

UPDATE



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FOR CIVIL RIGHTS AND URBAN AFFAIRS

SPRING 2007



Washington Lawyers' Committee Co-Chair Melvin White, Partner, McDermott Will & Emery (left), addresses Committee supporters at the 2007 Founders' Reception. Committee Co-Chair Thomas W. Brunner, Partner, Wiley Rein LLP, is on the right.

Committee Supporters Attend 2007 Founders' Reception

Nearly 75 past and present Committee Co-Chairs, Board Members, Trustees and staff attended the Committee's third Annual Founders' Reception on April 25 at the home of Stephen and Ruth Pollak in Washington, D.C.

The Committee's Executive Director Rod Boggs welcomed attendees to the reception, and expressed his appreciation for the assistance that the Committee has received from its many supporters in attendance and from colleagues at their law firms.

Rod also acknowledged the contributions of the dozens of attorneys, many of whom were in

attendance at the reception, who served as Partner and Associate Coordinators at their law firms for the Committee's very successful 2006-2007 end-of-year funding campaign.

Special guests and long-time friends of the Committee received particular recognition for their unwavering dedication to the Committee's projects and cases over many years.

Rod briefly previewed the Committee's plans for the year ahead.

Committee Co-Chairs Thomas Brunner of **Wiley Rein LLP** and

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Major Settlements Reached in Housing Choice Voucher Cases

In a broad effort to combat discrimination against low-income tenants who use federal housing choice vouchers (formerly known as "Sec. 8 vouchers") to pay for a portion of their rent, the Washington Lawyers' Committee has filed a series of cases with co-counsel, on behalf of the Equal Rights Center (ERC), against area landlords and property management companies alleging discrimination against voucher holders. Nearly all the complaints have been resolved through settlements, making hundreds of housing units available to voucher holders.

The most recent development in this effort is the successful settlement by the Committee and co-counsel **Steptoe & Johnson LLP**, of the ERC's Sec.

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

This issue of the Committee's *Update* features a number of articles that illustrate the Committee's special ability to respond to emerging problems while addressing longstanding and difficult issues with new and innovative approaches.

The remarkable success of Alan Fishel, a partner at Arent Fox, who as part of the Committee's D.C. Public School Partnerships Project organized a city-wide geography competition involving over 100 public school students from 20 elementary schools, is a great example of a new and creative approach to law firms working with our schools. This effort, based on an imaginative card game—GeoPlunge—which Alan created

for his own children several years ago, was supported by several dozen cooperating law firms. The game is now being used as a valuable teaching tool in schools throughout the city and will be the focus of a larger city-wide competition next year. Along with this expanded effort, we hope to establish new partnerships involving more area law firms and corporations.

The Committee's work with the Equal Rights Center, using focused investigations and testers to identify systemic denials of fair housing rights in our community, illustrates once again the great potential of our longstanding collaboration with the area's premier private civil rights investigative agency. Nowhere is this clearer than in the excellent settlements recorded in a series of cases challenging the refusal of local landlords to accept Sec. 8 housing choice vouchers and the filing of several important new cases against apartment developers who have failed to provide accessible units for people with disabilities.

Another new aspect of the Committee's work is seen in the set of cases filed in recent months on behalf of day laborers in the District of Columbia. These cases represent the Committee's response to a growing problem of wage theft affecting an especially vulnerable population. We

are grateful to the many firms that have stepped forward to take on these matters and to assist in our ongoing efforts to support the creation of day laborer centers in the District and surrounding region.

In October of last year, the D.C. Prisoners' Rights Legal Services Project joined the Committee as a new program. In just a few short months, this program has become an integral part of the Committee's work, enlisting nearly a dozen cooperating firms as co-counsel in a series of new cases challenging basic denials of constitutional and civil rights in our city's jails and the federal prisons where thousands of D.C. inmates are incarcerated. It is most heartening to see the outpouring of firm volunteers who have joined in this effort.

Finally, the Committee has expressed strong support for the campaign now underway to secure voting rights in Congress for the District of Columbia, a Committee priority for decades. We are grateful for the opportunity to join forces with Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton and District residents in supporting this vital measure. We urge our cooperating firms and volunteers to do what they can to support this effort.

Annual Campaign and Burke Fund Report

As of June 1, the Committee had received 2007 Annual Funding Campaign contributions of \$245,390 from 38 firms and \$280,339 from 861 individuals. With strong support over the next four months, both campaigns have an excellent opportunity to reach or exceed last year's totals. To reach our goal, we will need to receive gifts from all individuals and firms

that supported the Committee previously by the end of the Committee's campaign year on September 30.

This year, the John Burke Memorial Fund contributed \$10,000 toward the operations of the Committee's Public Education Projects. The Fund's board members have set a goal to replace this contribution with new gifts

to the Fund. The Fund, named after the Committee's late Counsel and Trustee John L. Burke, Jr., was established in 2004 to support the Committee's annual breakfast briefing, now called the John Burke Pro Bono Breakfast, and other pro bono outreach activities.

The Committee thanks all of its contributors for their gifts to the Committee.

Fair Housing

Housing Settlements (continued from page 1)

8 discrimination suit against E&G Services and its related companies. After obtaining partial summary judgment on liability from the D.C. Superior Court, the settlement reached on the eve of trial ensures that nearly 1,500 apartment units in the District will be made available to Sec. 8 voucher holders. In addition, the defendants' employees will be trained in fair housing principles, a substantial contribution to the ERC's ongoing fair housing efforts.

A second case, *Bourbeau, et al. v. The Jonathan Woodner Co.*, was filed by the Committee with co-counsel **Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Preston Gates Ellis LLP** in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia on January 23, 2007, on behalf of the ERC and an individual who was denied the right to pay for an apartment using a housing voucher. On February 16, the defendant filed a motion to dismiss the case on various grounds, which has been fully briefed and is awaiting decision.

D.C. Predatory Lending Lawsuit Settled With One Defendant

On March 15, 2007, the Washington Lawyers' Committee and co-counsel **Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP & Affiliates** reached a settlement with one of the defendants, Michael Brown, in *Griffith v. Barnes, et al.*, a lawsuit alleging predatory lending.

Under its terms, Mr. Brown paid \$25,000 in damages and agreed

to provide assistance to the plaintiff, Leslie Griffith, an African American resident of Washington, D.C., in her ongoing action against the primary defendant Paul Barnes.

The Committee and co-counsel filed the lawsuit on September 25, 2006, in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia on behalf of Ms. Griffith, alleging defendants used a predatory lending scheme to fraudulently obtain ownership of Ms. Griffith's home. Ms. Griffith, who inherited her mother's home in the District of Columbia, had difficulty making mortgage payments.

The complaint alleges that Paul Barnes, a real estate agent, offered to help her "save" her house, but through false representations induced her to execute documents that allowed transfer of the property title to a straw man purchaser, and encumber the property with multiple mortgages. Through the repeated use of this process the defendants extracted over \$300,000 in equity, leaving our client without title to her home or the substantial proceeds from these transactions. The complaint alleges that the scheme constitutes a fraud and also violates numerous federal and District of Columbia lending laws and regulations.

New Design and Construction Cases Filed

On behalf of the Equal Rights Center (ERC), the Washington Lawyers' Committee is currently litigating six major Fair Housing Act cases focused on protecting the

rights of persons with disabilities to accessible housing.

The Committee, in conjunction with co-counsel **Crowell & Moring LLP; Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP, Jordan Burt LLP, and Kelley Drye & Warren LLP** is litigating these matters against several of the largest nation-wide owner/developers of multifamily housing in the United States. These lawsuits, filed in the United States District Courts in the District of Columbia and Maryland, charge the developers with continuous and systematic violations of the civil rights of people with disabilities in the design and construction of over 750 apartment and condominium complexes comprised of tens of thousands of individual housing units across the country.

On April 13, 2007, Judge Andre Davis in U.S. District Court in Maryland denied Equity Residential's motion to dismiss, ruling that the ERC has standing to bring the claim. Similar motions to dismiss are pending in several of the other actions.

Connecticut Nonprofit Files Lawsuit To Open Group Homes

Last fall, the Washington Lawyers' Committee and co-counsel **Sidley Austin LLP** undertook the representation of Turning Point Foundation and its Executive Director, David Vieau, as well as the Connecticut Fair Housing Center, in a lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court for

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Disability Rights

Carlyle Suites Hotel Accessibility Lawsuit Settles

The Committee and co-counsel Clifford Chance settled a lawsuit on December 20, 2006 against the Carlyle Suites, to improve accessibility for people with disabilities at the Washington, D.C. hotel.

The lawsuit, filed on November 16, 2005, alleged that the hotel, which advertised itself as accessible, provided no accessible path of travel over a number of steps in its lobby. Guests with mobility impairments had to be carried by hotel staff up these steps in order to move beyond the entrance of the otherwise accessible hotel. Clifford Chance and the Project brought

this case on behalf of Philip Myron, who was subjected to being carried several times during his stay in what he thought would be an accessible hotel. The Equal Rights Center, as well as Mr. Myron's sister who booked the hotel room for him, were also plaintiffs.

The settlement represents a huge success, in that the hotel will install state of the art access features without compromising the historic architectural features of the hotel lobby. As damages and fees have also been paid, this settlement is a victory for all concerned.

Inova Fairfax Hospital Settlement Provides Sign Language Interpreters

On April 9, the Committee obtained an important settlement for a deaf mother and her hearing daughter that requires Inova Fairfax Hospital to provide qualified sign language interpreters to deaf patients, deaf family members and decision makers. The settlement also awarded \$27,500 each to the mother and her daughter.

The Committee had filed an administrative complaint on March 6, 2003, with the U.S. Department of Justice on behalf of the deaf woman who was denied sign language interpreter services at a local hospital. While the deaf woman was not the patient, she needed to communicate

with doctors during the critical hours after an automobile accident, when her young adult daughter, a hospital patient who was eight months pregnant, had an emergency caesarean and lost the baby.

Everyone in this family except the patient was deaf, including the baby's father, grandparents, aunts and uncles. Therefore, interpreter services were greatly needed to assist this family in communicating with physicians and decision-making.

The case is an important victory on the critical legal issue regarding the rights of non-patients who are deaf.

Lawsuit Filed Against Inaccessible Potbelly Restaurants

The Committee and co-counsel **Bingham McCutchen LLP** filed a lawsuit earlier this year on behalf of the Equal Rights Center against the Potbelly Restaurant chain for inaccessibility.

The complaint, filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, alleges that there are serious architectural barriers in all Potbelly restaurants preventing people with disabilities from participating in and enjoying their dining experience in the same manner as other customers.

Specifically, the lawsuit alleges that newly constructed Potbelly restaurants maintain features such as impermissibly high service counters, inaccessible seating areas and non-compliant restrooms in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act Standards for Accessible Design.

MetroAccess Lawsuit Obtains Class Certification

In December 2006, the Committee and co-counsel **Wiley Rein LLP** secured a significant victory by achieving certification of a class of 12,000 MetroAccess users in a lawsuit filed three years ago against the Washington Metropolitan Area Transportation Authority.

The lawsuit claims that Metro's curb-to-curb paratransit service

is so substandard that it illegally discriminates against people with disabilities, and violates federal law, which requires Metro to provide comparable transportation services to people whose disabilities preclude them from using the regular fixed route system. Specifically, the complaint alleges frequent missed trips; exceedingly late pickups; excessively long trips; poor customer service; malfunctioning equipment; and reservation system inadequacies.

Accessibility Lawsuit Filed Against D.C. Lottery

The Committee and co-counsel **McDermott, Will & Emery** have filed a lawsuit on behalf of the Equal Rights Center challenging the policy and practice of the District of Columbia and its Lottery Board in licensing a significant percentage of its agents to sell lottery tickets in stores and businesses not accessible to persons with mobility impairments.

The complaint alleges that this policy and practice discriminatorily denies people with these disabilities an equal opportunity to play the D.C. Lottery.

Surveys demonstrate that there are barriers to the entrance of 49% of the lottery agents surveyed; a full one-third of the lottery agents surveyed had one step or more at the entry of their stores.

Improved accessibility to these stores will have a greater impact than creating enhanced access to the D.C. Lottery. It is hoped that the lawsuit will encourage many small grocers, convenience stores, and other markets throughout the District to make their entrances and front counters more accessible for people with disabilities.

Hard of Hearing Inmates Obtain Hearing Aids

Over the past several months, Committee staff and Foley & Lardner attorneys have traveled to the Maryland Correctional Institution at Jessup to advocate on behalf of a group of hard of hearing and deaf inmates who had sought unsuccessfully to obtain hearing aids from the prison's health maintenance organization.

After repeated visits to the prison by Committee staff and attorneys from Foley & Lardner to resolve the matter, the prison agreed to provide hearing aids to the inmates.

Since then, additional inmates have come forward seeking hearing aids from the prison. The Committee and co-counsel are currently assisting this second group of inmates with the processing of their requests.

Lawsuits Filed Alleging Lack of Access to District Buildings and Agencies

Two lawsuits were filed this year in an attempt to enhance access for people with disabilities to the District of Columbia government.

In January, Committee staff with **Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP** filed a lawsuit alleging that District of Columbia government buildings, including the John A. Wilson Building, are not accessible to people with disabilities. The complaint also contends that emergency evacuation routes and procedures in D.C. government buildings disregard the needs of people with disabilities.

In June, **DLA Piper** and Committee staff filed a lawsuit against

the District based on complaints of deaf individuals and residents who have not received the sign language interpreter services they needed to communicate effectively with important District agencies, in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Rehabilitation Act.

Both lawsuits were filed on behalf of individuals and the Equal Rights Center in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia after informal attempts to resolve the issues with the District were unsuccessful.

Housing Settlements (continued from page 3)

the District of Connecticut against various municipal officials of the Town of New Haven, Connecticut.

The lawsuit alleges that the defendants discriminated against persons with disabilities and refused to grant a reasonable accommodation by prohibiting the Turning Point Foundation from establishing two group homes for persons in recovery from alcohol or drug addiction.

The homes, also referred to as "sober houses," are what experts in the field of substance abuse refer to as the "missing link" in recovery by providing a home that is alcohol- and drug-free and where residents receive mutual support in their recovery.

The homes were large houses that under local occupancy codes could accommodate over 15 persons.

The Town of New Haven refused to allow Turning Point to have more than 8 occupants in the homes even though families would be permitted to live in the same house with many more occupants.

Public Education



Cleveland Elementary School students on the winning Fall 2006 GeoPlunge Tournament teams display their trophies, with teacher Barbara McLaughlin (far left) and Holland & Knight volunteers April McPherson (back row, far left), Robert Browne (back row, second from right), and Tanya Upthegrove (far right).

School Partnerships Organize GeoPlunge Geography Tournaments

On November 30, 2006, over 100 fifth- and sixth-graders, comprising 32 teams from 21 D.C. public schools, competed at the historic Charles Sumner School in a challenge tournament of GeoPlunge, an educational, multi-award winning geography game developed by Alan Fishel, a partner at **Arent Fox LLP**. This multi-school competition

followed the first GeoPlunge Tournament organized by the Committee and Arent Fox in March 2006.

The challenge tournament culminated with a final round in which a team from **Holland & Knight LLP**'s partnership school

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Legislation Alters Governance of D.C. Public School System

Pursuant to a request by the Mayor and Council of the District of Columbia, Congress has passed and President Bush has signed legislation amending the D.C. Home Rule Charter to remove the Board of Education as the entity governing the D.C. Public School system (DCPS).

This change transforms DCPS into a cabinet-level agency under the Mayor's control, with DCPS governed as other city agencies are governed, by the Mayor and Council. Members of the Board of Education, some of whom are currently appointed and some of whom are elected, will all be elected as of 2009. The Board will become a state board with authority only to approve D.C. state standards for student achievement, teacher qualifications, residency verification, the D.C. state educational accountability plan, and the like.

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Equal Employment Opportunity

Employee Obtains Settlement in Sexual Orientation and Disability Discrimination Lawsuit

On April 11, 2007, the Committee and co-counsel **Heller, Huron, Chertkof, Lerner, Simon & Salzman PLLC**, working on behalf of Michael Krier, settled a lawsuit filed in D.C. Superior Court against

the American Geophysical Union (AGU) that alleged discrimination based on sexual orientation and disability, denial of reasonable accommodation and retaliation.

Mr. Krier worked successfully at AGU as a temporary financial manager for nine months, during which he received multiple positive performance reviews and applied

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Immigrant and Refugee Rights

Multiple Day Laborer Cases Filed

The Committee's Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project has filed several high-profile cases recently as part of the Project's Day Laborer Support Initiative, which represents day laborers who are exploited, abused, or unpaid.

The Committee and co-counsel, **Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP** filed a class action on February 21 against S.C.C.P. Painting Contractors in U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland for engaging in a uniform and systematic scheme of wage payment abuse against their immigrant employees for work performed throughout Washington, D.C. and Maryland.

The same day, the Committee and co-counsel, **Wiggins, Childs, Quinn & Pantazis L.L.C.** filed a lawsuit on behalf of four immigrant workers in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia against contractor Victor Berhanu, who failed to pay minimum, promised and overtime wages.

Also on February 21, the Committee and co-counsel **Williams & Connolly LLP** filed a lawsuit on behalf of two immigrant workers who worked at the Embassy of Trinidad and Tobago. The lawsuit was filed in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia against contractors AHRE and others who failed to pay minimum, overtime and promised wages. Instead, the defendant gave plaintiffs paychecks on accounts with insufficient funds.

The Committee and co-counsel **Porter Wright Morris & Arthur LLP** filed a February 21 lawsuit in U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland against a national artificial turf installation contractor. The plaintiffs in this case installed artificial turf at Georgetown University and other area schools. The contractor gave a crew of workers multiple checks (totaling over \$5,000 in wages) on accounts that had insufficient funds and then refused to furnish new paychecks.

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Project Seeks to Establish Day Workers' Centers

The Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project is currently working with co-counsel **Arnold & Porter LLP**, along with local immigrants' rights groups and the D.C. Office of Latino Affairs, developing strategies supporting establishment of a Washington, D.C. workers' center. In addition, the Project is assisting in the efforts of area groups to develop workers' centers in Virginia and Maryland.

The purpose of the centers is to provide established locations for day laborers to seek employment and various support services. For several years, immigrant day laborers have been using the corner of 15th and P Streets in Washington, D.C., as an informal hiring site. In addition, over the past couple months, more than 100 immigrant day laborers have been gathering at a second location in the

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New Housing Complaints Filed Against City of Manassas

On November 2, 2006, the Committee and co-counsel **Beveridge & Diamond PC**, filed complaints on behalf of six Manassas, Virginia families with the U. S. Department of Education alleging that the Manassas City Public Schools (MCPS), in collaboration with the City of Manassas, illegally released their children's confidential school records to zoning inspectors in an ongoing campaign against Hispanic residents.

These actions follow a complaint that the Committee and co-counsel filed, on behalf of the Equal Rights Center, with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) against the City of Manassas in May 2006, alleging housing discrimination against Hispanic residents.

Project Holds Green Card Application Workshop For Asylees

The Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project held a workshop on June 2 to assist approximately 30 asylees in completing applications for green cards to become permanent U.S. residents.

Completion of the green card application is the first step that an asylee must undertake before becoming a U.S. citizen.

Prisoners' Rights

D.C. Prisoners' Project Finds Widespread Support in Private Bar

Since joining the Washington Lawyers' Committee in October 2006, the D.C. Prisoners' Project (formerly D.C. Prisoner's Legal Services Project) has drawn enormous support from the private bar, enabling the Project to file nearly a dozen cases involving the rights of D.C. prisoners in both local jails and distant federal prisons, with a dozen more planned for the coming months.

The Project has been gratified by the high level of interest in its cases among law firm attorneys, even when some of these cases have involved litigation in venues far from D.C. With more than 7,000 D.C. prisoners housed in nearly 100 separate federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) facilities, often thousands of miles from home, legal resources for individuals denied adequate medical care or who experience violence while incarcerated are seriously limited.

Focusing on matters with broad policy implications, the Project is selective about the cases it accepts for representation. **Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP** attorneys are serving as co-counsel on two cases with the Project from the same BOP institution in Pennsylvania. In the most compelling case, the client was shackled while he remained inside his cell for 29 days, clearly violating BOP policies, the U.S. Constitution, and international human rights standards.

With the Orlando office of the law firm of **Foley & Lardner LLP**, the Project is representing a client

who was severely beaten after he was denied protective custody status just months before his release from a Florida prison.

With **Step toe & Johnson LLP**, the Project is representing a man who was brutally beaten and nearly blinded in a federal prison in Indiana, and was returned to the District of Columbia both homeless and disabled.

McDermott, Will & Emory is working with the Project in an attempt to reverse the disastrous effects of a Fourth Circuit decision, *Holly v. Geo Group*. In *Holly*, the Court ruled that prisoners complaining of poor medical care at Rivers Correctional Institution, a privately owned prison in North Carolina that holds mostly D.C. Code offenders, could not file those claims in federal court. The firm has filed a second case on behalf of the same plaintiff, this time in the District of Columbia.

Winston & Strawn LLP has stepped in as co-counsel in a case involving another client at Rivers Correctional Institution and assisted in moving the client's case to North Carolina state court, helping to protect his rights after the *Holly* decision.

Finally, the Project is working with **Covington & Burling LLP** on major class action litigation involving inmates at Rivers Correctional Institution.

Locally, the Project has taken on several important issues affecting prisoners in D.C. jail facilities. **O'Melveny & Myers LLP** is serving as co-counsel in a case that will attempt to hold the District of Columbia liable for failing to provide

continuing prescription medications to a discharged inmate with HIV, who later fell into a coma. **Pillsbury, Winthrop, Shaw, Pittman LLP** has taken on two cases involving women who were raped by corrections staff at the jail. **Reed Smith LLP** has also taken on two cases, serving as co-counsel on matters involving prisoners who were severely beaten while they were supposed to have been held in "protective custody."

Prisoners' Project, Law Firms Active on Policy Issues

In addition to an extensive litigation docket, the D.C. Prisoners' Project has taken on broad-based public policy issues affecting prisoners and formerly incarcerated people locally and nationally.

On the national front, the Project is working to amend aspects of the Prison Litigation Reform Act, as a member of the SAVE Coalition, with support from **Covington & Burling LLP** and **Goodwin Proctor LLP**.

Locally, the Project is working with **Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP** to reform aspects of the D.C. parole system that condemn thousands of D.C. residents to virtually a lifetime of parole supervision and intermittent incarceration.

The Project is also working with **Covington & Burling LLP** to expand voting opportunities to people held in the D.C. Jail who are eligible to vote.

Special Projects

Committee Announces Support for D.C. Voting Rights Proposal

The Washington Lawyers' Committee's Board of Directors recently voted overwhelmingly to support legislation now pending before the U.S. Congress to provide the District of Columbia with a final vote in the House of Representatives.

In addition, on June 7, the Committee sent a letter to all members of the U.S. Senate strongly endorsing the District of Columbia Voting Rights Act of 2007 and asked supporting volunteers to add their

voices to the national campaign to enact the measure on an expedited basis.

The Committee's letter of support, signed by over 40 of the Committee's board members, calls attention to the basic inequity of denying District of Columbia citizens a meaningful role in essential national decisions, including those involving taxation, war and peace, and basic laws affecting local government. It notes that "[t]hese undemocratic

constraints on the District and its residents are unworthy of our great democracy."

In the weeks ahead, the Committee will be working closely with Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton and DCVote, the primary organization working to enact the legislation. The Committee's efforts are being greatly assisted by volunteer counsel provided by Jon Bouker of **Arent Fox LLP**.

*2007 Founders Reception
(continued from page 1)*

Melvin White of **McDermott Will & Emery** joined in welcoming the guests and mentioned that the Committee will be celebrating its 40th Anniversary next year.

Committee Trustee and former Co-Chair Stuart Land of **Arnold & Porter LLP** encouraged supporters to consider participating in the Committee's new planned giving campaign.

For more information on the Committee's planned giving campaign, see http://www.washlaw.org/support.htm#planned_gifts, or contact Da'aga Hill Bowman, Director of Foundation Outreach and Public Information, at (202) 319-1000, ext. 155.



*Above (L/R):
Committee Board
Members John E. Heintz,
Partner, Kelley Drye &
Warren LLP, and Thomas
S. Williamson, Jr., Partner,
Covington & Burling LLP,
with Committee Trustee
Togo D. West, and
Executive Director
Rod Boggs*

*At right (L/R): Some of the 2006/2007 Associate
Coordinators, Rebecca Lee (formerly with
Crowell & Moring LLP), with Melissa N. Henke
and Deborah L. Boardman (Hogan & Hartson).*



Arrivals

New Co-Chair: Thomas W. Brunner

Thomas W. Brunner, a Washington Lawyers' Committee Board Member since 2002, has been elected Co-Chair of the Committee's Board of Directors, succeeding James N. Bierman, who recently completed his term as Co-Chair.

Tom heads the Washington, D.C. insurance practice at **Wiley Rein LLP**, focusing on emerging insurance issues, such as privacy, punitive damages, Y2K, asbestos, mass tort, pharmaceutical, product liability and toxic tort claims. He is a member of the Center for Public Resources (CPR) Distinguished Panel of Insurance Neutrals. Tom is a graduate of Columbia University and Yale Law School.

New Board Members

The Washington Lawyers' Committee recently welcomed five new members to the Board of Directors: Andrew B. Clubok, Theodore A. Howard, Esther H. Lim, Jerome C. Randolph and Thomas B. Wilner.

Andrew B. Clubok

Andrew B. Clubok is a partner in the Washington, D.C. office of **Kirkland & Ellis LLP**. He has a diverse practice, mixing trial, appellate and administrative litigation in a wide range of substantive areas including telecommunications, securities law, tax litigation, environmental law and commercial litigation. He is a

graduate of Harvard College and the University of Michigan Law School.

Theodore A. Howard

Theodore A. Howard, a partner in the Washington office of **Wiley Rein LLP**, counsels and represents national and international insurers in a broad range of insurance coverage disputes and related matters. From 1995 to 2006, he served as President and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the former D.C. Prisoners' Legal Services Project, which became the D.C. Prisoners' Project of the Washington Lawyers' Committee. He is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and Harvard Law School.

Esther H. Lim

Esther H. Lim is a partner in the Electrical and Computer Technology Practice Group of **Finnegan Henderson Farabow Garrett & Dunner LLP** in Washington, D.C. She specializes in district court and appellate patent litigation in all technologies, including computers, biotechnology, and pharmaceuticals. She graduated from Towson University in computer science & mathematics, and from the University of Maryland School of Law.

Jerome C. Randolph

Jerome C. Randolph is a partner at the Washington, D.C. law firm of **Gilbert Randolph LLP**, where he specializes in complex civil litigation. He was formerly a partner in the Cincinnati law firm of Keating, Muething and Klekamp LLP, and has

worked in the U.S. Attorney's Office in Chicago, handling white-collar criminal litigation. He is a graduate of Xavier University and the University of Chicago Law School.

Thomas B. Wilner

Thomas B. Wilner is the managing partner of the International Trade and Government Relations Practice at **Shearman & Sterling LLP** in Washington, D.C. During more than 30 years practicing law, Mr. Wilner has developed expertise in the areas of Litigation, International Trade, and Government Affairs. He clerked for Chief Judge William H. Hastie, United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. He is a graduate of Yale University and the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

New Staff Candice D. Jones

Candice D. Jones recently joined the Washington Lawyers' Committee as a staff attorney with the Fair Housing Project. Previously, she worked as a litigation associate in the Washington D.C. office of **Carter, Ledyard & Milburn LLP**, handling matters in the areas of environmental law, food and drug law, trade and general commercial litigation, and at **Hogan & Hartson**. She has also served as Co-Director of Communications and Counsel to the U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Ways and Means, and as a Goldfarb Fellow with the Alliance for Justice. She is a graduate of Stanford University and Georgetown University Law Center.

SPRING 2007 UPDATE

Geoplunge Geography Tournaments (continued from page 6)

Cleveland Elementary narrowly prevailed over the team from Gage-Eckington Elementary, which is sponsored by **Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw LLP**.

One of the Gage-Eckington students immediately challenged Cleveland Elementary to a rematch, reminiscent of the March 2006 tournament when runner-up LaSalle Elementary, sponsored by **Health Right, Inc.**, immediately challenged the champion from Arent Fox's partnership school Randle Highlands Elementary to a rematch. In the rematch, held several weeks later, LaSalle won.

Teachers from participating schools spoke enthusiastically about the tournament. Barbara McLaughlin, a teacher from Cleveland Elementary commented: "I think GeoPlunge brings life to Social Studies. It is no longer a boring way to learn!" Danielle Carrier, a sixth-grade teacher at John F. Cook, added: "This was a great tournament. My students loved participating and learning the game!" Patricia Ross, a teacher at the Jackie Robinson Center, concluded that "it was a lot of fun and a great experience for my students."

Similarly, Mary K.F. Johnson, a teacher at Payne Elementary, stated that the "[t]ournament was top notch! My students were enthusiastic the whole day!" Betsy Wendt, a counselor at Marie Reed, agreed that "this is a terrific activity" that also helped teach "cooperation and teamwork."

The tournament was sponsored by the Washington Lawyers' Committee and the following law firms and corporations: **Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld; Arent Fox; Baach Robinson; Baker & McKenzie; Bracewell & Giuliani; Cameron & Hornbostel; Cleary**

Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton; Dickstein Shapiro; DLA Piper; Dewey Ballantine; Fannie Mae Corporate Legal Department; Foley & Lardner; Fried Frank Harris Shriver & Jacobson; Goodwin Procter; Health Right, Inc.; Heller Ehrman; Holland & Knight; Kirkland & Ellis; Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw; Morgan Lewis; Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison; Reed Smith; Sidley Austin; Spriggs & Hollingsworth; Steptoe & Johnson; Wiley Rein; and Winston & Strawn.

Portions of the tournament were televised by the District Schools television station DS-TV99.

Legislation Alters Governance Of D.C. Public School System (continued from page 6)

Attorneys from **Sidley Austin LLP** and **Beveridge & Diamond PC**, who also serve as board members of the Washington Lawyers' Committee, testified before the D.C. City Council in favor of the bill, while proposing improvements in the area of budget and parent/community participation in DCPS governance.

Committee staff has researched the legal and policy aspects of these issues since 1999, and provided research and policy information to the media, D.C. government and DCPS officials, the D.C. City Council, the State Education Office, citizen and parent groups, and other concerned parties.

Orientation and Disability Discrimination Lawsuit (continued from page 6)

for a permanent accounting position within the company. At this time, no one at the company knew he was HIV positive and suffered from bi-polar disorder. When Mr. Krier requested a limited accommodation to slightly modify his work schedule to attend medical appointments,

he was terminated the next day and his application for permanent employment was rejected.

The parties agreed to court-facilitated mediation early in the case, and the parties settled the case on mutually satisfactory terms. The filing of this case provided an important example to members of the gay, HIV positive and mental health communities.

Multiple Day Laborer Cases Filed (continued from page 7)

The Committee and co-counsel **Dickstein Shapiro** filed another lawsuit the same day against local contractor Venus Builders Group that refused to pay any wages at all to Jose Escamilla, who had worked more than 72 hours in one week for the contractor.

The Project has several more day laborer cases available for representation. Firms interested in working on a day laborer case or with the Project in drafting a report outlining the abuses in various industries may contact Project Director Laura Varela at (202) 319-1000 x 125.

Project Seeks to Establish Day Workers' Centers (continued from page 7)

Home Depot parking lot off Rhode Island Avenue in the District of Columbia.

The Home Depot location has become a gathering place for day laborers due to the high demand for temporary labor by Home Depot customers, the availability of largely unused space in the parking lot, and the close proximity to public transportation.

The Project will continue to work with co-counsel and others on identifying a site for construction of a permanent, multi-cultural facility.

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