



UPDATE



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Spring 2012



At the Committee's 2012 Founders' Reception: attendees included (L/R) Committee Board Member and former Co-Chair Thomas S. Williamson, Jr., Partner, Covington & Burling LLP, President-Elect, District of Columbia Bar; and Committee Board Member and former Co-Chair James N. Bierman, Partner, Foley & Lardner LLP. See article and more photographs on page 11.

Committee Announces Major Criminal Justice Reform Initiative

The Committee's DC Prisoners' Project is poised to begin major research and advocacy on the issue of over-prosecution and over-incarceration of people of color in the District of Columbia. This undertaking will include a major three-part research report, followed by efforts to implement the report's recommendations.

A team of **Covington & Burling LLP** lawyers, as well as a "blue ribbon" advisory panel of senior and retired judges, former prosecutors and other prominent officials will be participating in this work, adding substantial expertise and credibility to the undertaking and enhancing prospects of its success.

The Project will produce a three-part comprehensive research and policy report that will examine the civil rights implications of justice administration in D.C., with a primary focus on arrest and prosecution issues, and public policy strategies to address them. The second part will detail the often abysmal treatment of D.C. prisoners incarcerated locally and in federal prisons. The third part will identify the overwhelming obstacles facing DC parolees in the District. The obstacles, including discrimination, poverty, and parole restrictions, complete the cycle initiated by discriminatory and racially charged arrest and prosecution policies. Each section of the report will include research, policy reform options, and potential solutions.

(Continued on page 5)

Committee Holds Annual School Partnership Recruitment Meeting

More than 50 attendees from DC area law firms discussed the importance of recruiting more firms and businesses to establish educational partnerships with DC public schools during a Committee meeting at **Sidley Austin LLP** on May 17, 2012.

The annual partnership recruitment meeting featured remarks by former DC Bar President and Sidley Austin LLP partner Ron Flagg, and Josephine Bias Robinson, Chief of the Office of Family and Public Engagement for DC Public Schools. Ms. Robinson strongly endorsed the Committee's DC Public School Partnerships Project, and outlined how the School Partnership activities support the goals of the recently released DCPS 5-year Strategic Plan called "A Capital Commitment." She challenged the firms and businesses that do not yet have a partnership to become a partner with one of 10 DC public schools most in need of improvement.

(Continued on page 7)

Inside this issue . . .

Major Settlements	3, 4, 6, 8, 9
Director's Corner	2
New Cases.....	3, 4
Arrivals	10
Annual Funding Campaign.....	11
Founders' Reception	1, 11
Corporate and Foundation Contributors	12



Rod Boggs
Executive Director
Washington Lawyers'
Committee

This issue of the *UPDATE* highlights two significant non-litigation initiatives that will address challenging issues in public education and criminal justice system reform that have long been at the core the Committee's civil rights agenda.

The first of these relates to the request made by DC Public Schools (DCPS) Chancellor Kaya Henderson to expand significantly the Committee's growing network of law firm and corporate partnerships with our local public schools. As discussed at the Committee's well-attended School Partnership Recruitment Luncheon in May, the DCPS recently added new staff to its community outreach office and identified a large number of schools as priority candidates for Committee attention.

These encouraging developments coincide with the Committee's good fortune in securing the services of Kent Withycombe as Special Counsel for DC Public School Partnerships. Kent comes to the Committee from **Dickstein Shapiro LLP**, where he was instrumental in the firm's exemplary school partnership with Duke Ellington School of the Arts. With Kent's addition to our staff, in the months ahead, we look forward to working with an ever-increasing group of partner firms.

The second initiative is the recent decision of the Prisoners' Project to begin a major research and advocacy effort to address over-prosecution and over-incarceration of African Americans. The Committee is delighted that several distinguished retired and senior federal judges have agreed to serve on an advisory committee for this initiative and a team of **Covington & Burling LLP** attorneys has offered pro bono support. As work progresses, it is likely that we will seek the assistance of additional firms for this important undertaking.

In Memoriam

With a profound sense of loss, the Committee reports the untimely passing of two gifted colleagues—John A. Payton and Angela Holland—who made lasting contributions to the cause of civil rights and equal opportunity in our city and beyond. The Committee is privileged to have benefited from their exceptional talents in some of its most important work. Let us hope that their legacies will inspire others to follow in their footsteps.

John A. Payton, who died at the age of 65 in March after a brief illness, while serving as Counsel-Director of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, will be remembered as one of the finest civil rights advocates of his generation. His extraordinary accomplishments include landmark victories in the Supreme Court defending affirmative action, and exceptional leadership in expanding the pro bono civil rights work at **Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP**, the firm with which he practiced for nearly 30 years. He also played a critical role in developing and implementing the legal strategy of the Free South Africa Movement, which contributed to the end of apartheid in that country. John worked on many Committee cases and projects, and served as a Committee Co-Chair, Member of the Executive Committee and Member of the Board of Directors for over 25 years.

Angela Holland, a Committee Associate Trustee and **Reed Smith LLP** Associate who died suddenly in April at the age of 32, made a lasting impression on all who were fortunate to have known her and experience her deep commitment to civil rights and community service. Angela was a key author of the Committee's 2010 study on the state of the DC public schools. Her commitment to public education and the District of Columbia's children was evident in her work and previous service in Teach for America.

Fair Housing

Committee Resolves Source of Income Discrimination Lawsuit Against Level One, Inc.

The Committee and co-counsel **Foley & Lardner LLP**, have resolved a source-of-income lawsuit filed February 23, 2012, on behalf of the Equal Rights Center (ERC) against Level One, Inc., a national apartment leasing call center. The lawsuit claimed that Housing Choice Voucher holders were provided with inaccurate information about the availability of apartments at local rental properties owned and managed by Level One's clients, in violation of the District of Columbia Human Rights Act.

As a result of its agreement with the ERC, Level One will ensure that all of its agents answering rental calls for properties located in the District of Columbia, and in Howard and Montgomery Counties in Maryland, will advise potential renters that vouchers are accepted for the payment of rent. Level One has also agreed to strengthen its existing fair housing policies, including providing additional fair housing training to employees, and to pay ERC's costs and attorney's fees.

"Refusing to rent to voucher holders in the District is a violation of the District's Human Rights Act," said Megan Whyte, the Committee's Fair Housing Project Director. "While there are some variations in the fair housing protections provided by different states and counties, Level One is obligated to meet the requirements in every jurisdiction in which it operates and we appreciate Level One's commitment to ensuring its compliance with the source-of-income laws in the DC metro area."

Cohen Companies Settlement Addresses Lack of Accessible Housing

The Committee and co-counsel **Morrison & Foerster LLP** settled a disability discrimination case against Cohen Companies on behalf of the Equal Rights Center. The complaint alleged violations in the design and construction of two multifamily properties in the District of Columbia.

The Companies, which own the Loree Grand and the Velocity condos, have agreed to improve accessibility in units at both properties. The Companies also agreed to make public use areas more accessible, provide accessibility training to staff, provide the ERC applicable policies and procedures for review, and reimburse the ERC for its time, expenses and attorney's fees in reaching the agreement.

Committee Sues Bella Homes in Foreclosure Rescue Scam

On March 6, 2012, the Committee, with co-counsel **K&L Gates LLP** and the national Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, filed a complaint against Bella Homes, LLC, on behalf of a couple who fell prey to a foreclosure rescue scam.

The complaint alleges violations of the Fair Housing Act on the basis of national origin, fraud, fraudulent inducement, conversion, and unjust enrichment, as well as violations of the Credit Repair Organizations Act, Virginia Credit Services Businesses Act, and Virginia Consumer Protection Act. The scam was alleged to have run through defendant Bella Homes as well as a number of individuals. Motions to dismiss filed by some of the defendants were denied on April 27, 2012, and the parties are starting discovery.

Disability Rights

Committee Projects Undertake Joint Advocacy for Inmates with Disabilities

The Disability Rights and DC Prisoners' Rights Projects have teamed with prestigious law firms to enforce the rights of inmates with disabilities. Following a landmark 2010 settlement for deaf Virginia inmates, the two Projects have undertaken cases nationwide to enforce these civil rights.

Maryland:

In February 2012, the Projects, with **Foley & Lardner LLP** and the National Association of the Deaf Law & Advocacy Center, filed *Jarboe v. Maryland Department of Corrections* on behalf of a class of deaf and hard-of-hearing Maryland inmates, following a lengthy investigation spearheaded by the late Ronald Carroll, a Foley partner.

Notably, the complaint alleges denial of access to telephone services. Hearing inmates place telephone calls easily. The only accessible telephone technology for deaf inmates, however, is obsolete and fees charged for its use are much higher than other inmates pay. Consequently, deaf inmates are unable to call their families, even at times of deaths and critical illnesses.

The complaint also alleges failure to provide sign language interpreters or other assistance for deaf inmates attending prison programs. As a result, deaf inmates must attend mandatory programs with no interpreter, unable to understand or benefit from them.

Virginia:

In January 2012, **Steptoe & Johnson LLP** and the Disability Rights Project negotiated a settlement for a deaf man who was unable to contact his family during a county jail incarceration, due to the lack of accessible telephone equipment.

Federal Bureau of Prisons - North Carolina:

The Projects have also filed two lawsuits on behalf of federal detainees with disabilities in North Carolina.

In January, the Projects, with **Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP**, filed *Cooke v. United States Bureau of Prisons* on behalf of two detainees who use wheelchairs. The detainees are denied equal access to bathrooms, recreational, dining and religious facilities, and, due to inaccessible exam rooms, receive medical treatment in public hallways.

In April, the Projects, with **Arnold & Porter LLP**, filed an amended complaint in *Heyer v. United States Bureau of Prisons*, alleging that deaf detainees are denied effective access to telephone, educational, medical and counseling services.

Federal Bureau of Prisons – Arizona:

Similarly, in *Bryant v. United States Bureau of Prisons*, the Projects with **Sullivan & Cromwell LLP** are representing a deaf federal inmate who has been transferred throughout the federal system, but has seldom been provided with sign language interpreter services.

Mr. Bryant could not understand or provide consent for major psychotropic medications that he was given because he had no interpreter. One medical professional speculated that the medications may have been prescribed to calm the inmate's agitation, but what appeared to be agitation was in fact simply frustration at the lack of communication.

The failures of prison systems, most notably the federal Bureau of Prisons, to provide basic services to people with disabilities are unacceptable. Twenty years after passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and nearly 40 years since enactment of the Rehabilitation Act, litigation is still necessary to achieve compliance with these fundamental civil rights laws in American prisons.

DC Prisoners' Project

Committee Announces Major Criminal Justice Reform Initiative

(continued from page 1)

Next, the Project will work to implement the recommendations for public policy and law reform identified in the report using the legal resources available at the Committee, and in collaboration with our law firm co-counsel.

The goal of this undertaking is to develop innovative strategies for reducing the over-representation of African Americans and Latinos in various stages of the criminal and juvenile justice process in the District of Columbia. We expect that the results of this project will serve as a national model for addressing these issues in other jurisdictions across the country.

Federal Prison Officials Face Civil Trial for Abuse of DC Prisoner

In 2004-2005, David Lee Womack, a federal inmate from the District of Columbia, was kept in full restraints for 26 days inside a maximum-security prison cell in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. The Committee and co-counsel **Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP**, representing Mr. Womack, sued the federal prison officials responsible for such treatment and, on April 30, 2012, were finally able to bring them to trial. Committee Corporate Advisory Board member **FTI, Inc.**, provided key litigation support services in the four-and-a-half day proceeding held in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

The Committee and co-counsel filed the case on Mr. Womack's behalf in December 2006 in an effort to secure financial compensation for his ordeal and to help deter federal officials from inflicting such punishment on other prisoners. Unfortunately, despite an exceptionally well-presented case, the attorneys were unable to convince the all-white Harrisburg jury that his constitutional rights had been violated.

Committee Joins Efforts to Reduce Excessive Telephone Rates for Inmates

The Committee's D.C. Prisoners' Project has joined with national prison reform groups seeking to reduce exorbitant telephone rates for inmates in federal prisons. In 2000, the Prisoners' Project, in collaboration with the prisoners' rights organization, CURE, filed a case in federal court, *Martha Wright v. CCA*, seeking to reduce the rates paid by prisoners' families when they receive collect calls. In 2001, the District Court referred the case to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for rulemaking, and the matter has languished there for nearly a decade. A Notice of Proposed Rulemaking was issued in 2003, but no action followed.

Over the last two years, pro bono co-counsel Lee Petro of **Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP** has led efforts to pressure the FCC to act. In May 2012, the Media Consortium, a national network of over 60 leading independent media outlets, assembled an in-depth press briefing on prison phone monopolies to increase public understanding of the issue. Since then, a large group of civil rights organizations has submitted a letter to the FCC demanding action on predatory telephone rates charged by national telecom companies. The letter noted, "Unreasonably high prison phone rates unjustly punish the families of people who are incarcerated, and contribute to rising recidivism rates by deterring regular telephone contact with family members and loved ones."

Equal Employment Opportunity

Settlement Reached in Discrimination Lawsuit Against USUHS and Corbin Company

The Committee and co-counsel **Arnold & Porter LLP** have reached an agreement on behalf of Charolette Barnett in her pregnancy and disability discrimination lawsuit against her former employers, the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS), a Department of Defense entity, and The Corbin Company, a federal contractor. The agreement provides payments to and an employment reference letter for Ms. Barnett, and attorney's fees.

The lawsuit, filed on September 27, 2010, in U.S. District Court in Maryland, alleged that USUHS and Corbin discriminated against Ms. Barnett because of her pregnancy in violation of the Pregnancy Discrimination Act, an amendment to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and that her condition was a disability protected by the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Custom Walls & Windows Race Discrimination and Harassment Case Settles

The Committee and co-counsel **Brown Rudnick LLP** have reached a settlement on behalf of Robert Ballard in his race discrimination and harassment claims against his former employer, Custom Walls & Windows (CWW). Mr. Ballard alleged that he was subjected to pervasive racial harassment by his supervisor, who regularly used racial epithets and told racist jokes. Despite complaints to management by Mr. Ballard and several co-workers, CWW failed to take any remedial action and actually promoted the supervisor.

When he started to experience physical symptoms of emotional distress caused by the harassment, Mr. Ballard felt compelled to resign from his employment. He subsequently filed an administrative charge of discrimination with the Howard County, Maryland, Office of Human Relations. Several co-workers came forward to corroborate Mr. Ballard's descriptions of the harassment and the futile complaints.

The settlement agreement provides for money damages and a letter of reference for Mr. Ballard, non-discrimination training and the implementation of a complaint process for CWW employees, and attorney's fees for the Committee.

Race Discrimination and Retaliation Lawsuit Against Inspector General Remanded for Trial

On February 17, 2012, the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals vacated and remanded for trial a race discrimination and retaliation lawsuit brought by the Committee and co-counsel **Steptoe & Johnson LLP** on behalf of Denise Burgess, an African-American woman who worked for the Army's Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction ("SIGIR"). Ms. Burgess held the position of Assistant Inspector General for Public Affairs at SIGIR. The Committee and co-counsel had filed the lawsuit on Ms. Burgess' behalf in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia in July 2009. The case is expected to proceed to trial later this year.

Public Education

Committee Holds Annual Partnership Recruitment Meeting (continued from page 1)

Since Fall 2011, the Committee has added a number of new partnerships. They include: **Arent Fox LLP** (Eastern High School); **Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP** (McKinley Technology High School); and **Pierce Atwood LLP** (Patterson Elementary School). In addition, **Gilbert LLP** has committed to starting a partnership and is in the process of choosing a school. Many more school principals have been contacted, and several more schools have been visited, so many schools are awaiting partnerships. For more information, contact Special Counsel Kent Withycombe at (202) 319-1000, ext. 117, Kent_Withycombe@washlaw.org; or Coordinator Elinor Hart at (202) 387-2966, Elinor_Hart@washlaw.org.

Committee, Arent Fox, DCPS Host 7th City-Wide GeoPlunge Tournament

In conjunction with **Arent Fox LLP** and the DC Public Schools, the Committee hosted the 7th city-wide GeoPlunge Geography Tournament on November 15, 2011, at the Smithsonian Institution's National Portrait Gallery. More than 230 students from 37 DC public schools participated, with a team from J.O. Wilson Elementary School winning the tournament. The DC Public Schools Chancellor Kaya Henderson presented awards in several categories, including the GeoPlunge Trophy to the winners and their coach, who were later featured in a television newscast.

Due to the expanding popularity of the Geoplunge game and Geoplunge clubs in schools throughout the district, Arent Fox LLP, in response to increasing demand, later hosted a smaller Spring tournament in early May.

The tournament is based on the award-winning game, GeoPlunge, invented by Arent Fox LLP partner Alan Fishel, that helps students learn U.S. geography. The popular annual Fall tournament, which brings together fifth and sixth graders in an exciting and educational competition, was supported by the generosity of law firms and individuals who sponsored the GeoPlunge teams.



The Committee's 2012 School Partnership Recruitment Luncheon featured (L/R) Ron Flagg, Partner, Sidley Austin LLP; Josephine Bias Robinson, Chief, Office of Family and Public Engagement, DC Public Schools; Committee Executive Director Rod Boggs (rear); Alan Fishel, Partner, Arent Fox LLP; Kent Withycombe, Special Counsel, Public Education Project, Washington Lawyers' Committee; and D.C. Bar President Darrell G. Mottley, Principal Shareholder, Banner & Witcoff, Ltd.

Plans are underway to hold the 2012 GeoPlunge Geography Tournament at the National Portrait Gallery on December 5.

DC Public Schools Again Benefit from Bake Sale and "Taste-Off"

The Committee's 12th Annual Cooking for Kids Bake Sale and Taste-Off, held on March 19, 2012, saw 14 law firms competing for the honor of being named "Best Baker," and raised \$8,325 to benefit the DC public schools with which the firms have established educational partnerships.

Participating firms held bake sales at their offices to raise funds for "their" schools, then sent their best entries to the Committee's offices for the final Taste-Off judging. Culinary experts Frank Ruta and Aggie Chin of the Palena restaurant, along with Alex Kramer of Dos Amigos, determined the top three entries in the cake, pie and cookie categories, with the winners receiving gold, silver or bronze medals.

Participating firms each year provide much-needed tutoring, mentoring and other supportive services to about 10,000 students at nearly 30 DC public schools.

Immigrant and Refugee Rights



Mrs. N. (left), an asylee, and Ruth Spivack, the Committee's Asylum Coordinator (far right), welcome Mrs. N.'s two sons (middle) recently arrived in the United States from Sri Lanka. Mrs. N. won asylum with the assistance of an attorney from Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP, and the Committee provided legal assistance for the family reunification.

Committee Volunteers Win Victories for Asylum Seekers

In the Immigration Court, an attorney from **Milbank Tweed Hadley McCloy LLP** obtained asylum for a young man from Angola who fears persecution on account of his family's political involvement with UNITA and his involvement in a youth organization.

In the Arlington Asylum Office (United States Citizenship and Immigration Services or USCIS), a political activist from the Republic of Congo, who was detained and tortured because of his involvement in an opposition party and a youth group, won asylum with the assistance of **Crowell & Moring LLP**. A young man from El Salvador who suffered persecution and has a well-founded fear of future harm on account of his sexual orientation also won asylum with the assistance of an attorney from **Steptoe & Johnson LLP**. An attorney from **Winston & Strawn LLP** prevailed in the case of a teenage mother from Saudi Arabia who fears return because of retaliation by her family and society at large because she has a child born out of wedlock to a Saudi father.

Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project staff also obtained Humanitarian Parole through USCIS for the infant daughter of a derivative asylee, which allowed both mother and baby to travel to the U.S. together for reunification with their mother and grandmother, an asylee from Gabon. Current law grants derivative asylum status to the children of asylees, but not to any grandchildren.

Committee Achieves Settlement in Principle in Nastos Construction Lawsuit

The Committee, with co-counsel **Arnold & Porter LLP** and **Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP**, recently reached a settlement in principle with Nastos Construction, Inc., in the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) collective action filed against the company for failing to pay overtime wages to its employees.

The Committee and co-counsel filed the original FLSA collective action on October 7, 2009, in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia on behalf of seven employees against Nastos Construction, Inc., and four corporate officers for failing to pay overtime wages for hours worked in excess of 40 hours each workweek for three years in addition to other unpaid promised wages. The action was also brought as a class action, pursuant to Rule 23, to recover unpaid overtime and promised wages. An amended complaint included allegations that the company retaliated against four named plaintiffs and three opt-in plaintiffs for filing and participating in the lawsuit.

Committee Settles Wage & Hour Lawsuit Against E&C Foods

The Committee and co-counsel **McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP** recently reached a settlement in a Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) lawsuit filed in the District Court for the District of Columbia against E&C Foods for failure to pay minimum and overtime wages to its employees. Under the settlement, the company paid approximately \$70,000, including unpaid wages and damages for the three plaintiffs, attorney's fees and costs. The defendant also paid minimum and overtime wages owed to all of its employees.

The FLSA collective action, filed on August 4, 2011, by the Committee and co-counsel on behalf of three Latino employees of E&C Foods, alleged that the company failed to pay the employees minimum wages, and in some cases overtime wages, for a period of several years.

Public Accommodations

Committee Monitors Public Accommodations During 2012 Black Bike Week, Settles Case Against Pan American Pancake and Omelet House

For the tenth year in a row, Committee attorneys 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 2012 Black Bike Week, an annual event that draws thousands of African Americans to the Myrtle Beach area over Memorial Day weekend.

Since 2003, the Committee and co-counsel have filed and settled lawsuits against the City of Myrtle Beach and area restaurants and hotels, alleging widespread race discrimination against African Americans during Black Bike Week. Recently resolved lawsuits include those against the City of Myrtle Beach, the Sea Horn Motel, the Landmark Hotel, and Hamburger Joe's restaurant.

Two other popular restaurants are alleged to have engaged in racially discriminatory practices in 2010. Molly Darcy's restaurant closed for the duration of Black Bike Week, and has for the last several years. The Pan American Pancake and Omelet House refused to seat or serve African Americans.

In May 2011, the Committee and co-counsel **Covington & Burling LLP** and **Derfner, Altman & Wilborn LLC** filed lawsuits against the two restaurants on behalf of the NAACP and individual plaintiffs.

The case against Pan American Pancake and Omelet House was settled recently, and discovery is underway in the case against Molly Darcy's restaurant.

National Origin Discrimination Claim Against WMATA Settles

The Committee and co-counsel **Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP** recently settled a Title VI race and national origin discrimination claim brought on behalf of Manuel Zetino against the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Administration (WMATA).

Manuel Zetino filed a claim with the WMATA Office of Civil Rights, alleging that he was subjected to discrimination by a WMATA bus driver.

The driver became irate when he falsely believed Mr. Zetino had not paid his fare, referred to Mr. Zetino's Hispanic heritage and purported national origin in a derogatory manner, and finally threatened Mr. Zetino's life.

In its administrative investigation, WMATA's Office of Civil Rights found probable cause to believe discrimination had occurred. The case has been resolved.

Arrivals

New Board Members

The Washington Lawyers' Committee is pleased to welcome five new members to the Board of Directors: **David J. Ball, Jr. (Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP)**; **Stephen D. Brody (O'Melveny & Myers LLP)**; **Danielle R. Foley (Venable LLP)**; **Michael B. Shulman (Shearman & Sterling LLP)**; and **Paul M. Thompson (McDermott Will & Emery LLP)**.

At the Committee, Kent is focusing on the recruitment of new school partners, particularly for high schools, and outreach aimed at creating new partnerships for schools among law firms, firm clients, the D.C. business community, litigation support companies and associations.

Kent is a graduate of the New York University School of Law and Columbia University.

New Staff

Kent Withycombe joined the Committee as Special Counsel for the DC Public School Partnership Program in January 2012. Previously, he was a litigation partner at **Dickstein Shapiro LLP**, where he became active in the firm's partnership with the Duke Ellington School of the Arts, and Georgetown University Law Center's year-long Street Law courses taught in the DC Public Schools.

Volunteers

The Committee is fortunate to have Visiting Attorneys **Brandon Beyer** and **Cassie Webster** volunteering with its Projects this Spring. Brandon is working with the DC Prisoners' Project, and Cassie is working with the Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project. Brandon is a graduate of George Washington University School of Law (LLM), Golden Gate University School of Law (JD), and the University of California, Berkeley. Cassie is a graduate of Duke University School of Law and the University of Washington.

2012 Corporate Advisory Board Expands

The Committee's Board of Directors launched the Corporate Advisory Board (CAB) in 2010 to take full advantage of all the legal business community has to offer the Committee – perspective, advice and industry intelligence. In addition, CAB firms now work alongside the Committee's staff and co-counsel attorneys, providing legal support services to advance cases.

This year, the Board of Directors has expanded the opportunity for more companies to get involved throughout the year. The Committee offers 3 levels of CAB participation, and each provides distinct benefits and opportunities: the \$25,000 Leadership Level; \$10,000 Partner Level; and \$5,000 Associate Level.

Jay Frankl, **FTI Consulting**, serves as the CAB Chair, and Committee board members Lewis S. Wiener, **Sutherland Ashbill & Brennan LLP**, and Charles Walker, **Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP**, serve as the Board Corporate Outreach Co-Chairs.

For more information, contact Teresa_Larson@washlaw.org, or (202) 319-1000, ext. 112.

Annual Campaign

2011-2012 Annual Funding Campaign Advances

For the 2011-2012 Annual Campaign, the Committee has received contributions of \$202,737 from 24 firms and \$293,043 from 584 individuals as of June 1, 2012. These figures do not include contributions to the Committee's Wiley Branton Awards Luncheon or special gifts directed to the John 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, 2012.

The Committee acknowledges all of its contributors for their gifts to the Committee, and expresses appreciation for the service of all Associates and Partners who coordinated funding drives for the benefit of the Committee at their law firms.

In particular, we thank **Crowell & Moring LLP** attorneys for their leadership in individual giving in both the Associates Campaign and in the Combined Associate & Partner Campaign categories. We also thank especially **Wiley Rein LLP** attorneys for their leadership in individual giving in the Partners Campaign category.

2012 Founders' Reception Held May 14

Washington Lawyers' Committee co-chairs, board members, trustees, staff, and other supporters attended the Committee's 2012 Founders' Reception on May 14 at **Foley & Lardner LLP** in Washington, D.C.

Current Committee Co-Chair Ted Howard, a partner at **Wiley Rein LLP**, and the Committee's Executive Director Rod Boggs welcomed attendees to the reception and acknowledged long-time supporters who were involved in the Committee's creation, including **Steptoe & Johnson LLP** partner John Nolan. Mr. Boggs praised the vision of the Committee's founders and expressed his appreciation for the contributions that the Committee has received from its many supporters and colleagues at their law firms. He also encouraged everyone present to attend the Committee's 2012 Wiley Branton Awards Luncheon on June 19.



2012 Founders' Reception attendees included (L/R) Philip Fornaci, Director, DC Prisoners' Project, Washington Lawyers' Committee; Committee Founder, Trustee and former Co-Chair John E. Nolan, Senior Partner, Steptoe & Johnson LLP; and the Committee's Executive Director Rod Boggs.



Also attending the 2012 Founders' Reception were (L/R) Committee Trustee and former Board Member John Townsend Rich, Partner, Goodwin Procter LLP; Committee Deputy Director Rhonda Cunningham Holmes; and Committee Co-Chair Theodore A. Howard, Partner, Wiley Rein LLP.

WASHINGTON LAWYERS' COMMITTEE

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Civil Rights and Urban Affairs

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The Washington Lawyers' Committee acknowledges the following corporations and foundations for their contributions and commitments to Committee Projects and Programs this year:

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