is a model that can be duplicated in other communities. Should you have questions about the project or require more information, please contact me or Mr. Boggs on (202) 835-0031.

Sincerely,



Iris J. Toyer, Project Director
Public Education Legal Services Project

Attachment

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

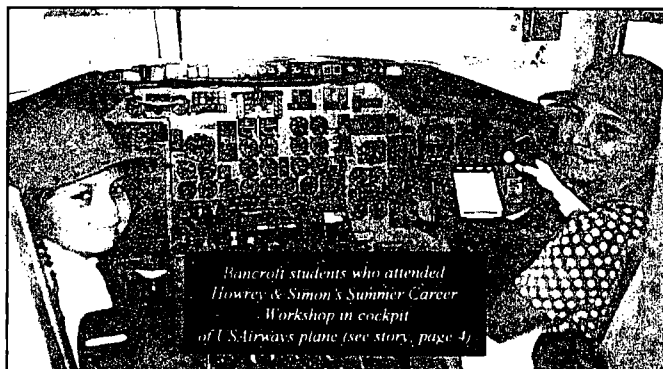
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Public Education Legal Services Project's PARTNERS UNLIMITED BULLETIN BOARD

A project of the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs
Fall 1997



GARDENS & MORE FOR NEW PARTNERS

"We wanted the new garden to serve as an introduction to our new partnership." That's why, explains Anastasia D. Kelly, Fannie Mae's General Counsel, members of the corporation's legal department braved a blistering August day to haul, plant, mulch and rake on the roof of the Marie H. Reed Learning Center. "We believe that in-house counsel, like their law firm counterparts, share in the obligation to perform *pro bono* services and undertake other activities that better our community."

Fannie Mae's legal staff is working closely with Reed's principal and faculty to plan other partnership activities for the school's 600 students. Plans include coordinating the wiring of the school for the Internet, collecting books to supplement the library inventory, and tutoring.

The partnership that Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld formed with Tyler Elementary School during the summer is off to a vigorous

(Continued on page 2)

FIRMS EXPAND FROM STREET LAW

by Jonathan Aronie and Monique La Force

After several years of helping students from the School Without Walls and Bell Multicultural High School prepare for their annual mock trial competition in the Street Law program, our firms—Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson and Sutherland Asbill & Brennan, L.L.P.—have decided the time has come for

(Continued on page 3)

CHECK THE BOARD

Iris Intro	2
CEO Observes	3
Summer Activities	4
Ways to Get Started	6
Fall, Holiday Projects	7, 9
Sample Survey	8
Parent's Perspective	10



WASHINGTON LAWYERS' COMMITTEE
FOR CIVIL RIGHTS AND URBAN AFFAIRS

FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

Telephone: (202) 835-0031
Facsimile : (202) 835-0309

DATE: 21 May 1998

TO: Jennifer Klein, Ofc o/ First Lady

Facsimile Number: (202) 456-2818 Long Distance?: Y ☒ N

FROM: Iris J. Toyer

Project Billing Code: 500 Client: _____

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BY TELEPHONE AT (202) 835-0031. THANK YOU FOR YOUR
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If transmission is interrupted or of poor quality, please notify us immediately by telephone.

COMMENTS: We look forward to discussing these
memos with you!

F A C S I M I L E

TO : Jennifer Klein, Office of the First Lady
FROM: Rod Boggs and Iris Toyer
RE : Draft Letters on Law Firm and D.C. Public School Partnership
DATE : May 21, 1998

As we discussed in our telephone conversation I am sending a draft of the letter that is to be sent to managing partners whose firms have established school partnership. Additionally, I have attached a list of the names and addresses of the managing partners.

I will forward the additional memo and list after I clarify that information with Rod Boggs. Thank you in advance for your attention and assistance.

Copy
456
2878

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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.

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With warmest regards,

Hillary Rodham Clinton

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Washington, DC 20036



WASHINGTON LAWYERS' COMMITTEE
FOR CIVIL RIGHTS AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Sent
Thank to
Alice

FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

Telephone: (202) 835-0031

Facsimile : (202) 835-0309

DATE: 21 May 1998

TO:

Jennifer Klein, Ofc of First Lady

Facsimile Number:

(202) 456-6244

Long Distance?:

Y

N

FROM:

Iris J. Toyer

Project Billing Code:

500

Client:

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COMMENTS:

We look forward to discussing these
memos with you!



**WASHINGTON LAWYERS' COMMITTEE
FOR CIVIL RIGHTS AND URBAN AFFAIRS**

F A C S I M I L E

TO : Jennifer Klein, Office of the First Lady

FROM: Rod Boggs and Iris Toyer

RE : Draft Letters on Law Firm and D.C. Public School Partnership

DATE : May 21, 1998

As I indicated in my voicemail message, I have prepared drafts of the memoranda that you and Rod Boggs discussed. My understanding is that the first memorandum would be sent to the firms that have already established partnerships. The second memorandum would be sent to firms that have either indicated an interest and have not yet committed.

Please call me or Rod Boggs at your convenience. We can be reached on (202) 835-0031. Thank you in advance for your attention and assistance.

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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 many law firms 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.

During this past year I have watched with great interest the steady progress of the Washington Lawyers' Committee Public Education Legal Services Project. It is heartening to know that in one year the number of law firm/public school partnerships has nearly doubled. This school year has been a particularly challenging one for the city's public schools. While there are many reasons to be hopeful my visits to schools in this city let me know that there is still plenty of work to be done.

I hope very much that if your firm has not already made a commitment to work as a partner with a D. C. public school, you will consider doing so in the near future. I know that Iris Toyer, the Director of the Lawyers' Committee partnership program will be delighted to work with you on this project and I hope you will get in touch with her at (202) 835-0031.

While it may be possible to calculate the number of hours spent working at a school by your firm's volunteers, it is certainly unlikely that anyone will be able to assess the true value of a law firm/public school partnership to this community. The efforts by lawyers 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

March 13, 1997

Hillary Rodham Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mrs. Clinton

I am writing on behalf of the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs to invite you to attend and speak at this year's Wiley A. Branton Awards Luncheon. This year's luncheon will be held on Tuesday, June 10th at the Capital Hilton Hotel. Based on our experience over the past ten years, we anticipate an attendance of 800-1,000 at this event.

The Wiley Branton Luncheon is the Lawyers' Committee's opportunity to thank the hundreds of area law firms and lawyers who provide *pro bono* support for its various projects every year. This year's program will feature a tribute to the major law firms in the city, such as Holland and Knight, Steptoe & Johnson and Covington & Burling, that are engaged in active partnerships with D.C. public schools. We also hope that this event will be chance for us to encourage many other firms to adopt similar programs.

I believe your presence at our luncheon could make a real difference in securing increased participation in our program and in letting the lawyers who are working with us know how much we appreciate their help. I hope that you will be able to join us for what we believe will be a memorable event. Please let me know if have any questions about our plans or need additional information.

Sincerely yours,

Roderic V.O. Boggs

Roderic V.O. Boggs
Executive Director

• Since Cleveland, 5 or 6 new
have joined partnership

• Video will precede remarks - scenes from
1/2 dozen of these

• ~~encourage~~ encouragement for firms to have & retain interest. Use
Cleveland remarks.

1300-19TH STREET, N.W. • SUITE 500 • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036-1614
(202) 835-0031 (VOICE) • (202) 835-0309 (FAX) • (202) 833-3994 (TDD)

• Talk about improving quality in schools.

Melanne -

Here is the invite
HRC has received.

Thy faxed me a copy.
I think it would be
great if HRC could
do this or as you say,
do a separate event
at the White House
- Patti
cc Jean
Patti

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Bar Report

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.

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.

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.

Another revision establishes a 20-day

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

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 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.

Memorandum

6/5/97

From: MYLES V. LYNK
To: Jennifer Klein

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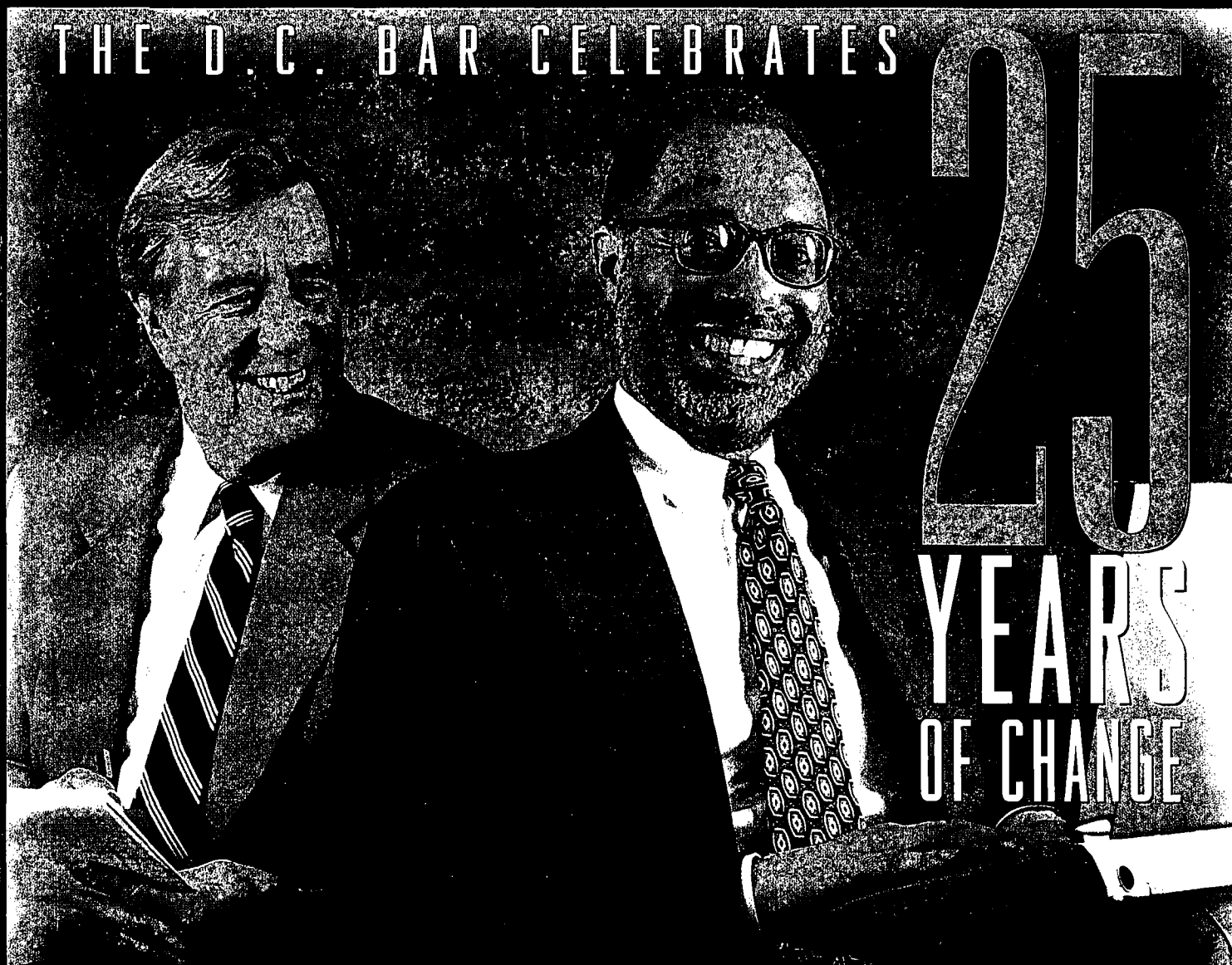
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THE D.C. BAR CELEBRATES

25
YEARS
OF CHANGE



A Quarter-Century of Change • 25 Years, 25 Presidents • Lawyering Goes High-Tech • Milestones • Current Issues • and More

D.C. Bar's first president, E. Barrett Prettyman Jr., legal pad in hand, and laptop computer-toting Myles V. Lynk, current D.C. Bar president.