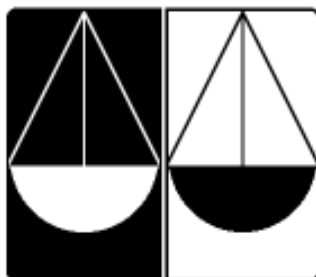


WASHINGTON LAWYERS' COMMITTEE
FOR CIVIL RIGHTS AND URBAN AFFAIRS

*2006 Wiley A. Branton
Awards Luncheon*



Tuesday, the thirteenth of June, 2006

Grand Hyatt Washington Hotel

1000 H Street, NW

Washington, DC 20001

2006 Wiley A. Branton Awards Luncheon

Thirty-eight years ago, shortly after several days of civil disturbances following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Louis F. Oberdorfer of Wilmer Cutler & Pickering enlisted John E. Nolan of Steptoe & Johnson to serve as Chair of the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights. Over a period of weeks, Nolan reached out to other leading lawyers in the area, including John W. Douglas of Covington & Burling, William D. Rogers of Arnold & Porter and Edward Bennett Williams of Williams & Connolly, to join him as directors of this new organization.

Together they formed the nucleus of what has become a strong and ever-growing network which today comprises hundreds of area lawyers and law firms, working to provide high-quality *pro bono* services on a broad range of civil rights and poverty issues in our community.

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PROGRAM

WELCOMING REMARKS
James N. Bierman, Co-Chair
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PRESENTATION OF OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT
AWARDS TO LAW FIRMS
and
PRESENTATION OF THE VINCENT E. REED AWARD
by
Roderic V.O. Boggs, Executive Director
Washington Lawyers' Committee
to
Arent Fox PLLC and Dickstein Shapiro Morin Oshinsky LLP

LUNCHEON

VIDEO PRESENTATION
"Making A Difference"

PRESENTATION OF THE ALFRED MCKENZIE AWARD
by
Benjamin F. Wilson, Beveridge & Diamond, P.C.
to
The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights
Accepting for The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights
Wade Henderson, Executive Director

PRESENTATION OF THE WILEY A. BRANTON AWARD
by
Avis E. Buchanan
Director, Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia
to
Marc L. Fleischaker, Arent Fox PLLC
by
John A. Payton, Jr., Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP
to
Roger Wilkins, George Mason University

CLOSING REMARKS
Melvin White, Co-Chair
Washington Lawyers' Committee

THE WILEY A. BRANTON AWARD



The Wiley A. Branton Award was first bestowed by the Washington Lawyers' Committee in 1989. It takes its name from Wiley A. Branton, Sr., an extraordinary man whose life embodied civil rights advocacy of the highest order.

Wiley Branton's work as a civil rights lawyer practicing in Arkansas in the 1950s, was lonely, dangerous, and heroic. He went on to a distinguished career in government service. He also served as Dean of the Howard Law

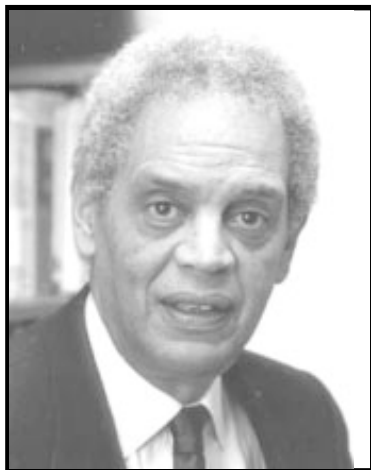
School and later, while in private practice, as a leader in several highly respected civil rights organizations. He served as Co-Chair of the Washington Lawyers' Committee in 1987 and 1988.

Wiley Branton was an inspiration to everyone who had the privilege of knowing and working with him. He personified the legal profession's ideal of *pro bono* service that is at the heart of the Washington Lawyers' Committee's mission.

The Wiley Branton Award is annually bestowed upon a member of the legal community whose lifetime efforts on behalf of civil rights advocacy exemplify the deep commitment of Wiley A. Branton, Sr.

2006 WILEY BRANTON AWARDEES

Roger W. Wilkins



Over a notable career exceeding 50 years, Roger Wilkins has been an eloquent spokesman and advocate for equal justice in our nation. From his earliest work with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Inc., following graduation from the University of Michigan Law School in 1956, Mr. Wilkins' career reflects a succession of assignments providing him with a unique opportunity to help in shaping our country's quest for racial justice and equal opportunity. These posts have included service as Assistant Attorney General under President Lyndon Johnson, membership on the Editorial Board of *The Washington Post*, where he shared a Pulitzer Prize for work on the

Watergate scandal, work as columnist and editorial writer for *The New York Times*, and most recently an appointment as the Robinson Professor of History at George Mason University.

Mr. Wilkins is the author of several noted works, including *A Man's Life* (1982), *Quiet Riots* (with Fred Harris, 1988), and *Jefferson's Pillow* (2001). He is the publisher of the NAACP's journal *Crisis* and is also a frequent commentator and analyst on public policy issues on public radio and television. He has served as Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Africa-America Institute and is a member of the Board of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Inc.

During his tenure as an appointed member of the D.C. Board of Education, the staff of the Washington Lawyers' Committee was privileged to work with Mr. Wilkins on a range of public education reform issues, experiencing at first hand the strength and depth of his commitment to assuring high-quality public education in our Nation's capital. His wise counsel has been invaluable to the Committee as it has worked to improve our schools.

As someone who knew Wiley Branton well and worked with him closely for many years, Roger Wilkins shares an intimate connection to the man for whom the Committee has named its highest award. We are thus especially proud to make this presentation to him at this year's Branton Luncheon.

Marc L. Fleischaker



As the leader of a major Washington law firm and a steadfast champion of civil rights and *pro bono* service, Marc Fleischaker's career reflects many of the qualities demonstrated so clearly in the life and work of Wiley Branton. Following his graduation from the University of Pennsylvania and George Washington University Law School, Marc joined the firm of Arent Fox in 1971, where he has served as Chair since 1997. Throughout his career, he has combined an active commercial practice with a truly notable commitment to public interest causes and strong advocacy of his firm's *pro bono* programs.

The Washington Lawyers' Committee has been the fortunate beneficiary of Marc's exceptional leadership and advocacy skills for nearly 30 years. As a founding Board Member, longtime Trustee and two-time Co-Chair, he has played a vital role in guiding the Committee as it developed new programs in the field of disability rights and expanded its work in the areas of public education reform and immigrant rights. His leadership at Arent Fox has contributed greatly to the overall strength of the firm's *pro bono* program in general and its strong support for virtually every Committee project over the years.

To a degree singular among Committee supporters, Marc has combined distinguished Board leadership with active service as a Committee co-counsel on some of its most challenging and notable cases. Among these have been class action race discrimination lawsuits involving the U.S. General Accounting Office and the Library of Congress, and a pattern and practice case challenging redlining practices in the homeowners' insurance industry. Today, he serves as lead counsel with the Committee in a case brought on behalf of thousands of women farmers challenging denials of equal access to U.S. Department of Agriculture loans and other services.

Marc's wide-ranging community work has encompassed service as chair of the Appleseed Foundation and the National Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. In all of these assignments, he has displayed the steady leadership, combining self-deprecating humor and a passionate commitment to equal justice we associate with Wiley Branton. The Committee is delighted to present Marc with the Branton Award this year.

THE ALFRED MCKENZIE AWARD



The Alfred McKenzie Award was established in 1994 to recognize Committee clients whose dedication and courage have produced civil rights victories of particular significance. It takes its name from a man whose efforts as a Committee plaintiff helped to change an institution.

During World War II, Alfred McKenzie left his entry-level position in the Government Printing Office (GPO) to join the Army Air Corps where he served with distinction as one of the famed Tuskegee Airmen. When he returned to the GPO in 1946, he was assigned to the same low-level position he had held before his military service. He then began a career-long struggle to win equal treatment for himself and his fellow African-American GPO employees.

In 1972, represented by Committee staff and the firm of Hogan & Hartson, Mr. McKenzie initiated a class action lawsuit to challenge racial discrimination against African-American pressmen at the GPO. Fifteen years later, his determination led to a landmark victory that secured a record \$2.4 million payment to hundreds of African-American workers and, even more importantly, a fundamental restructuring of personnel policies that opened the door of equal opportunity to countless minority workers.

The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights

It is most fitting that the Committee present the Alfred McKenzie Award to The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, the organization that led the successful campaign to enact the Civil Rights Act of 1972. Mr. McKenzie and the class of African-American GPO employees he led relied on that Act to strike down a pattern and practice of racial

discrimination that had persisted for generations. The Leadership Conference's role in that instance was but one part in the organization's unprecedented effort over a half-century of leading the fight for equal justice in our country.

Founded in 1950 by three giants of the civil rights movement — A. Philip Randolph, founder of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters; Roy Wilkins, Executive Secretary of the NAACP; and Arnold Aronson, of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council — the Leadership Conference quickly established itself as the largest and most effective coalition of civil rights organizations in the country. Its historic accomplishments include decisive advocacy for every major piece of civil rights legislation in the modern era. It has thus played an indispensable role in the struggle for equal opportunity in our society.

Many of the laws so ably supported by the Leadership Conference, including the Civil Rights Acts of 1964, 1972 and 1991, the Fair Housing Acts of 1968 and 1988, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, have been the primary tools used by the Committee in its civil rights representation over the past 38 years. We thus know at first hand the significance of this organization's extraordinary work. In addition, the Committee has had the good fortune to work closely with the Leadership Conference in recent months on a joint campaign to amend the D.C. Home Rule Charter to assure all children in the District of Columbia the right to a high-quality public education.

After more than fifty years of exceptional effort, the work of the Leadership Conference remains as important as ever. With the gifted leadership provided by a staff of unsurpassed skill, led by Wade Henderson, it is superbly equipped to lead the battles that lie ahead. The Committee is delighted to present this organization with the Alfred McKenzie Award.

THE VINCENT E. REED AWARD



The Vincent E. Reed Award was first presented by the Washington Lawyers' Committee in 2003. The award is given in the name of Dr. Vincent Reed, the distinguished educator whose encouragement and support were directly responsible for the

Committee's decision to establish its public education support programs.

Following his graduation from West Virginia State College and military service during the Korean War, Vincent Reed began his career as an educator in the D.C. Public Schools in 1956. Within several years, he was promoted from a teaching position to a series of important administrative posts in the school system, culminating in his appointment as D.C. School Superintendent in 1975. His appointment to this post came at a time when the local schools were experiencing enormous stress and public criticism. Dr. Reed's charismatic leadership and the rigorous educational programs he championed helped immeasurably to restore public confidence in the city's schools.

In 1978, Dr. Reed met with the staff of the Washington Lawyers' Committee and encouraged them to seek law firm volunteers to serve as legal counsel for parent leaders at a dozen public schools in Southeast Washington. This initial effort became the basis for the Committee's representation of Parents United for the D.C. Public Schools and the D.C. Public School/Law Firm Partnership Program, which now operates in 45 schools across the city.

Following his tenure as D.C. School Superintendent, Dr. Reed went on to serve as an Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education at the U.S. Department of Education and as Vice President for Communications at the Washington Post Company.

Arent Fox PLLC

The Arent Fox relationship with Randle Highlands Elementary School in Southeast Washington began in 1999. This very special pairing has brought together a committed group of volunteers with a school community that is tremendously appreciative of their support and friendship. Not only does the firm provide needed academic support through a reading program and financial assistance to the school for programs, but it has also worked with Randle Highlands parents offering workshops on legal issues including home buying, public benefits, domestic violence and employment issues. The design competition for its annual holiday card, which features artwork by the school's students, is another activity of this partnership. The Committee's successful GeoPlunge Geography Tournament was led by an Arent Fox attorney who created the game. The willingness to enrich the lives of children beyond the walls of their school is a hallmark of this firm.

Dickstein Shapiro Morin & Oshinsky LLP

Dickstein Shapiro Morin & Oshinsky's school partnership with Duke Ellington School of the Arts has been in existence for more than ten years. Expanding from weekly visits to teach Street Law classes to a full blown partnership has been an exciting development for the firm and the school. This partnership creates opportunities for lawyers to have a wide range of conversations with high school students. The students are interested in intellectual property and contracts, and the Dickstein attorneys help these young artists prepare for the real world of the arts they are likely to enter. In addition, the firm annually provides the opportunity for four students and one faculty member to attend an intensive two-week arts course at the Anderson Ranch Arts Center in Snowmass Village, Colorado, to enhance their skills as artists.

2006 OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Equal Employment Opportunity

Covington & Burling

The firm of Covington & Burling joined the Committee in the litigation of three significant EEO cases over the past year. In one of these matters – a race and retaliation case against USAID – a final settlement and monetary payment have been made following a trial court victory and appeal. In a second matter, involving disability discrimination claims against a local university, Covington was able to negotiate a swift settlement even before discovery began. In the third matter, a class action challenging the failure of the U.S. Postal Service to provide appropriate sign language interpreters to thousands of deaf employees nationwide at critical meetings, including meetings following the anthrax crisis in 2001, an intensive discovery schedule has just been completed. The excellent work of Covington attorneys has been instrumental in the progress achieved in each of these cases.

Heller, Huron, Chertkof, Lerner, Simon & Salzman, PLLC

In a case that raised critical issues for the growing immigrant community in the Washington Metropolitan area, the Committee along with the law firm of Heller, Huron, Chertkof, Lerner, Simon & Salzman brought and successfully resolved a suit on behalf of Jesus Romero, an immigrant from El Salvador. Mr. Romero was a dishwasher at a large hotel chain for fifteen years before the hotel instituted an illegal English fluency requirement. As a result of the new policy, Mr. Romero was summarily fired, even though he had always performed his job well. Setting a precedent for employers around the area, the settlement of this case included not only \$50,000 in back pay

and damages for Mr. Romero, as well as attorneys' fees, but also an extensive consent decree that prohibits the defendant from imposing English fluency rules, requires the training of management on national origin discrimination and the impact of English fluency rules, and requires the distribution of non-discrimination policies in Spanish as well as English to hourly employees. In this way, the settlement helped ensure economic opportunity for the increasing number of people in this community whose native language is not English and whose jobs do not require English fluency, but who are often penalized based on their national origin.

Fair Housing

Gilbert Heintz & Randolph LLP

Relman & Associates

The firms of Gilbert Heintz & Randolph and Relman & Associates served as lead co-counsel representing the National Fair Housing Alliance and several regional fair housing groups, including the Equal Rights Center, in two cases raising serious allegations of racial discrimination in the provision of homeowners insurance by a major national company. At the conclusion of several years of intense litigation, the cases were settled to the satisfaction of all parties. These cases are part of a series of groundbreaking challenges to discrimination in connection with homeowners insurance brought by NFHA in recent years. Taken together, these cases have had a profound impact on correcting a longstanding national problem.

McDermott Will & Emery LLP

Demonstrating long-time commitment to the Washington Lawyers' Committee, and pro bono service to the community, a team of lawyers from McDermott, Will & Emery, led by Melvin White and William Hagedorn successfully settled the largest Section 8 "Source of Income" discrimination matter to date. The lawsuit alleged that

Sawyer Realty Holdings and its affiliates engaged in discriminatory conduct in violation of the D.C. Human Rights Act by refusing to rent otherwise affordable housing in the District of Columbia to holders of Section 8 vouchers. The McDermott, Will & Emery team obtained an Agreed Settlement Order from the defendants prohibiting future discrimination against voucher holders, requiring notice of vacancies in affordable housing to fair housing organizations, the implementation of a company-wide anti-discrimination policy by the defendants, and a \$130,000 payment to the plaintiff, the Equal Rights Center.

Public Accommodations

Hogan & Hartson L.L.P.

A team of Hogan & Hartson lawyers joined the Committee in representing the NAACP and its Conway branch in a series of lawsuits challenging the failure of three leading restaurants in Myrtle Beach to serve African-American customers during Black Bike Week. As a result of the firm's vigorous advocacy, far-reaching settlements have been reached in each of these cases, guaranteeing non-discriminatory treatment for African-American customers and payment of substantial monetary damages.

Steptoe & Johnson LLP

As the result of a nearly three-year legal struggle waged on behalf of the NAACP, a team of Steptoe & Johnson lawyers secured a landmark settlement on February 4, 2006, requiring the City of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, to end a longstanding policy of racial discrimination affecting thousands of African-American visitors attending an annual Black Bike Week event. The result was achieved after one of the most vigorously contested lawsuits in the Committee's history,

during which Steptoe & Johnson won a preliminary injunction holding that race was a motivating factor in the City's decision to adopt a restrictive traffic policy for Black Bike Week.

Disability Rights

Hogan & Hartson L.L.P.

Last year, Hogan devoted countless hours and resources on two remarkable cases with the Disability Rights Project, both of which resulted in landmark settlements that provide critically important and precedential guidance on the obligations of retailers to people with disabilities.

The first of these cases produced two settlements addressing for the first time nationally the emergency evacuation needs of persons with disabilities from places of public accommodation. Under two high-profile agreements, the major discount retailer Marshalls will provide accessible evacuation routes for shoppers with disabilities in each of its 697 stores nationwide, and a local mall will do the same. The settlements were preceded by a ground-breaking decision in the case declaring that the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that places of public accommodation, including landlord malls and tenant stores, consider the needs of people with disabilities in developing emergency evacuation plans. The importance of this decision and these settlements on the safety of people with disabilities nationwide cannot be overstated.

Hogan also assisted in the negotiation of an historic settlement with RadioShack, one of the nation's leading electronics retailers. The settlement applies to the more than 5,000 stores owned and operated by RadioShack nationwide, and is the first to address a crucial new issue in disability rights – access to interactive electronic displays, such as displays for camcorders, PDAs, music keyboards, wireless phones, internet centers, digital cameras and laptop and desktop computers. This pioneering settlement will go far to ensure that individuals with disabilities can enjoy access to this important new retail device in RadioShack stores nationwide, and will also serve as a model for other electronics retailers.

Howrey LLP

Howrey LLP served as co-counsel with the Disability Rights Project in a case resulting in a milestone settlement with the Washington Hospital Center, the District's largest hospital serving the general public. The case alleged that patients with disabilities had been unable to access standard medical treatment due to the inaccessibility of Washington Hospital Center's medical facilities, such as patient rooms, examination rooms, examination tables and other medical equipment, as well as inadequacies in policies and procedures to ensure that patients with spinal cord injuries and other disabilities received the assistance they needed to eat, drink and otherwise care for themselves. Under this settlement, the Hospital Center will greatly increase the number and quality of accessible patient and examination rooms, purchase accessible examination tables for every Department, survey all of its equipment and purchase additional accessible equipment, and promulgate procedures and policies, including specific procedures for patients with spinal cord injuries. The tremendous impact of this settlement, one of the first in the country to address access to hospital facilities and equipment, is underscored by the fact that the U.S. Department of Justice intervened at the settlement, and will monitor compliance with the settlement terms.

Immigrant and Refugee Rights

Heller Ehrman LLP

Last fall, attorneys from Heller Ehrman responded to an urgent appeal for a legal analysis of immigration and Virginia law for Reston Interfaith, a northern Virginia nonprofit social services organization supporting the operation of a center for day laborers in Herndon, Virginia. In the face of widespread community opposition, the town ultimately approved the center, which opened at the end of 2005 despite legal challenges to the expenditure of tax money for the center. Heller Ehrman continues to serve as legal counsel to Reston Interfaith regarding an ongoing lawsuit and compliance issues at the center.

Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP

Since 2003, attorneys from the Washington, D.C. office of Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton have gained asylum for twelve refugees and derivative asylum for three more refugees from Ethiopia, Guinea, Haiti, Liberia, Cameroon, Colombia, Somalia and Nepal. Cleary Gottlieb attorneys currently represent eight other refugees before immigration judges, the Board of Immigration Appeals, the Fourth Circuit, and other jurisdictions. In 2004, the firm's lawyers won primary and derivative asylum for a Guinean family who had opposed the imposition of female genital mutilation (FMG) on the daughters in the family and had been threatened because of their involvement in anti-FMG educational efforts. The firm now is helping a family to establish a nonprofit organization to provide information and assistance to African women in the U.S. confronting FMG and other issues. In 2005, Cleary Gottlieb attorneys successfully litigated the case of a young woman from Liberia, establishing that she suffered severe past persecution during the Charles Taylor regime and that an exception to the one-year filing deadline applied, despite the fact that the Taylor regime was no longer in power. Overall, since 2003, Cleary Gottlieb's Washington office has devoted more than 10,000 hours to pro bono immigration matters.

Goodwin Procter LLP

Attorneys from Goodwin Procter have devoted hundreds of hours in representing asylum seekers from Cameroon, Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). After attending the Project's political asylum training, a Goodwin Procter attorney successfully represented a Sudanese medical student. The Arlington Asylum Office granted asylum to the young woman, who was targeted by the government because of her participation in a prohibited political party. Subsequently, the attorney mentored a colleague who gained asylum from the Arlington Asylum Office for a young man from Cameroon. Recently, through the efforts of a Goodwin Procter attorney, a student from DRC threatened because of her Rwandan ethnicity received a final grant of asylum.

Winston & Strawn LLP

Winston & Strawn attorneys have represented several asylum seekers over the past two years and secured asylum for persons from Cameroon, Ethiopia and Rwanda. In 2005 the Board of Immigration Appeals granted asylum to one client, a student from Rwanda who was arrested because of his alleged anti-government views as well as his uncle's involvement in an opposition party. The Immigration Judge had earlier denied asylum, citing credibility issues. His successful appeal resulted in the reversal of the immigration court decision and an immediate grant of asylum. Two other attorneys from the firm gained asylum for a former government employee from Ethiopia who was arrested because of so-called anti-government activities. A team of attorneys obtained asylum from the Arlington Asylum Office for a Cameroonian activist who had been arrested and tortured on account of his advocacy for the rights of the English-speaking minority.

Public Education

Baker & McKenzie LLP

When asked what Baker & McKenzie meant to his school, Principal Dennis Homesley says, "Everything. Whatever we need, they are there to help us." Whether it is providing school uniforms, personal hygiene kits for all of the 6th grade girls, visits to the firm for a Halloween party, money for trips, school supplies, or sponsorship of Grandparent Appreciation Day, the firm has made a tremendous impact at Payne Elementary School. The firm's generous contributions from its Bake Sale "auction" are a welcomed resource at Payne. When a kindergarten student was lost in a fire that destroyed the family's home, the firm stepped in and supported the family, touching not only the lives of that one family, but an entire school community and sealing an already strong friendship.

Sidley Austin LLP

Sidley Austin has played the leading role in the drafting of and advocacy for an education rights amendment to the District of Columbia's Home Rule Charter, the D.C. equivalent of a state constitution. The proposed provision would guarantee the District's children the right to high quality public schools. Lawyers at Sidley have devoted hundreds of hours in advocacy for the measure. Their efforts have included the preparation of extensive legal memoranda, appearances at public meetings, and the delivery of testimony before the D.C. Council. The Charter Amendment is a direct outgrowth of earlier work greatly aided by lawyers at Fulbright & Jaworski and a team of law students at the American University Law School, which resulted in the publication of a special report, "*Separate and Unequal, the State of the D.C. Public Schools Fifty Years After Brown and Bolling.*"

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The Committee would like to note its special gratitude to the following firms that provided total support for its 2004/2005 Funding Drive at levels equal to or above the figure of \$100 per lawyer per firm.

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2004-2005
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