



# UPDATE



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Spring 2010



2010 Founders' Reception attendees included (L/R): Committee board member John C. Keeney, Jr., Partner, Hogan Lovells US LLP; Committee founder John E. Nolan, Partner, Steptoe & Johnson LLP; Committee supporter and 2010 Founders' Reception host Sally Boasberg; and James T. Esselman, Of Counsel, Beveridge & Diamond P.C.

## 2010 Founders' Reception Draws Over 200 Attendees

Over 200 past and present Washington Lawyers' Committee Co-Chairs, board members, trustees, staff, and other supporters attended the Committee's 2010 Founders' Reception on May 10 at the home of Tersh and Sally Boasberg in Washington, D.C.

Executive Director Rod Boggs welcomed attendees to the reception, and noted several individuals in attendance who were involved in the Committee's creation, including John Nolan, a partner at **Steptoe & Johnson LLP**. Rod expressed his appreciation for the contributions that the Committee has received over the years from its many supporters and colleagues at their law firms.

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## Committee Recognizes Firms In Successful Parole Representation Initiative

The parole initiative organized by the Committee's D.C. Prisoners' Project and involving the mobilization of more than 100 attorneys from over 25 D.C. law firms has been an enormous success, resulting in the release of hundreds of parole-eligible D.C. prisoners.

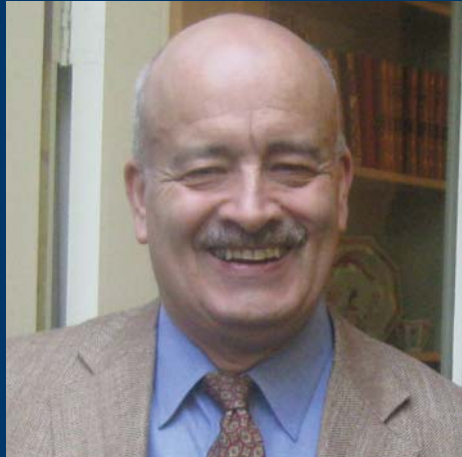
Attorneys from participating firms traveled across the country to provide representation to D.C. prisoners, often on extremely short notice with limited factual information available. **Covington & Burling** handled cases in Colorado, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Tennessee, and Virginia. **Wilkie Farr** handled numerous cases in Florida and Virginia. Attorneys from **Hunton & Williams** provided parole representation in North Carolina, Maryland, and Virginia, utilizing staff from several of the firm's offices. **King & Spalding** took on more than a dozen cases in a single facility in North Carolina on short notice.

The initiative was created in response to the May 2008 decision by U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia in *Sellmon v. Reilly*, which established that the U.S. Parole Commission (USPC) had unconstitutionally extended the incarceration of certain D.C. prisoners by denying them parole.

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**Roderic V.O. Boggs**  
*Executive Director*  
*Washington Lawyers' Committee*  
*for Civil Rights & Urban Affairs*

This issue of the **UPDATE** reports on significant developments in a number of the Committee's most established litigation projects and important progress related to one of our newer non-litigation initiatives. It also reports on our recent Founders' Reception, which brought together over 200 former Committee Co-Chairs, Trustees, Board Members and volunteers.

Among recent program developments, the Committee is particularly grateful for the large outpouring of volunteer support for the parole representation program of our D.C. Prisoners' Project. The strong response to our call for help from more than two dozen firms and over 100 individual attorneys has enabled the Committee to meet a vital need for representation on behalf of hundreds of D.C. inmates newly eligible for release.

Similarly, the Committee greatly appreciates the excellent representation provided by **Arnold & Porter LLP** and **McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP** on two significant cases recovering back wages for hundreds of day laborers as part of the Committee's Immigrant Rights Project. We are likewise very pleased to acknowledge the excellent work of the numerous firms working with our Fair Housing and Disability Rights Projects on a series of important Fair Housing Act and Americans with Disabilities Act cases. We also are delighted to note the payment of nearly \$2 million in back pay and damages to the African-American police officers who successfully challenged racial discrimination within the Baltimore Police Department in the Equal Employment Opportunity Project case settled with the assistance of **Weil Gotshal & Manges LLP**, **The Law Office of Robert L. Smith, Jr.**, and **Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP**.

These litigation successes occurred as the Committee announced plans for a significant expansion of its highly praised D.C. school partnership program. We are very pleased with the enthusiastic response received following the recent D.C. School Partnership Recruitment Luncheon keynoted by D.C. Public Schools Chancellor Michelle Rhee and hosted by four past and present D.C. Bar Presidents. With the momentum generated by this meeting, we look forward to a significant expansion of our program in the months ahead.

The Committee greatly appreciates the fine work of so many of our cooperating firms described in this issue of our **UPDATE**. We hope it will encourage new lawyers and firms to consider working with us in the near future. We know there is much work to be done.

### 2009/2010 Annual Funding Campaign Proceeds

For the 2009-2010 Annual Campaign, the Committee had received contributions of \$178,255 from 24 firms and \$265,780 from 629 individuals as of June 1, 2010. These figures do not include contributions to the Committee's Wiley Branton Awards Luncheon or special gifts directed to the Burke Fund or Founders' Fund. To be included in the current year's campaign, gifts from individuals and firms should be sent to the Committee by the end of the campaign year on November 30, 2010.

The Committee acknowledges all of its contributors for their gifts to the Committee, and expresses appreciation for the service of Associates and Partners who coordinated funding drives for the benefit of the Committee at their law firms. In particular, we thank **Crowell & Moring LLP** for their leadership in individual giving among the Associates and in the Overall firm categories. For organizing successful auctions for the benefit of the Committee, we especially thank **Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP**; **Venable LLP**; **Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP**; **Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP**; and **Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP**.

# Fair Housing

## Landmark Settlement Reached in Avalon Bay Design and Construction Case

On November 2, 2009, the Committee with co-counsel **Dechert LLP** and **Kelly Drye & Warren LLP** obtained approval of a consent decree by the United States District Court for the District of Maryland on behalf of the Equal Rights Center (ERC) in an important settlement of a design and construction case against AvalonBay, a publicly traded real estate investment trust headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia. AvalonBay owns and operates up-scale apartment complexes across the United States.

The complaint, filed in the United States District Court for the District of Maryland on September 22, 2005, alleged that 100 of these complexes failed to comply with the Fair Housing Act (FHA) and the Americans with Disabilities Act, and were not accessible to persons with disabilities. AvalonBay filed a motion to dismiss, which was denied by the Court on March 23, 2009.

Under the parties' agreement, AvalonBay will survey and remediate up to 8,250 housing units across the United States, along with the public use and common use areas associated with those units. AvalonBay will join the ERC's Multifamily Housing Resource Program (MHRP), making a 10-year commitment at \$50,000 per year to the program, as well as ensure that its employees are trained in and comply with the FHA. AvalonBay further agreed to pay damages, attorney's fees and costs.

The Committee, along with co-counsel, has filed several matters on behalf of the ERC alleging discrimination by national apartment and condominium developers in the design and construction of multifamily housing. The cases, collectively, seek to ensure that over 100,000 housing units are made accessible to people with disabilities.

## Ellman Properties Settles Housing Choice Voucher Case

On December 11, 2009, the Committee and co-counsel **Hogan Lovells US LLP** successfully settled a case against Ellman Properties on behalf of the Equal Rights Center (ERC) and Reco Rivers, an individual seeking to use a Housing Choice ("Section 8") Voucher in Montgomery County.

Mr. Rivers sought to use a Housing Choice ("Section 8") Voucher to rent a house in Montgomery County from Ellman Properties. He was told that Ellman Properties would not accept his voucher as a form of rental payment, which is in direct violation of the Montgomery County Human Rights Act. The ERC sent testers to Ellman Properties and confirmed that Ellman Properties discriminated against individuals seeking to use vouchers to subsidize their rents.

The parties reached a voluntary settlement, in which Ellman Properties agreed to compensate both Mr. Rivers and the ERC for damages and attorney's fees and costs, as well as substantial injunctive relief, including an agreement to adopt a policy not to discriminate on the basis of source of income. In addition, Ellman agreed to train the employees involved in leasing Ellman Properties in fair housing laws, to maintain records that will allow the ERC to monitor Ellman Properties' compliance with the fair housing laws, and to include language in advertisements making clear that families with vouchers are welcome to rent at Ellman Properties.

# Disability Rights

## Settlement Makes D.C.'s Wilson Building Accessible

On January 27, 2010, the Committee with co-counsel **Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton LLP** settled a very important disability rights case on behalf of the Equal Rights Center against the District of Columbia.

The case alleged that the John A. Wilson Building, the District's city hall, was not accessible to people with disabilities. It also alleged that emergency evacuation routes and procedures in the Wilson building and other D.C. government buildings disregard the needs of people with disabilities.

The settlement ensures two fully accessible entrances to the Wilson Building, accessible doors on the D.C. Council hearing room, and emergency evacuation procedures designed to include the needs of people with disabilities.

## Così, Inc. Settles Accessibility Lawsuit

A settlement secured on February 19, 2010, by the Committee with co-counsel **Foley & Lardner LLP** on behalf of the Equal Rights Center (ERC) against Così, Inc., a national restaurant chain, will make Così restaurants more accessible to people with disabilities.

The accessibility lawsuit against Così, Inc., filed in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia on June 18, 2009, was based on complaints of individuals and surveys conducted by the ERC in Washington, D.C., California, Wisconsin, Maryland, New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. An ERC member who uses a wheelchair was unable to enter a Così in Washington D.C., and an ERC's review of other Così restaurants identified accessibility issues in other restaurants in the chain.

As a result of the parties' agreement, Così will survey its restaurants to determine accessibility and

make necessary modifications to insure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Così will also implement policies aimed at improving accessibility, will provide ADA training to staff, and will pay the plaintiff for damages and attorney's fees incurred in the matter.

## Settlement Improves Accessibility At Howard University Hospital

On March 1, 2010, the Committee with co-counsel **Jenner & Block LLP** settled an accessibility lawsuit against Howard University Hospital, an important medical provider in the District of Columbia.

The case was based on complaints that the Equal Rights Center (ERC) had received from several of its members regarding serious access issues at the Howard University Hospital Family Health Center, which the members use for medical appointments with their doctors.

Among the access issues were barriers at the entrance, lack of accessible medical equipment, and architectural barriers throughout the Center. The lawsuit, filed September 25, 2009, in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, swiftly settled, ensuring access to health care services at this important clinic, and making this clinic a model of accessibility for other such health care services throughout the District.

## Hank's Oyster Bar Case Settles, Restaurant Made Accessible

On August 18, 2009, the Project filed a federal lawsuit with **Kirkland & Ellis LLP** against Dupont Circle-area restaurant Hank's Oyster Bar. Although the landlord and restaurant completed extensive renovations, the restaurant remained inaccessible with a step at the entrance. The case settled in May 2010, securing relief, including an accessible entrance and dining, and remediation of policies that caused inaccessible routes.

# Equal Employment Opportunity

## Landmark Settlement With Baltimore City Police Department Implemented

Race discrimination within the Baltimore City Police Department (BPD) has been a highly-publicized and openly acknowledged problem for decades, and African-American police officers have complained specifically about the BPD's discriminatory disciplinary system. Against this backdrop, a team of attorneys from the Committee and **Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP** negotiated a far-reaching settlement agreement of a case on behalf of fifteen current and former African-American police officers alleging a pattern and practice of racially discriminatory discipline within the BPD.

Under the settlement's terms, the BPD paid the plaintiffs \$2.5 million, including attorney's fees and costs, and retained a consultant to assist in developing remedial policies to eliminate racially disparate discipline, ensure responsiveness to complaints of race discrimination and retaliation, and guarantee equal opportunity to all BPD officers.

To assist the Committee in implementing the settlement, **Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP** partner David Cynamon generously agreed to serve as a *pro bono* special master, assessing the value of each of the 15 plaintiffs' claims and allocating the substantial settlement amount among them. The Committee and Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP were also assisted in the litigation by **The Law Office of Robert L. Smith, Jr.**, as well as by **Dispute Analytics LLC**, a Bethesda-based consulting firm that provided substantial *pro bono* assistance.

## Summary Judgment Hearing and Trial Scheduled in Race Discrimination Lawsuit Against Inspector General

In July 2009, the Committee and co-counsel **Steptoe & Johnson LLP** filed a race discrimination and retaliation lawsuit in the Federal District Court in the Eastern District of Virginia on behalf of Denise Burgess, an African-American woman hired by the Army's Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction ("SIGIR") to serve as its Assistant Inspector General for Public Affairs.

Ms. Burgess is a Princeton graduate with a long career in public service, and by all accounts her performance at SIGIR was exemplary. At the time of her employment, she was the only African American serving in a senior leadership role at SIGIR. But when a new Deputy Inspector General, Ginger Cruz, was hired in March 2007, Ms. Burgess began to experience what she believed was race discrimination. Within days of raising concerns about this treatment, she was summarily fired, allegedly because of a "reorganization" of the agency. Throughout the litigation, evidence has suggested that this "reorganization" defense is pretextual.

After overcoming an early summary judgment motion, the Committee and Steptoe & Johnson LLP have engaged in heated discovery on Ms. Burgess' behalf, including deposing SIGIR's senior leadership and budget officials. The parties are now engaged in a second round of summary judgment briefing, with a hearing on the summary judgment motion scheduled for early July, and the trial scheduled to commence in late July.

# Immigrant and Refugee Rights

## Hann & Hann Settlement of Day Laborer Wage Case Approved

On January 22, 2010, the Committee and co-counsel **Arnold & Porter LLP** received final approval of the class settlement of a Fair Labor Standards Act lawsuit against Hann & Hann, Inc., a Maryland-based construction company that engaged in unlawful practices to deny their employees earned wages.

Over 400 members in the class stand to benefit from the settlement, which requires Defendants to pay overtime owed to each non-exempt employee who worked for the company between May 2006 and May 2008, plus an additional 50% in damages. They will also reimburse every employee for every unauthorized deduction taken from May 2006 to May 2008, plus 50%. In addition, the Defendants agreed to pay \$58,000 to class members for unpaid "shop" and "travel" time, plus \$20,000 for promised bonuses that were never paid. The settlement also requires the Defendants to pay \$150,000 in attorney's fees and costs.

The Committee and co-counsel filed the class action on May 8, 2008, against Hann & Hann for engaging in unlawful practices to deny their employees their earned wages. The practices included failing to pay overtime wages, compensable time wages and contractual bonuses, unlawfully deducting wages for materials and tools from employee paychecks; and failing to pay for time worked at the company office prior to going to the worksite.

## Committee Volunteers Win Victories For Asylum Seekers

Through the efforts of volunteer attorneys, eight asylees from Afghanistan, Burundi, Cameroon, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Madagascar and the People's Republic of China were recently granted asylum by the Arlington Asylum Office (United States Citizenship and Immigration Services).

Attorneys from **Howrey LLP** won asylum for an international table tennis player whose involvement in coaching female athletes and his father's activities made him a target of warlords. An attorney from **Arnold & Porter LLP** successfully represented a young student from Burundi who tried to accuse government officials involved in the genocide. **Steptoe & Johnson LLP** and **Thompson Coburn LLP** attorneys helped two persons from Cameroon win asylum—a young man whose claim was based on sexual orientation and a businessman who was targeted by the government because he produced tee shirts for a major opposition party in the country.

Two attorneys from **Paul Hastings Janofsky and Walker LLP** overcame the one-year asylum filing deadline and won asylum for a young man from El Salvador on the basis of his sexual orientation. A **Crowell and Moring LLP** attorney won asylum for a torture victim from Ethiopia who had been detained several times for his alleged anti-government activities. An attorney from **Winston & Strawn** gained asylum for a high-ranking government official from Madagascar whose ties with the deposed president made him a target of the new regime. A Uighur student from the People's Republic of China targeted for his ethnicity and ties to the U.S. won asylum through the efforts of an attorney from **Williams & Connolly LLP**.

An attorney from **Cameron & Hornbostel LLP** won asylum from the Immigration Court for a woman from Sudan targeted for her ethnicity, and obtained legal resident status for an asylee from Somalia whose application had been pending for years due to security issues.

## Public Accommodations

### Committee, Co-Counsel and NAACP Monitor Public Accommodations During 2010 Black Bike Week in Myrtle Beach

For the eighth year in a row, Committee attorneys, along with co-counsel **Step toe & Johnson LLP** and the **NAACP**, monitored the Myrtle Beach, South Carolina Police Department along with area hotels, restaurants and other places of public accommodation to ensure equal treatment of African American attendees during the 2010 Black Bike Week.

Black Bike Week is a predominantly African-American motorcycle event held annually in the Myrtle Beach area. It is preceded by another bike rally known as the Harley Davidson Spring Bike Rally, whose participants

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### An Interview with John A. Freedman, Lead Counsel in *Granados v. Hann & Hann*

John A. Freedman, a partner at **Arnold & Porter LLP**, served as lead counsel in the day laborers lawsuit *Granados v. Hann & Hann*. He talked with **UPDATE** staff about his experience with the Committee in the case.

**Q:** Why did your firm get involved in this project?

**A:** Arnold & Porter has a long history of working with the Committee's Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Project. This case presented an opportunity to work with the Immigrant Rights Project as well. The preliminary investigation performed by the Committee's staff suggested that there was a significant problem with this particular employer failing to pay immigrant workers overtime pay to which they were entitled under federal and state law. As we interviewed potential class members, they presented a compelling story that they were frequently working 12 – 16 hours a day but were not being fairly compensated. This was a rare opportunity to make a difference.

**Q:** What special challenges did the project present?

**A:** As a firm, we did not have significant experience with the relevant federal or state overtime laws, which have some unusual aspects that can make seeking collective relief on behalf of a class of employees a challenge. A second challenge was working with a largely Spanish-speaking client base and trying to explain complicated litigation concepts to non-lawyers and non-English speakers. Fortunately, we were able to put together a team that was largely bilingual.

**Q:** What was your experience working with Committee staff?

**A:** It was fantastic. The Committee EEO Project staff has extensive experience litigating overtime cases and has a great strategic sense of how to best position client claims. The Immigrant Rights Project similarly has focused on assisting Latino immigrants in a wide range of civil rights matters and was essential to building trust with the client base.

**Q:** How would you describe the impact of working on this project for lawyers at your firm?

**A:** Working with me were five associates, all of whom had been practicing law for less than three years. They all received significant hands-on experience in this matter—interviewing prospective clients, drafting complicated motions, working with damages experts, and planning strategy for settlement discussions. These are experiences that, in the normal course of their careers, they likely would not have had for several more years. In addition, we had the reward of knowing that our hard work resulted in a significant recovery for the workers and made a real difference in their lives.



John A. Freedman  
Arnold & Porter LLP

## Public Education



2009 GeoPlunge Tournament winners from J.O. Wilson Elementary School with their teacher Kendall Evans (right) receive their trophies from Brent D. Glass, Director, Smithsonian National Museum of American History (left) and D.C. Public Schools Chancellor Michelle Rhee (center rear).

### J.O. Wilson Team Wins 2009 GeoPlunge Tournament for 3rd Year

On November 20, 2009, more than 150 fifth- and sixth-graders from 28 D.C. elementary and middle schools competed in the 5th annual city-wide GeoPlunge Geography Tournament. This year, for the first time, the tournament was held at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History.

At the conclusion of the popular tournament, Chancellor Michelle Rhee presented the GeoPlunge Trophy to the first-place winner for the third year in a row, the team from J.O. Wilson Elementary School. Thomson and Miner Elementary Schools took second- and third-place honors.

The tournament, a collaborative effort by the Washington Lawyers' Committee, **Arent Fox LLP**, and D.C. Public Schools, was supported by the generosity of over 50 law firms and individuals who sponsored the GeoPlunge teams.

### 10th Annual Cooking For Kids Bake Sale and Taste-Off Benefits D.C. Public Schools

The Committee's 10th Annual Cooking for Kids Bake Sale and Taste-Off, held on March 8, 2010, saw 10 of city's leading law firms competing for the honor of being named "Best Baker," while raising funds to benefit students at D.C. public schools.

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Washington area law firm employees contributed home-baked items for sale that were judged by culinary experts to determine the winning entries in the categories of best cake, pie and cookie. Winners received epicurean and culinary-related prizes.

This year's judges were David Dorsen, former Food and Wine Editor of Washingtonian magazine; Aleks Duni, owner of Heller's Bakery and other Washington eateries; and Chris Floyd, founder and Director of Capital Restaurant Resources, a boutique hospitality recruiting firm.

Participating firms raised thousands of dollars in this year's Bake Sale to support enrichment activities for students from D.C. public schools participating with the firms in educational partnerships through the Committee's D.C. Public School Partnerships Project. The Project provides tutoring, mentoring and other supportive services for about 10,000 D.C. public school students at nearly two dozen D.C. public schools.

This year's participating law firms were **Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld LLP; Beveridge & Diamond P.C.; Bracewell & Giuliani LLP; Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP; Epstein, Becker & Green, P.C.; Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP; Holland & Knight LLP; McDermott, Will & Emery; Reed Smith LLP; and Steptoe & Johnson LLP.**

### Committee Holds Partnership Recruitment Meeting with DCPS Chancellor Michelle Rhee

D.C. Public Schools Chancellor Michelle Rhee and approximately 50 representatives from D.C. area law firms discussed the importance of recruiting more firms to establish educational partnerships with D.C. public schools during a meeting on April 20, 2010. The Partnership Recruitment meeting, organized by the Committee and hosted at the law firm of **Sidley & Austin LLP**, also featured remarks by current D.C. Bar President Kim Keenan; D.C. Bar President-elect Ronald Flagg; and former D.C. Bar President and current DCPS General Counsel James Sandman, who all endorsed the Committee's D.C. Public School Partnerships Project. For more information about the Project, please contact Rod Boggs at (202) 319-1000, ext. 103, or at Rod\_Boggs@washlaw.org.



# D.C. Prisoners' Project

## Successful Parole Representation (continued from page 1)

Responding to months of advocacy by the Project and collaborating pro bono attorneys in early 2009, and compelled by the *Sellmon* decision, the USPC released new regulations and a schedule of remedial parole hearings as a means of compliance with the decision. The USPC held more than 500 parole hearings from mid-November 2009 through January 2010 in prisons across the country, re-hearing cases that it had previously denied under the wrong parole guidelines.

In the overwhelming majority of these cases, attorneys were able to secure the release of prisoners on parole. The Project estimates that pro bono attorneys associated with the Parole Initiative secured parole for approximately 200 D.C. prisoners through this effort, in addition to an equal number released through general advocacy. Some prisoners had been in held more than 10 years longer than the law permits.

## Settlement Reached for Client Held in Privately Owned Prison

The law firm of **Winston & Strawn**, working with the Committee's D.C. Prisoners' Project, recently secured a key settlement for a D.C. prisoner held at the privately owned Rivers Correctional Institution in North Carolina. This settlement was the first involving a D.C. Prisoners' Project client held at Rivers.

Following the 4th Circuit Court's decision in *Holly v. Scott*, 434 F. 3d 287 (2006), prisoners held at Rivers—a privately owned facility owned by the GEO Group under contract to the federal Bureau of Prisons—have been unable to file federal lawsuits seeking damages for violations of their constitutional rights. The Rivers facility holds nearly 800 D.C. prisoners, the largest number of D.C. prisoners in any federal prison.

Our client was brutally assaulted by another inmate while asleep in his cell in 2007. Not only did the facility fail to protect him, but our client was denied

medical care for several hours after correctional staff put him in the Special Housing Unit, as punishment for "fighting." He quickly filed a lawsuit in federal court, which was immediately dismissed, citing the *Holly* case. Our client then re-filed his case in North Carolina state court, which the defendants unsuccessfully sought to have dismissed. At this point, Winston & Strawn and the D.C. Prisoners' Project entered the case as co-counsel.

After nearly three years of litigation, we were able to secure a generous monetary settlement in 2009 for our client, who received it on the day he arrived in Washington, D.C. after his release from incarceration.

## Important Settlement Secured in Unlawful Imprisonment Case in D.C.

Attorneys from **Williams & Connolly**, working with the Committee's D.C. Prisoners' Project, secured an important settlement on behalf of a client who was falsely arrested and held unlawfully in a D.C. jail facility from October 2006 to March 2007.

Our client, at the time a resident at a local halfway house, was arrested on a warrant containing false and misleading information. Following this illegal arrest, she was held in D.C. jail facilities for more than five months. During this period of detention, she was never brought before a judge, never appointed an attorney, never informed of her legal rights, nor was she accurately told why or for how long she was in jail.

After the D.C. Prisoners' Project learned of her detention and secured her release in 2007, our client sought assistance to secure a remedy for her months of illegal detention through the acts of government and private agencies. In December 2009, the first defendant settled. By January 2010, the Project reached a global settlement with all defendants. After years of struggling with homelessness and other issues, our client now lives in her own apartment, with an opportunity for a fresh start.

## Arrivals

### New Board Members

The Washington Lawyers' Committee is pleased to welcome 12 new members to the Board of Directors. They are: **Vincent H. Cohen, Jr. (Schertler & Onorato, L.L.P.); Matthew D. Cutts (Patton Boggs LLP); Joseph G. Davis (Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP); Erica J. Dominitz (Kilpatrick Stockton LLP); Paul H. Friedman (Dechert LLP); Jamie S. Gardner (Patton Boggs LLP); Charles W. Johnson IV (Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP); Thomas S. Martin (Shearman & Sterling); Elaine Metlin (Dickstein Shapiro LLP); Thomas J. Mikula (Goodwin Procter LLP); Barry J. Reingold (Perkins Coie LLP); Matthew T. Reinhard (Miller & Chevalier Chartered).**

### New Staff

#### Amadou Kilkenny-Diaw

Amadou Kilkenny-Diaw, a visiting associate from

**Winston & Strawn LLP**, recently began a one-year assignment with the Committee's D.C. Prisoners' Project and Disability Rights Project. He is a graduate of Georgetown University and the University of Virginia Law School.

#### Stephen T. Smith

Stephen Smith, a counsel in the Litigation/Controversy Department and member of the Investigations and Criminal Litigation Practice Group at **Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP**, and a recipient of a Wilmer Hale Pickering Fellowship in Washington, D.C., joined the Committee to work for six months with the Equal Employment Opportunity Project. He received his A.B. degree from Princeton University, and his J.D. and L.L.M. in International and Comparative Law from Duke University.

## Special Projects

### Committee, Firms Host Summer 2010 Legal Reasoning Program

This summer, the Committee and participating law firms are sponsoring an "Introduction to Legal Reasoning" program for 59 entering Washington area law school students who are members of groups traditionally disadvantaged or under-represented in the practice of law. The city-wide program is organized by **Hogan Lovells US LLP** (formerly Hogan & Hartson LLP), in cooperation with the Committee.

Directed for many years by Hogan Lovells partner Bob Duncan, 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 some students have had little or no exposure. The course also provides a preview of some basic legal language and the fundamentals of the American judicial system. The program enables the students to gain a basic familiarity with legal reasoning and legal writing, and culminates in a moot court. The students are also introduced to basic legal research methods. Over the past 20 years, more than 1,000 students have participated in this program and more than 500 cooperating attorneys have served as instructors. The firms of **Hogan Lovells US LLP** and **Covington & Burling LLP** will provide instructors for this year's program.

## 2010 Founders' Reception (continued from page 1)

Rod Boggs praised the vision of the Committee's founders, and acknowledged the contributions of the dozens of attorneys, current and former board members and Committee staff, who have worked with the Committee during the past 42 years.

Committee Co-Chair Donald Remy, a partner at **Latham & Watkins LLP** briefed attendees on the Committee's current activities and encouraged everyone to attend the 2010 Wiley Branton Awards Luncheon on June 16.



2010 Founders' Reception attendees (L/R): Committee visiting Associate Attorney Amadou Kilkenny-Diaw, with Committee board member Thomas S. Williamson, Jr., Partner, Covington & Burling LLP.



2010 Founders' Reception attendees (L/R): Patricia Flagg, Senior Trial Attorney, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; Jay W. Friedman, Partner, Foley & Lardner LLP; James N. Bierman, Partner, Foley & Lardner LLP; Ronald S. Flagg, Partner, Sidley & Austin LLP; and John C. Keeney, Jr., Partner, Hogan Lovells US LLP.



2010 Founders' Reception attendees (L/R): David F. Williams, Partner, Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP; Andrew H. Marks, Partner, Crowell & Moring LLP; Jeffrey G. Huvelle, Partner, Covington & Burling LLP; and U.S. District Court Judge Ellen Segal Huvelle.

## Public Accommodations Monitored During 2010 Black Bike Week (continued from page 7)

are predominantly white. During Black Bike Week, restaurants, hotels and other retail establishments in Myrtle Beach have a history of closing or offering substandard services and amenities, in sharp contrast to their practices during Harley Week. Additionally, the disparate and more onerous police presence and method of policing during Black Bike Week compared to Harley Week has raised ongoing concerns even after the entry of a settlement agreement with the city in 2006. The Committee, attorneys from **Steptoe & Johnson LLP** and **Relman, Dane & Colfax PLLC** and the **NAACP** are in the process of reviewing the results of this year's Black Bike Week monitoring.

Since May 2003, the Committee and co-counsel have brought a number of lawsuits against the City of Myrtle Beach and area restaurants and hotels alleging widespread race discrimination against African Americans during Black Bike Week. The Committee has settled a number of these lawsuits, including those against the City of Myrtle Beach, Greg Norman's Australian Grille, The Yachtsman Resort Hotel, Damon's Grill, J. Edward's Great Ribs & More and Fleming's restaurant. In November 2008, the Committee and co-counsel **Covington & Burling LLP**, **Patton Boggs LLP**, **Crowell & Moring LLP**, **Relman, Dane & Colfax PLLC**, and **Dorfner, Altman & Wilborn, LLC**, filed race discrimination charges with the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission on behalf of the NAACP and individual African-American Black Bike Week attendees. The charges allege that during Black Bike Week, the Sea Horn Motel and Hamburger Joe's restaurant closed to avoid serving African-American customers, and the Landmark Hotel raised its rates, closed several of its facilities and imposed other discriminatory terms on its guests. We are continuing to pursue a resolution of those cases.

# WASHINGTON LAWYERS' COMMITTEE

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