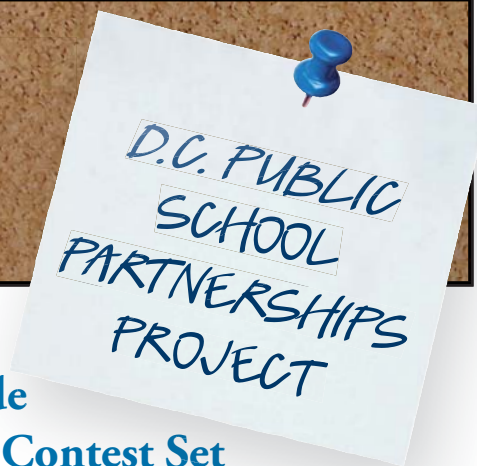


Partners Unlimited Bulletin Board

Fall
2008



Ellington's Defense Team, winners of the 2008 citywide Street Law Mock Trial Tournament.

Partner Schools Honored for Street Law Efforts

Dickstein Shapiro and **Covington & Burling**, who participate with their partner schools in the Street Law program are very proud of recent successes at Ellington School of the Arts and Cardozo Senior High School. Last spring, two Ellington mock trial teams, both coached by Dickstein Shapiro attorneys, were winners in the 36th annual citywide Street Law mock trial tournament.

Street Law is an elective course taught at Ellington and Cardozo and 15 other D.C. public high schools. Its purpose is to introduce high school students to areas of the law, including civil rights, constitutional law, torts, housing law, family law, and other legal issues that impact their lives.

The capstone of the course is a citywide tournament where Street Law students participate in a traditional mock trial competition. Each year, the students are presented with a 50-page mock trial packet that includes a fact pattern, sworn witness statements, other evidence, and rules of evidence. This year,

(Continued on page 8)

4th Citywide GeoPlunge Contest Set for November 21

The Committee's D.C. Public School Partnerships Project, with **Arent Fox**, are organizing the 4th citywide GeoPlunge Tournament, to be held on Friday, November 21 at Bell Multicultural High School from 9:30 AM to 2:15 PM. Three-person teams of 5th and 6th graders will be welcomed from all D.C. public elementary and middle schools.

Arent Fox will co-sponsor the tournament with the Washington Lawyers' Committee. The Committee is also actively recruiting sponsors for individual GeoPlunge teams. There were nearly 50 team sponsors for the 3rd citywide tournament in November 2007.

GeoPlunge, a geography game invented by Arent Fox partner Alan Fishel, is played with a set of cards, each representing one

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WASHINGTON LAWYERS' COMMITTEE
FOR CIVIL RIGHTS AND URBAN AFFAIRS



IRIS J. TOYER
*Project Director, D.C. Public School
 Partnerships Project, Washington
 Lawyers' Committee*

The 2008-2009 school year has got off to quite a start! We have new schools—created as a result of school mergers. We have new principals at a significant number of our partnership schools and many more throughout the D.C. Public Schools system. We have our work cut out for us. However, I have confidence that the law firms that have formed school partnerships will continue to be a steadying presence within our schools.

As evidence of the commitment of the D.C. Public School Partnerships Project to be a presence in the lives of our children, we are working to host our 4th citywide GeoPlunge Tournament this fall. This exciting event pits 5th and 6th graders from schools across the city in a day-long geography contest based on the card game GeoPlunge! The page 1 article sets the stage for this fun-filled day. I am sure you will want to get involved.

Our guest columnist Cathy Scheineson, a partner at **McDermott Will & Emery**, shares her firm's experience on making a seamless transition when moving their partnership to the new school formed when their school was merged with another elementary school. It is a commitment expressed without hesitation to the children of Anthony Bowen Elementary School. The firm recognizes that no matter what the adults decide to do, the needs of the children remain. Read more on page 7.

It should also be noted that **Reed Smith** faced the same challenge at their partnership school—a new principal and incoming students. The firm has established itself as an integral part of the school community and will continue to serve its students. We will hear from them in an upcoming issue!

Dickstein Shapiro and **Covington and Burling** engage in the Street Law program at their partner high schools. Both firms are very proud of their teams' success in recent city-wide Street Law mock trials. The story begins on page 1.

There is so much going on in our partnerships it is hard to select what to highlight in this small space. I believe that all of the work that firms do with our students is important and should be spotlighted! So if you are interested in a high school partnership, pay particular attention to how **Sutherland Asbill & Brennan** is making it possible for students to attend college on page 9. If you think that your firm is interested in helping younger students, our stories about **Howrey** on page 6 and **Holland & Knight** on page 7 should be of interest to you. Whatever you decide, I hope you will be inspired to start a partnership!

Iris

Iris J. Toyer,
 Director
 D.C. Public School Partnerships Project

What happens to a tutoring program when a school closes?

When **McDermott, Will & Emery's** ten-year partnership with Bowen Elementary School ended last year as Bowen closed its doors during D.C. Public Schools restructuring process, the firm was left with two options: partner with a new school or follow Bowen students to nearby Amidon Elementary School.

Fortunately, McDermott was able to follow the Bowen students to Amidon, renamed Amidon-Bowen Elementary School.

The transition for the firm to the new school has been relatively seamless, in part because the new principal at Amidon-Bowen is the long-time former Bowen principal, and a key teacher with whom the firm worked at Bowen also transitioned to the new school.

McDermott's financial support of the final graduation festivities at Bowen last spring and continuing contact with the principal and others kept us informed during the transition.

The most significant change at the new school was the expansion from one second-grade class with 24 students to two second-grade classes totaling 56 students. The firm would need more than twice as many tutors than it had in the prior year.

With strong support from our office administrator, we recruited a sufficient number of tutors, including several substitutes, and worked out transportation and logistics. We have also planned a session on effective tutoring for our many novice tutors.

Due to increased program size, McDermott's "library" of children's books was no longer suffi-



*Cathy Z. Scheineson
Partner
McDermott Will & Emery*

cient. We frequented used book sales and requested contributions of books from firm employees to increase our supply of books substantially.

We conducted a school supply drive for the second graders and for supplies on each teacher's "wish list."

Finally, the firm plans to continue sponsoring Live It Learn It™ at Amidon, to supplement classroom instruction with hands-on experience using the city's historical, cultural and natural resources to boost student achievement and motivation.

Overall, the year is off to a great start. We anticipate that this will be the best year yet for our school partnership!



School Partnership Leaders, L/R: Lisa O'Donald, Fannie Mae's Corporate Legal Department; Iris Toyer, Director, D.C. Public School Partnerships Project, Washington Lawyers' Committee; Marcia Durkin, Arent Fox; and Tina Garnett, Reed Smith.

Call For GeoPlunge Teams and Sponsors For 4th Citywide Tournament (cont'd)

of the 50 states. The first two tournaments included three different card games that combine geography and fun. *Guess the State* encourages students to learn the names of the 50 states. *Playing Race for the Borders* teaches participants where states are located geographically. When students *Play the Ranks*, they learn how the states rank in size, population and order of entry into the union.

GeoPlunge was such a success with students at the Arent Fox partner school, Randle Highlands Elementary, that Alan and his law firm persuaded the Washington Lawyers' Committee to co-sponsor the first of two GeoPlunge tournaments.

For the 2nd tournament, they were joined by 28 law firms that sponsored individual schools. The 3rd tournament had 48 team sponsors. The D.C. Public Schools will help publicize the 4th tournament among elementary and middle schools in the District of Columbia.

A number of schools have emerged as tournament winners over the past two years. A team from J.O. Wilson Elementary School won the 3rd citywide competition last November. The winning schools in the 1st tournament, which took place in April 2006, were Arent Fox-sponsored Randle Highlands and LaSalle Elementary School, sponsored by **Health Right, Inc.** In an informal rematch that took place shortly after that tournament, LaSalle came out on top.

The winning schools in the 2nd Tournament in November 2006 were **Holland & Knight**-sponsored Cleveland Elementary School, and Gage-Eckington Elementary School, sponsored by **Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw**. That tournament was followed by a mini-competition among the winning schools from both tournaments. Gage Eckington prevailed in that contest, called "The Tournament of Champions." A team from Cleveland Elementary School also won a mini-tournament held in the spring of 2008.

To sponsor a team from your partner school and/or another school, contact Iris Toyer, Director of the D.C. Public School Partnerships Project at the Committee: (202) 319-1000, ext 117, or at: Iris_toyer@washlaw.org.

Firms Get Creative With Fundraising And Other Resources

Law firms with partner schools have developed numerous ways to provide resources for their schools.

Every year, **Dickstein Shapiro** sends four students from the Ellington School of the Arts to the Anderson Arts Center for two weeks of specialty arts training. Sidney Dickstein and Mike Nannes pay the first four years of the school's alumni dues for graduates who want to participate in the Ellington Alumni Association. Leslie Cohen gave a Steinway piano to the school, and Sidney Dickstein is contributing a television studio. Mike Nannes, the firm's managing partner serves on the board of the Ellington Fund, a nonprofit corporation that provides financial support to the school.

Bracewell & Giuliani used the proceeds of a sale of old office furniture to provide playground equipment for Brightwood Elementary School. School libraries have been the focus of not only their partners' financial generosity, but also manual labor and thousands of books.

A volunteer crew from the **Office of the Attorney General (OAG)** painted the walls of the library at Terrell Junior High School. The OAG also provided new furniture and book covers.



Winners of last spring's mini-GeoPlunge Tournament. On the left is the first-place Cleveland team; on the right, the second-place Eaton team.



Because of their Dickstein Shapiro scholarship, these Ellington students are able to study printmaking at the Anderson Ranch Arts Center

Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld undertook a similar project at Tyler Elementary School. Akin Gump's effort also included rewiring Tyler to make it possible for students to connect to the internet. Law firms often also provide printing for their partner schools.

(Continued on page 10)

Washington Revels Bring Cultural Opportunities To School Partnerships

This December and throughout the coming year, the Washington Revels will be a valuable cultural resource for D.C. Public Schools. The Washington Revels is a unique performing arts organization best known for its annual performances at George Washington University's Lisner Auditorium that have become a holiday tradition in Washington.

This year's production will feature French Canadian music and traditions. In early December, public school students will be able to attend a special dress rehearsal of the production free of charge. Groups interested in attending this rehearsal should contact Outreach Performance Coordinator Rosanne Gochman at 301-657-8796 or rgochman@revels.org.

The Washington Revels also collaborates with World Bank employees to present traditional dress, art, culture, and dance programs at D.C. public schools. Contact Rosanne Gochman about arranging a performance.



Howrey tutors and Bancroft students at the Library of Congress during their end-of-year field trip.

Howrey Tutors and Bancroft Elementary Mark Year's End With Visit to Library of Congress and Supreme Court

Tutors from **Howrey** and the fifth-grade class at Bancroft Elementary School they tutor marked the end of the 2007-2008 school year with a field trip to the Supreme Court and the Library of Congress.

Between visiting the Court in the morning and the Library in the afternoon, tutors and students enjoyed a picnic lunch on the library grounds. End-of-year field trips are a tradition for Howrey tutors and Bancroft students. In 2007, they visited the U.S. Capitol.

Although the tutoring program is the centerpiece of Howrey's partnership with Bancroft, the firm is involved with the school in other important ways. This will be the second year that Howrey has published a handbook for Bancroft families. Because the school has so many children from homes where the parents speak Spanish and Vietnamese, the handbook is printed in these languages as well as English.

The handbook includes general information such as school hours and the school calendar. It also has important information on how parents can be involved in the school and in their children's education, as well as contact information for teachers and staff who work at the school.

Last spring, Howrey conducted a special clothing and fundraising drive to help the families of 10 Bancroft children. These families were displaced and lost everything, including their homes, in a five-alarm fire that destroyed their Mount Pleasant apartment building. The firm raised \$2500 to buy supplies for the families.



Bowen Elementary students assume the role of magicians at the annual holiday party sponsored by McDermott, Will & Emery.

Partnership Involvement At McDermott, Will & Emery Increases After School Closing

Even though **McDermott, Will & Emery's** partner school Bowen was closed over the summer, the firm is busier than they have ever been with partnership activities. Bowen students were assigned to Amidon Elementary, which has been renamed Amidon-Bowen Elementary School. The firm will continue its tutoring of 2nd graders at the combined school.

This year, the firm is looking to provide over 50 tutors. In previous years, the firm provided 20-25 tutors. Cathy Scheineson, who coordinates the firm's partnership activities, has been able to recruit enough tutors to make it possible for the firm to double its tutoring capacity. Just before beginning their tutoring for the 2008-2009 school year, McDermott Will & Emery tutors were trained by an instructor who teaches literacy and frequently provides training for Teach for America.

This fall, the firm conducted a highly organized school supplies drive. Consultation with Amidon-Bowen teachers provided a list of 14 items, including backpacks needed by the school's 2nd graders. Employees at the firm could buy items and deposit them into drop-boxes on each floor, or they could ask the firm to act as their personal shopper. Attorneys and staff turned in lists of the items they wanted to purchase and enclosed a check to cover their cost. The firm also gave employees the option of having the cost of the school supplies deducted from their paychecks.

(Continued on page 10)

Holland & Knight Brings Unique Experiences To Cleveland Elementary

The **Holland & Knight**-Cleveland Elementary School Partnership brings enjoyment to both the firm and Cleveland students. Holland & Knight is an enthusiastic supporter of the 5th grade's successful participation in GeoPlunge competition. The firm also brings unique experiences to the pre-kindergarten students, most of whom know only a city environment, during two special spring events.

Many of Cleveland's pre-K students had their first farm experience when Holland & Knight took them to Butler's Orchard in Germantown, Maryland. The children had the opportunity to pick and plant strawberries and enjoy sack races and other country fun. Highlights of the trip were "shopping" at the country store and a hayride. They were delighted to be able to buy their own single-serving size country pies, and they loved the hayride that took them all over the farm.

Day at the Beach involved literally bringing the beach to Cleveland's school yard. The firm supplied plastic pools, a grill, and everything else needed for a cookout. Holland & Knight volunteers also brought sunscreen for the young "beachgoers." As April McPherson, who coordinates the firm's activities involving Cleveland, reports, "We were glad that the children's parents attended the event. It was so much fun for everyone."

Holland & Knight volunteers also attend and photograph the pre-K graduation. The firm provides a slide show of the year's partnership activities that is shown at the reception following the graduation ceremony. Last June, Holland & Knight was one of two firms honored for its outstanding partnership activities at the Washington Lawyers' Committee's annual Branton Awards Luncheon.



Pre-K Cleveland Elementary student, volunteer parent, and April McPherson (left), who coordinates Holland & Knight's activities with Cleveland, enjoy a hayride sponsored by the firm.

H I G H L I G H T S

I G H



2007-2008 Duke Ellington Street Law Class and Dickstein Shapiro Street Law Coaches. Coaches include Efreem Yemane-Brehan, third row, far left; and Ryan Mehm and Meg Lewis, third row, far right.

S C H O O L

Dickstein Shapiro, Covington & Burling Proud Of Street Law Success at Partner Schools (cont'd)

the fact pattern involved a high-school senior who sought damages and injunctive relief for educational malpractice from the school system that failed to teach him basic skills. Teams were required to argue a pre-trial motion, present opening and closing arguments, qualify an expert, and conduct direct and cross-examinations of witnesses.

The two opening rounds of this year's tournament, involving 26 teams of Street Law students, were held at D.C. Superior Court. One of Ellington's teams emerged from the opening rounds as the third runner-up. The other team made it to the final round to compete against Banneker Senior High School, coached by Arent Fox, at the Georgetown University Law Center. In the final round, the Ellington team for the defense prevailed to win the tournament.

For the past six years, Dickstein Shapiro has served as a mentor firm to the Ellington Street Law class. A committed group of nine Dickstein attorneys, supervised by Kent Withycombe, devote time during the academic year to help teach the class in conjunction with a law student enrolled in the Street Law clinic at Georgetown Law. The other eight Dickstein attorneys who taught the Ellington Street Law class were Jodie Birdwell, Chris Branch, David Cox, Lisa Hall Johnson, Meg Lewis, Ryan Mehm, Erin Wilcox and Efreem Yemane-Brehan.

Covington & Burling works with Cardozo High School on its Street Law Program. This year, Cardozo also had two Street Law teams that made it into the second round of the tournament. Cardozo students were coached by Covington attorneys Jenna Cob, Brandon Jamison, Maureen Mahon, and Mary McKinney. At Cardozo, the Street Law Class is taught by Kerry Sylvia, a teacher at the school. In April, she was named by the national Street Law organization as Educator of the Year. In honoring her, the national organization cited Ms. Sylvia's work with Covington and Burling on a legal clinic for students and their families along with "Know Your Rights" seminars. Involvement with Street Law is only one aspect of the very active partnerships Dickstein Shapiro and Covington & Burling have with Ellington School of the Arts and Cardozo Senior High School.

Sutherland Mentors Help Make College Possible For Bell Students

Two years ago, Martha Medina and eight other juniors at Bell Multicultural High School had no serious plans for college, even though they were bright students. Yet a few weeks ago, Martha became a freshman at Wake Forest University in North Carolina.

What made the difference for Martha and her eight classmates was **Sutherland, Asbill & Brennan's** mentoring program. The program, known as Sutherland Junior College, is designed for students who are intelligent enough to attend college, but may believe college is beyond their academic or financial grasp, may be concerned over the cultural or familial implications of going away to college, or may simply not know enough about college opportunities to be properly motivated to prepare for college.

The centerpiece of the program is a weekly after-school session during the students' junior year. These sessions help prepare students for their SATs. The firm also sponsors college trips and periodic seminars.

During the summer between their junior and senior year, Bell students work at the firm. During senior year, the firm advises students on the college and financial aid application process and provides consultation with Sutherland mentors.

(Continued on page 10)



Bell graduate Martha Medina in her Wake Forest University marching band uniform.

High School Students Come to Fried Frank For Tutoring

At the School Without Walls, academic achievement and college are the expectation for all students, who must maintain a high enough grade average to remain at the school. The school's principal and vice principal wondered if tutoring might make it easier for some students to keep their grades up in math, English and social studies. They asked **Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson** to undertake an experimental tutoring program for about six weeks.

Last spring, 9th, 10th, and 11th graders were offered the opportunity to go to Fried Frank once a week for tutoring. Five students came to the initial tutoring session. As their grades began to improve, they told their friends about the tutoring sessions. By the end of the school year, 15 students were coming to Fried Frank every week.

At the end of the year, Walls' principal and vice principal declared the experiment a success and asked the firm to provide tutoring for the 2008-09 school year. Fried Frank will be providing 15 -20 tutors for weekly sessions.

(Continued on page 10)



Members of the Duke Ellington's 3rd Runner-up Plaintiff Team in the 2008 citywide Street Law Mock Trial Tournament.



Pre-K students at Cleveland Elementary School enjoy a day at the "beach," courtesy of Holland & Knight.

High School Students Come to Fried Frank For Tutoring (cont'd)

"The tutoring program has helped our students who need enrichment in classes ranging from math to humanities," reports the school's vice-principal, Sylvia Isaac. "The classes are challenging and we are grateful that we have a community partnership that has invested in helping to advance academic excellence among students. Students and parents have said that the tutoring offered has made a difference."

The firm also provided tutors and mentors for Walls' summer bridge program, which helps students who will be 9th graders prepare for their freshman year at the School Without Walls.

Fried Frank helped the students with their academic assignments and explored with them their concerns about high school. Brendan McNamara coordinates Fried Frank's tutoring activities at the School Without Walls.

Street Law Honors For Partner Schools (cont'd)

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Sutherland Mentors Help Make College Possible For Bell Students (cont'd)

During the 2008-2009 school year, Sutherland Junior College mentors will be working with 10 Bell Juniors and 7 Bell seniors, and they will be hearing from Martha and her fellow alumni.

In her first e-mail to Brad Pendergast, who coordinates Sutherland Junior College, Martha Medina reported on how much fun she had at Wake Forest's opening football game as a member of the university's marching band.

Martha's fellow Sutherland Junior College alumni are attending Ferrum College in Virginia, Shepherd University in West Virginia, West Virginia University, and Hobart and William Smith Colleges in upstate New York. One Sutherland graduate joined the Air Force.

Fundraising Resources (cont'd)

Howrey produces a handbook in three languages for Bancroft Elementary School. **Sidley & Austin** published Thomson Elementary School's yearbook.

Partner law firms are creative with their fundraising efforts. **Covington & Burling, Patton Boggs**, and **Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld** have set up tax-exempt corporations to raise money for their partner schools. **McDermott Will & Emery** raised money for their school supplies drive by charging money for wearing jeans to work. **Baker & McKenzie** turned a bake sale with 40 pastries into an auction that raised over \$1700 for their school.

McDermott, Will & Emery School Partnership Grows (cont'd)

Fun is also an important component of the firm's school partnership. Every year, the firm hosts a holiday party for the children they tutor. In the spring, the firm sponsors an outing for tutors and 2nd graders. Last May, they visited Glen Echo Park, where they enjoyed Adventure Theater's production of *Goodnight Moon*.

PARTNERSHIPS

Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld

Tyler Elementary School

Arent Fox

Randle Highlands Elementary School

Baker & McKenzie

Payne Elementary School

Beveridge & Diamond

Birney Elementary School

Bracewell & Giuliani

Brightwood Elementary School

Covington & Burling

Cardozo Senior High School

Dechert

Ross Elementary School

Dickstein Shapiro

Ellington School of the Arts

Epstein, Becker & Green

Emery Educational Center

Fannie Mae's Corporate Legal Dept.

Marie H. Reed Learning Center

Foley & Lardner

Wilkinson Elementary School

Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson

School Without Walls

Fulbright & Jaworski

Macfarland Middle School

Greater Washington Area Chapter -

Women Lawyers Division -

National Bar Association

Malcolm X Elementary School

Health Right, Inc.

H.D. Cooke Elementary School

Ferebee-Hope Elementary School

LaSalle Elementary School

Lincoln Junior High School

Holland & Knight

Banneker Senior High School

Cleveland Elementary School

Howrey

Bancroft Elementary School

McDermott, Will & Emery

Amidon-Bowen Elementary School

The Office of the Attorney General,

District of Columbia

Walker Jones/R.H. Terrell

Education Center

Patton Boggs

Francis Junior High School

Pepper Hamilton

Stanton Elementary School

Reed Smith

Bruce-Monroe at Park View

Elementary School

Sidley Austin

Thomson Elementary School

Spriggs & Hollingsworth

Jefferson Junior High School

Steptoe & Johnson

Montgomery Elementary School

Sutherland Asbill & Brennan

Bell Multicultural Senior High

School

U.S. Courts for the District of

Columbia Circuit

J.O. Wilson Elementary School

Washington Bar Association -

Young Lawyers' Division

Banneker Senior High School

Ballou Senior High School

Weil, Gotshal & Manges

Noyes Elementary School

Williams & Connolly

Dunbar Senior High School

Winston & Strawn

Kamit Institute for Magnificent

Achievers



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2008/09 Partnership Dates

Friday, November 21, 2008	GeoPlunge Tournament 4
Thursday, January 29, 2009	Partnership Luncheon
Monday, February 9, 2009	Cooking for Kids Bake Sale
Thursday, April 22, 2009	Partnership Luncheon

Partnership Luncheons will be held at
Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld

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