

Partners Unlimited Bulletin Board

Fall
2015

D.C. PUBLIC
SCHOOL
PARTNERSHIP
PROGRAM



*Savoy Elementary 5th graders at their
Black and White Ball*

Beveridge & Diamond Sponsors Black & White Ball For Savoy 5th Graders

Law firms often help make completing elementary school a proud milestone for students from their partner schools.

This year, **Beveridge & Diamond** helped establish the tradition of a Black and White Ball for Savoy Elementary School.

The Savoy faculty felt that their students should have experience with dressing up and ballroom dancing before going on to middle school. After a sit-down dinner in which parents participated, the 5th graders danced to rhythm and blues music provided by a DJ. The black and white theme was carried out in what the students wore as well as decorations for the event.

Funds to pay for the dinner and decorations came from the funds raised by Beveridge & Diamond at the 2015 Cooking for Kids Bake Sale. Everyone at the firm who has taken part in partnership activities is very proud of Savoy's Class of 2015.

(Continued on page 7)

New Toolkit Will Support Enrichment And Parent Involvement

In addition to the welcome resources provided by numerous law firms, parents and guardians of students at many of our partner schools are eagerly looking for ways to increase academic and other enrichment programs at their schools, including: projects and tournaments promoting literacy, math, science, and history; field trips; theater and concert performances; arts, music and sports activities; and more.

The Committee's Education Project is developing resources that will make it easier for firms to collaborate with parent groups to organize and increase resources for these kinds of enrichment activities at their partner schools.

Under the leadership of Nathan Darling and Margo Ludmer at **Beveridge & Diamond**, and with the pro bono assistance of a working group that includes attorneys from **Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld**; **Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson**; **Dentons**; and **Squire Patton Boggs**, the Education Project is preparing a *School Partnership NonProfit Organization Guide & Toolkit* to be published this fall.

(Continued on page 10)

Check the Board

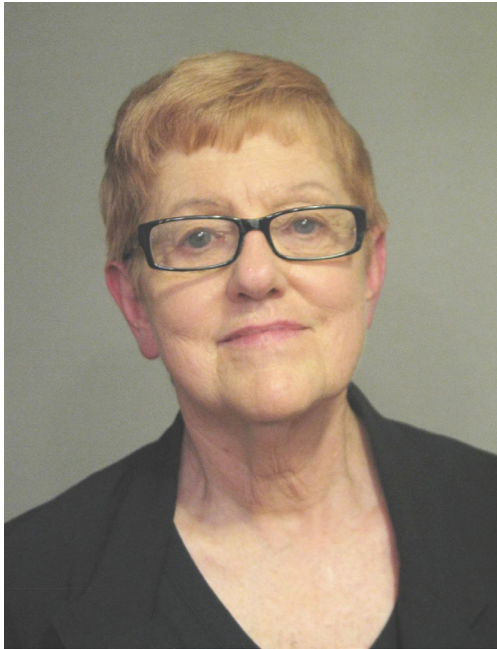
Program Perspective	2
A Partner's Story.....	3
Newsworthy Events.....	4
Marking Milestones	6
Creative Connections.....	8
School Partnership List.....	11
Contributors	12



WASHINGTON LAWYERS' COMMITTEE
FOR CIVIL RIGHTS AND URBAN AFFAIRS

P R O G R A M

E R S P E C T I V E



Elinor Hart
Coordinator
DC Public School
Partnership Program

As we begin another DC public school partnership year, there are several reasons to be optimistic. One is the energy and enthusiasm that the promise of a new school year brings.

Perkins Coie is launching a new tutoring program at Powell and **K&L Gates** has begun a peer mediation program at Bancroft. In addition, students, teachers and coaches all over the city are preparing for the ever-popular annual citywide GeoPlunge Geography Tournament in November.

I am also struck by the ongoing success of our many longtime law firm/school partnership activities. For example, this is the 18th year that

students from the Ellington School of the Arts will compete to design **Dickstein Shapiro's** holiday card. For eight years, **Sutherland** attorneys and staff have been involved in preparing Columbia Heights students for college.

It's wonderful to see the impact that partnership activities can make on students' lives. The 4th grader chosen to address the "graduating" class at Orr Elementary had developed his speaking skills while preparing for the oratorical competition that **Zuckerman Spaeder** made possible for students at that school. Funds for the plaques presented at the graduation ceremony and refreshments that followed were raised at the firm's Cooking for Kids Bake Sale.

Speaking of memorable fifth-grade occasions, **Beveridge & Diamond** helped Savoy Elementary School establish the tradition of a Black and White Ball, a 5th grade prom. The firm raised funds for the dinner and the decorations at the ball during their annual March bake sale.

Finally, the holiday card competition, **Sutherland** Junior College, the Stanton calendar for **Pepper Hamilton** and many other partnership activities show how mutually beneficial these relationships are for both schools and firms.

I know that as the school year unfolds, our partnerships will prove how farsighted my optimism has been. Here's to a wonderful year for our school partnerships, and many thanks to the law firms and agencies that are making them possible!

Elinor Hart
Coordinator
DC Public School Partnership Program

A P A R T N E R ' S

The Washington office of **Hogan Lovells** began its partnership with Kimball Elementary School in 2013. Since then, our team has grown, the scope of our activities at Kimball has broadened, and our passion for working with the Kimball children has strengthened.

Momentum intensified earlier this year after the launch of our global citizenship policy, which asks Hogan Lovells employees worldwide to contribute at least 25 hours each year to good citizenship activities through our five programs: pro bono legal services, diversity and inclusion, community volunteering, matched charitable giving, and environmental sustainability.

In addition to setting an hour-based expectation, the policy boosts awareness of volunteer opportunities, promotes teamwork, and provides flexible arrangements to make it easier for our people to get involved.

We are delighted to see the positive effects of this new policy and approach on our relationship with Kimball Elementary.

Enrollment in our ongoing programs with the school has expanded, and volunteers are returning from activities inspired with ideas for new ways to use their skills and interests to benefit the students.

During August 2015 alone, we recruited at least 20 new volunteers to mentor students through Reading Partners, sent over 30 volunteers to help beautify the school grounds in preparation for the upcoming school year, and delivered 100 backpacks funded, purchased, and filled with supplies by firm personnel.

September and October will bring even more opportunity for student engagement with the launch of a new Girls on the Run team sponsorship as well as renewed efforts to



Erika Bowman
Project and Citizenship
Coordinator
Hogan Lovells

coach the children in U.S. geography in preparation for the annual citywide GeoPlunge tournament.

We aim to be as bold in supporting our community as we are in serving our clients at Hogan Lovells.

We are thrilled to see the positive impact of our involvement with the children and administrators at Kimball Elementary.

Erika Bowman
Project and Citizenship Coordinator
Hogan Lovells

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O
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Y



Just before the championship round in the May 2015 GeoPlunge Tournament, the Savoy team, which went on to win the round, gives the school chant.

Students and Coaches Preparing for Fall GeoPlunge Tournament

The Fall 2015 citywide GeoPlunge Challenge Tournament will be held on Tuesday, November 17 from 8:45 AM to 2:45 PM at the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery on the corner of 7th and F Streets, NW, in Washington DC. Three-person teams made up of students in grades 3 - 8 will be welcomed from all DC public elementary and middle schools to participate in the annual geography tournament. A separate Spring 2016 GeoPlunge tournament will be held on May 17 at the National Portrait Gallery.

GeoPlunge is an award-winning set of geography card games created by **Arent Fox** attorney Alan Fishel. The tournament includes three different games that combine geography and fun. *Guess the State* encourages students to learn the names of the 50 states. Playing *Race for the Borders* teaches participants where states are located geographically. When students *Play the Ranks*, they learn how the states rank in size, population and order of entry into the union.

The Committee's DC Public School Partnership Program, Arent Fox, and the DC Public Schools sponsor the tournament. The Committee and Arent Fox are also actively recruiting coaches and sponsors for GeoPlunge teams from individual schools.

Students will be playing with new and improved cards that were distributed before the spring tournament last May. The cards now have questions about the students' hometown of Washington, DC. There is also information about bodies of waters, additional geographic features, and sports.

(Continued on page 10)

Law Firm Volunteers Help Prepare Schools For Arrival of Students

Even though there was no official DCPS Beautification Day this summer, volunteers from **Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft** and **Hogan Lovells** spent a Saturday in August helping to prepare Jefferson Academy and Kimball Elementary for the school year.

At Jefferson Academy, 15 Cadwalader volunteers spruced up classrooms and halls. They made posters for bulletin boards and painted educational sayings on hallway walls. On the grounds of Jefferson, DC United professional soccer team players and staff were also hard at work. And DC United's mascot, Talon, entertained all volunteers wherever they were working.

At Kimball Elementary School, 30 volunteers from Hogan Lovells carried out a variety of tasks both inside and outside of the school. They worked on the garden and painted a new logo on the school's mascot. They also arranged books and other supplies for teacher classrooms.



Volunteers from Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft at Jefferson Academy. L/R Back Row: Kendra Clayton, Dan Tynan, Natalie Mitchell, Liz Mickle and Drew Calabro. Second Row: Principal Natalie Gordon, Courtney Splawn and Laura Raphael. Front Row: Laura's niece, Heather, and her two granddaughters, Anna and Alex, Sasha Toussaint and Alex Tirrell.

Savoy's GeoPlunge Team Has Part in Symposium

Savoy's GeoPlunge Team and coaches from **Beveridge & Diamond** took part in a Geospatial Symposium at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center.

In June, GeoPlunge teams from Savoy and Murch Elementary Schools demonstrated GeoPlunge games at the U.S. Geospatial Intelligence Foundation Symposium, and they taught GeoPlunge to symposium organizers.

(Continued in next column)

The Savoy and Murch students also had the opportunity to visit the symposium exhibits. Beveridge & Diamond treated the Savoy students to lunch at Carmines on 7th Street.

"Both of the teams from Murch and Savoy had a wonderful time demonstrating the new Geoplunge game for many groups," reports Laura Duvall, one of Savoy's coaches. "It was kids' day at the Symposium and the teams really enjoyed seeing the various exhibits, tasting the free food, and collecting the toy giveaways that were available."



Members of Savoy's GeoPlunge team at the U.S. Geospatial Intelligence Foundation Symposium.



Kym-Danny Francis, speaker at Orr Elementary School graduation.

Zuckerman Spaeder Supports Graduation At Orr Elementary

Zuckerman Spaeder helped make graduation special for Orr Elementary School's fifth-grade class of 2015. For the second year in a row, the firm provided engraved awards for the valedictorian, salutatorian, and winner of the Barack Obama award for "making exemplary behavioral progress." Zuckerman Spaeder also provided the refreshments for the reception that followed the graduation ceremony.

As Eleanor Smith, the firm's partnership coordinator, reports, "It was fantastic to see that a 4th grader we had worked with for several years had been selected to speak to the graduates about the meaning of the special day."

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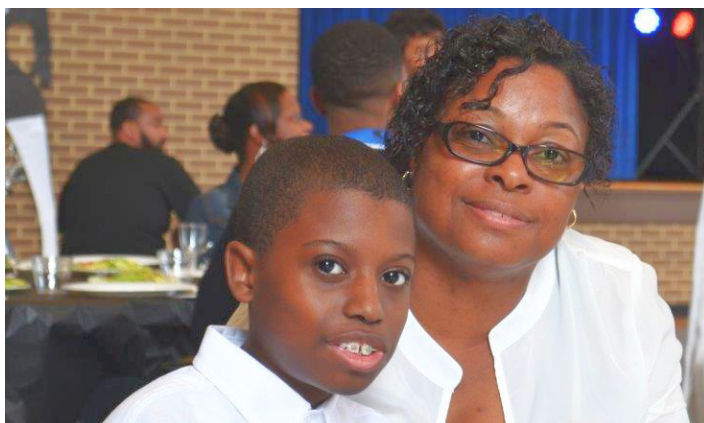
The fourth grader was Kym-Danny Francis, an enthusiastic member of the school's GeoPlunge team and a competitor in the Frederick Douglass Oratorical Contest.

"Knowledge is Power," declared the 4th-grade orator to the graduating fifth graders. "I encourage you to seek knowledge as your journey continues beyond middle and high school into college or university, and further if possible. Learn new things. Experience new things. I congratulate you and wish you lots of knowledge and success as you continue to travel the road of education."

The picture of Kym-Danny Francis shows him in his costume for the Frederick Douglass Oratorical Contest. His costume was one of 2 that were created for the contest by Zuckerman Spaeder attorney Nina Falvello.



Girls at Savoy's Black & White Ball.



Kenyatta Robinson and his mother at Savoy's Black & White Ball.

Beveridge & Diamond Sponsors Black & White Ball For Savoy 5th Graders (Cont'd)

As Arnold Hall, who coordinated the firm's bake sale and is involved in many other activities at the school, says, "We have worked with these students on reading, GeoPlunge geography, environmental classes, field/boat trips, etc. They will be graduating with honors and experiences outside the classroom that should help them continue to grow and be very productive. They went camping and boating, won two championships in citywide geography tournaments, met and talked with a judge during a visit to our firm and have been exposed to a host of other positive experiences. They are smart and talented, and, we are proud and honored to have had an opportunity to work with them."

Backpacks provided by Hogan Lovells For Kimball and Other Schools

In late August, volunteers from **Hogan Lovells** brought 100 well-stocked backpacks to Kimball Elementary School, where they have already been put to good use.

Providing backpacks for Kimball was part of the firm's annual "Backpacks for Kids" drive. This yearly event involves a team of 200 people who raised funds to purchase backpacks and fill them with school supplies.

This past summer, the Hogan Backpack Team delivered 500 stocked backpacks to schools in the DC area.

Sutherland Marks 8th Year Of Mentoring and Internships For High School Students

Four seniors from the Columbia Heights Education Campus spent this past summer working at **Sutherland** in a variety of departments. During this school year, they are returning to the firm every week for Sutherland Junior College (SJC) sessions. At the beginning of the fall semester, the sessions are focused on SAT preparation. As soon as they take the SAT tests, the students will begin working with their Sutherland mentors on college applications and the all-important essays. Then in the Spring, students and their mentors will be concentrating on scholarships and financial aid. The co-directors of Sutherland Junior College are Lillian Forero and Kristin Rininger.

The program is designed for students whose grades are high enough to meet admission requirements, yet they may believe that college is financially or academically out of reach, have concerns about the cultural implications of going away to college, or simply not know enough about opportunities to be motivated to prepare for college. Many SJC graduates are the first in their families to attend college, and many are the children of immigrants.

During the past summer, the Columbia Heights students had assignments which gave them opportunities to enhance their computer, research, and presentation skills, and they worked in many parts of the firm, including human resources, the library, and the catering department.

(Continued on page 9)



Hogan volunteers delivering backpacks to Kimball Elementary School: Jennifer Pew (Left/Front) and Charlene McCalip (Right/Back).



Dickstein Shapiro's 2014 holiday card designed by Ellington student Jermaine Carter.

Student Designed Holiday Card An 18-Year Tradition for Dickstein Shapiro

Attorneys and staff at **Dickstein Shapiro** will soon be deciding which student-created design will become the firm's 2015 holiday card. They will choose from some 100 drawings submitted by Visual Arts students at their partner school, Ellington School of the Arts.

The drawings will line the walls of Dickstein's largest conference room where all employees who work at the firm's Washington office will have the opportunity to vote for the winning entries. Their votes as well as those of Dickstein employees who work in the firm's other five offices will determine the first-, second-, and third-place winners.

In 2012, Ellington's principal Rory Pullens happened to visit Dickstein's Los Angeles offices when employees there were voting on the card design. According to him, the competition provides a wonderful opportunity for all of the students who participate, whether or not they are one of the winners.

Prizes will be awarded to the winners at a December reception, and a donation will be made to Ellington's Visual Art Department. The winning design will appear on electronic cards that will be sent to thousands of people in December. It will also be displayed on the firm's website. Dickstein's 2015 holiday card will be the firm's 18th card designed by an Ellington student.

The winner of the 2014 competition was Jermaine Carter, who was then a junior. His design, which he calls "Blue," is shown above.

Pepper Hamilton Uses Art From Stanton Elementary To Create Calendars

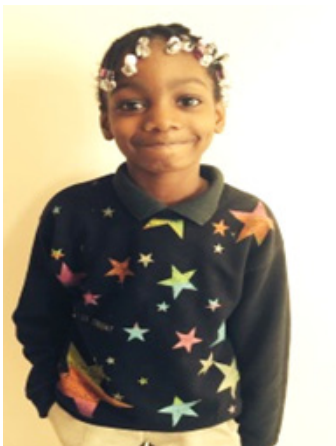
For several years, **Pepper Hamilton** sponsored a holiday card contest among the students at its partner school, Stanton Elementary. Trudy Clark, who coordinates the firm's school partnership, was always impressed with how many outstanding drawings were submitted, and she regretted that the firm was sharing the artwork of only one student. Then in 2014, she came up with a way to share the creativity of 12 students and, at the same time, raise money for the school.

In a few weeks, Pepper Hamilton will be asking attorneys and staff and many others to support Stanton by purchasing a very handsome 2016 calendar.

The art for the 2015 calendar was created by students in grades 3, 4, and 5, and students in those grades will be competing again this year. The challenging task of selecting the art for the calendar will be handled by a panel of five judges.

After the 12 winning drawings are selected, volunteers from Pepper Hamilton will present certificates and gift bags filled with art supplies to the winning artists.

Stanton is a school determined to close the achievement gap for low-income students. And it is succeeding. Test scores in math have more than tripled, and they have doubled in reading. Pepper Hamilton has had a partnership with Stanton Elementary for over 25 years. In addition to art projects, the firm has been involved in tutoring and peer mediation.



Heaven Nash, Stanton 3rd grader who created calendar art for the month of March.



Calendar art created by Stanton Elementary student Heaven Nash.

Sutherland Marks 8th Year Of Mentoring and Internships For High School Students (Cont'd)

Their summer at Sutherland was not all work, however. There were educational field trips to places like the Supreme Court and the Library of Congress, fun excursions, like going to Lucky Strike at Gallery Place for bowling; and there were visits to college campuses with their mentors. The SJC summer program has been developed and coordinated by Kristen Koneczny, who reports that by the end of their internship, the students are "confident and poised."

Over the past eight years, SJC graduates have attended many area colleges including John Hopkins University, University of Maryland, George Washington, University of Virginia, and George Mason University. They have also attended schools as far away as Middlebury College in Vermont, Wake Forest University in North Carolina, and the University of Wisconsin.

"We are very proud of our Sutherland Junior College Program and the students who have participated in it," says Sutherland Partner and Committee Co-Chair Lew Wiener. "We are grateful for the rewards it provides, not only to our attorney mentors, but to our entire firm. SJC makes us part of the Columbia Heights community, and the internships make the students part of our Sutherland family. The achievements of the SJC students are ours as well, and we look forward to sharing many more of them."



Noyes team at the May GeoPlunge Tournament.

Students and Coaches Preparing for Fall GeoPlunge Tournament (Cont'd)

Schools can register for the fall tournament through the Arent Fox website. The firm will again be the resource for training sessions for teachers and law firm coaches, and for up-to-date cards and tournament rules.

Training sessions on October 6 and 8 will be held at 5:00pm at Arent Fox, 1717 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036. Anyone planning to attend a training session should contact Alan Fishel at: fishel.alan@arentfox.com.

Another resource for teachers and coaches is the training manual developed by Laura Duvall and Arnold Hall from **Beveridge & Diamond**. Laura and Arnold have been coaching students from Savoy Elementary School for several years.

Savoy teams took top honors in the Elementary Division in the most recent fall and spring tournaments.

To get a copy of the manual, contact Arnold Hall at Beveridge & Diamond (202-789-6000) or Elinor Hart at Elinor_hart@washlaw.org.

New Toolkit Will Support Enrichment And Parent Involvement (Cont'd)

The Guide and Toolkit are designed to achieve two goals.

The first goal is to expand academic enrichment opportunities for students attending DC Public Schools.

The second goal is to increase the number of parents and guardians involved with their children's education at each school.

The Guide and Toolkit will help law firms, schools, parent organizations, and other community partners decide which nonprofit vehicle best suits their tax-exempt fundraising needs—and then implement it.

The Guide will analyze and compare different tax-exempt nonprofit organization options for DCPS schools and their parent organizations, identifying pros, cons, and other issues to consider.

The corresponding Toolkit will provide practical advice on how to establish and maintain fundraising mechanisms for schools and/or their parent organizations, including specific resources, forms, and contacts.



Hogan volunteers working in the garden at Kimball Elementary School: Ivahna Evans (right) and Keelin Cronin.

PARTNERSHIPS

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld
Tyler Elementary School

Arent Fox
Randle Highlands Elementary School
Eastern Senior High School

Baker Botts
Roosevelt High School

Beveridge & Diamond
Savoy Elementary School

Bracewell & Giuliani
Brightwood Elementary School

Bryan Cave
Burroughs Education Campus

BuckleySandler
Cleveland Elementary School

Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft
Jefferson Academy Middle School

Carr Maloney
Seaton Elementary School

Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton
McKinley Technology High School

Coburn & Greenbaum
Incarcerated Youth Program

Covington & Burling
Cardozo Senior High School

Crowell & Moring
Plummer Elementary School

Deloitte
Raymond Education Campus

Dickstein Shapiro
Ellington School of the Arts

DLA Piper
Thomas Elementary School

Drinker Biddle & Reath
Ann Beers Elementary School

The Eaton Law Firm
Incarcerated Youth Program

Epstein Becker & Green
Langley STEM Education Campus

Federal Highway Administration
Payne Elementary School

Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson
School Without Walls High School

FTI Consulting
Tyler Elementary School

Gilbert
Eliot-Hine Middle School

Goodwin Procter
West Education Campus

Hogan Lovells
Kimball Elementary School

Hollingsworth
Garrison Elementary School



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K&L Gates
Bancroft Elementary School

Kelley Drye & Warren
Noyes Education Campus

Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton
Middle School at Cardozo Education Campus

Kirkland & Ellis
Marie Reed Elementary School

McDermott Will & Emery
Stuart-Hobson Middle School

O'Melveny & Myers
Washington Metropolitan High School

Paul Hastings
Garfield Elementary School

Paul Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison
Anacostia Senior High School

Pepper Hamilton
Stanton Elementary School

Perkins Coie
Powell Elementary School

Pierce Atwood
Patterson Elementary School

Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman
Luke Moore High School

Price Benowitz
Incarcerated Youth Program

Reed Smith
Bruce Monroe at Park View Elementary School

Savills Studley
Hendley Elementary School

Shearman & Sterling
Ketcham Elementary School

Sidley Austin
Thomson Elementary School

Squire Patton Boggs
School Without Walls/Francis Stevens Education Campus

Stephoe & Johnson
H.D. Cooke Elementary School

Sutherland Asbill & Brennan
Columbia Heights Education Campus

Tower Legal Solutions
Turner Elementary School

U.S. Courts for the District of Columbia Circuit
J.O. Wilson Elementary School

U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
J.O. Wilson Elementary School

Venable
Kelly Miller Middle School

Veris Consulting
Ludlow Taylor Elementary School

Williams & Connolly
Dunbar Senior High School

Zuckerman Spaeder
Orr Elementary School

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2015-2016 **SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP** **DATES**

September 25, 2015

Fall School Partnership Luncheon
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld

Thursday, October 1, 2015

John Burke Pro Bono Breakfast
Grand Hyatt Washington Hotel

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

11th Annual Citywide GeoPlunge Tournament
National Portrait Gallery

Monday, November 30, 2015

Celebration of Song Benefit Raffle and Concert
Theater J

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