

MEMORANDUM

February 3, 2006

TO: Law Firm Representatives

FROM: Robert B. Duncan

RE: Introduction to Legal Reasoning Program Volunteers Wanted

The Lawyers' Committee is once again seeking law firms interested in sponsoring and teaching sessions of its annual summer Introduction to Legal Reasoning Program for students preparing to enter law school who are members of groups traditionally disadvantaged or under represented in the practice of law. As the attached course description explains, the course is designed to give students a "leg-up" on the first year of law school by acquainting them with the analytical, advocative style of learning, while giving them a preview of some basic legal jargon and concepts and of the fundamentals of the judicial process.

Each summer the course is taught at four or five law firms in D.C. by volunteer lawyers at those (and from other) firms. Volunteer instructors invariably say that they enjoy and get as much out of teaching the course as do the students from taking it. Firms that have sponsored classes in the past frequently sign up to teach the course again. And volunteer teachers who change firms have often gotten their new firm involved.

Over the past few years, the course has been taught at numerous law firms, including Collier, Shannon, Rill & Scott; Covington & Burling; Crowell & Moring; Dickstein, Shapiro, Morin & Oshinsky; Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher; Hogan & Hartson; Miller & Chevalier; Morgan Lewis & Bockius; O'Melveny & Myers; Steptoe & Johnson; Sutherland, Asbill & Brennan; Vinson & Elkins; Wiley, Rein & Fielding; Williams & Connolly; Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering; and Aiken Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, by lawyers from these and other firms and the government. The Lawyers' Committee is grateful for and welcomes the continued participation of these firms, but also encourages other firms to participate in this enjoyable and worthwhile program.

Get involved now. To volunteer your firm (or as an individual teacher) or for more information, please **contact Bob Duncan at Hogan & Hartson (703) 610-6124 or RBDuncan@hhlaw.com right away.**

Washington Lawyers' Committee's
INTRODUCTION TO LEGAL REASONING PROGRAM

As in years past, the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs will be offering an "Introduction to Legal Reasoning" program for students entering area law schools who are members of groups traditionally disadvantaged or under represented in the practice of law. The law firm of Hogan & Hartson is coordinating the city-wide program with the cooperation of the Committee.

The program is designed to prepare students for the first year of law school by providing a taste of the highly analytical, argumentative style of learning to which students may have had little or no exposure. The course also provides a preview of some basic legal jargon and the fundamentals of the American judicial system. The course does not teach students substantive law. Rather, it emphasizes the process and procedures involved in law school.

The program enables the students to gain a basic familiarity with legal reasoning and legal writing, and culminates in a moot court exercise. The students also are introduced to basic legal research methods. Based on the Committee's past experience and the reports of former students, the program gives students a significant advantage during the first semester of law school.

Classes, which will start in June, will be taught by volunteer lawyers from law firms in the District of Columbia. The course runs for six weeks, meeting four nights (Monday-Thursday) each week. Students will be assigned to one of several sessions of the course, each of which will be held at the D.C. law offices of the volunteer instructors from 6:30 to 8:30 in the evening. Students are asked to pay \$50.00 to defray the cost of reproducing the course materials, but no tuition is required.