

Partners Unlimited Bulletin Board

Spring
2014

D.C. PUBLIC
SCHOOL
PARTNERSHIP
PROGRAM



Alicia Rubio from Goodwin Procter with Donnie, her 3rd grade reading buddy from West Education Campus.

Mix of Reading, Tutoring Programs Involve Hundreds of Volunteers From Firms and Agencies

Over a dozen law firms are involved in tutoring and reading to students in elementary grades. These efforts include programs developed by law firms and their partner schools as well as activities sponsored and coordinated by nonprofit organizations.

For example, over the past three years, **Goodwin Procter** has been working with 3rd graders at West Education Campus on the Good Read Program, created by the firm in consultation with teachers and administrators at the school.

Once a month more than a dozen Goodwin Procter volunteers, both attorneys and staff, visit the school to read with their student buddies, read the journal entries by students about the books they have read, and help the students improve their writing skills.

Between visits, the 3rd graders read books and write book reports in their journals and in letters to their Goodwin Procter volunteers. The volunteers then write back to their reading buddies at West.

“This communication allowed my students to develop strong relationships with their Good Read buddies,” explained a 3rd grade teacher at the end of the initial year of the program. (Continued on page 10)

Fried Frank Promotes Literacy At School Without Walls

Even though the School Without Walls is one of the area’s highest achieving schools, encouraging greater literacy is an important tradition for the school and its partner firm, **Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver, & Jacobson**.

For the past 15 years, the firm has rewarded students at the School without Walls for reading 25 or more books on the school’s reading list. This year, students who read at least 25 books earned a Barnes & Noble gift card. The student who read the most books won an iPad tablet computer.

Every summer, the reading list is tweaked to accommodate new books. The list includes fiction, non-fiction, classics and contemporary books.

The book prizes are handed out at an annual Walls recognition program held at Fried Frank in late spring.

Another way that the School Without Walls works to develop a high degree of literacy in its students is by requiring them to do a significant amount of writing, including a senior research paper. Fried Frank volunteers help the teachers grade the senior papers.

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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

The 2013-14 school year has been a productive one for the DC Public School Partnership Program. For that we credit the remarkable efforts of our school partners.

It is wonderful to see the rich variety of partnership activities that helps DC public school students achieve academically. **Goodwin Procter's** Good Read Program, now in its 3rd year at West offers an example of activities that were developed to meet the specific needs of a particular school and an individual law firm.

Buckley Sandler's tutoring effort at Walker Jones is another example of an activity that addresses the particular needs of one school. Like

the Good Read Program, it uses letter-writing to create bonds between tutors and students.

Kilpatrick Stockton & Townsend has been wonderfully creative in developing ways to encourage Cardozo Middle School students to raise and keep up their grades. The results have been dramatic improvement in the students' grades and lots of fun for Kilpatrick Stockton volunteers.

Due in part to the support of volunteers from **Cleary Gottlieb Steen and Hamilton**, the number of McKinley Tech students applying to and being accepted by colleges and universities is at an all-time high.

We are glad that several more firms are now working with high schools on the Street Law program. It is our hope that they will follow the example of the recipient of this year's Vincent Reed Award for Education, **Fried, Frank, Harris Shriver & Jacobson**. The firm's involvement with the School Without Walls began with Street Law 24 years ago, and the relationship expanded into what has become a robust school partnership.

The DC Public School Partnership Program is very grateful to **Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld** for hosting our quarterly school partnership luncheons, which have become vital to maintaining connections and exchanging partnership program ideas between school and firm coordinators. We also appreciate being able to hold our annual partnership recruiting luncheon at **Sidley Austin**.

We thank all of our school partners for this good work, and look forward to seeing you in the new school year.

Elinor Hart
Coordinator
DC Public School Partnership Program

A PARTNER'S

T O R Y

Cleary Gottlieb Steen and Hamilton

partners with McKinley Technology Education Campus located in Northeast DC.

In keeping with McKinley Tech's vision, our goal is to help make the school "the highest performing school in the nation."

We began the partnership in 2012 by developing an internship program where we hosted a senior for the second semester of the school year.

The next year, we continued our summer intern program and aimed to be more involved by adding volunteers for DCPS Beautification Day.

This year, we again started by bringing a large team of attorneys to McKinley Tech for Beautification Day. Participating in this event allowed us to kick off the school year and set the stage for students to excel.

Throughout the year, we assisted McKinley Tech seniors in their applications to college and universities, and helped them with scholarship and grant applications through the DC College Access Program.

In addition to these activities, we have helped bolster several after-school programs such as the Model UN Team, Debate Team, and Poetry Club, and we served as writing and professional mentors on a weekly basis.

We are so impressed with the students and their efforts, and are happy to act as judges in contests and provide constructive writing critiques as needed.

We have helped to start two major projects that we hope to continue working with in the



Steven J. Archibald
Project Management Attorney
Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton

future. They are the Greenhouse of Goodwill and Parent University. These are visions of McKinley Tech that will add further growth and opportunity to present and future classes, as well as provide opportunities to the local community.

McKinley Tech is continuing to build up its capacity, with teachers willing to do more each year for and with their students.

Cleary is proud to grow this partnership and help McKinley Tech and its students to achieve their vision of the highest-performing school in the nation.



GeoPlunge teams from Ludlow Taylor (in green) and Tyler (in yellow) Elementary Schools race for the borders during the May tournament.

Young Geographers Compete In Fall and Spring GeoPlunge Tournaments

In both the fall and spring during the 2013-14 school year, elementary and middle-school DC public school students and their law firm coaches participated in GeoPlunge tournaments. GeoPlunge is an award-winning set of geography games created by **Arent Fox** attorney Alan Fishel. As one student describes it, “GeoPlunge is a very educational game. It helps you with a lot of things you should learn—border states, capitals, top cities—everything you want to know about cities and states.”

The school year that is coming to an end brought a significant innovation to GeoPlunge competition. An advanced version of the game was introduced for the 9th Annual GeoPlunge Challenge Tournament, held on November 14 at the Smithsonian Institution’s National Portrait Gallery. Advanced Geoplunge is faster-paced and requires greater knowledge of the states to do well. Students in grades, 6, 7, and 8 are required to play advanced GeoPlunge, while students in grades 4 and 5 have the option of playing either intermediate or advanced.

The GeoPlunge intermediate champion in the November Tournament was Ludlow-Taylor Elementary, coached by **Veris Consulting**. The Comeback Award for the team that made the greatest improvement during the afternoon was won by West Education Campus, coached by **Goodwin Procter**. Teams from Bancroft Elementary, coached by **K& L Gates**; Marie Reed Elementary School, coached by **Kirkland & Ellis**; and Thomas Elementary, coached by **DLA Piper**, all won medals for Teamwork. Explorer Awards for teams that dramatically improved their performances went to DLA Piper’s team Thomas Elementary, and to Savoy Elementary, coached by **Beveridge & Diamond**.

Noyes Education Campus, which competed for the first time and was coached by **Kelley Drye & Warren**, placed 10th out of 70. GeoPlunge was the first partnership activity for Kelley Drye and Noyes Elementary. According to partner Allan Luberd, “It was a fantastic experience for us. Interacting with the kids was the highlight for everyone who participated, from support staff to

(Continued on page 10)

14th Cooking For Kids Bake Sales Set Fundraising Record, Benefit 11 Schools

On March 10, bake sales at 11 law firms raised a record \$9,020. These funds are providing camping experiences and other field trips for DC public school students, activities for their parents, and more.

McKenna Long & Aldridge and the firm's award-winning baker Kristen Bartolotta did exceptionally well in the annual Taste-Off that took place at the Washington Lawyers' Committee on the afternoon of March 10. Kristen's pistachio cranberry cookie took first place in that category, and her blackberry apple pie placed second. She also coordinated McKenna Long's first Cooking for Kids Bake Sale.

McDermott, Will & Emery also had multiple prize winners. Deborah Godes chocolate cake with chocolate frosting took 3rd place in that category, and Myra Pavlick's salted caramel chocolate pecan pie also placed third. First place for Best Cake went to Karen Jenkins from **Zuckerman Spaeder** for her cheesecake bars. In the Best Pie category, the top prize went to Deb Jones from **Epstein Becker & Green** for her caramel apple pecan pie.

The oatmeal chocolate chip cookies, baked by Ilse Peterson at **Drinker Biddle and Reath**, placed second in that category, and chocolate cherry teacup cookies, baked by Julia Hardinger from **Hogan Lovells**, placed third. Ruta Shukas from **Pierce Atwood** was a second-place cake winner for her chocolate chip apple bundt cake.

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Taste-Off judges (L/R): Palena Pastry Chef, Aggie Chen; Head Palena Chef, Frank Ruta; and Alex Kramer, owner of Dos Gringos.

Mock Trial Competition Involves Record Number Of Schools and Mentors

In collaboration with the Street Law Program at Georgetown University Law Center, the Committee coordinated all of the mentors that coached high school students for their Mock Trials this past spring. A record 34 teams from 15 DC public high schools competed in the annual DC-wide Mock Trial Tournament in two rounds on March 20 and 26 at DC Superior Court. In a thrilling final held on April 3, a Duke Ellington defense team very narrowly defeated a Banneker plaintiff's team.

This year's case, involving 1st, 4th and 14th Amendment issues, concerned a star high-school basketball player who lost a college scholarship and was expelled from high school for writing a song and committing other acts that allegedly resulted in harassment and an attack on another student.

A separate mock trial was held on April 23 at the Correctional Treatment Facility for the Incarcerated Youth Program plaintiff team that impressively opposed a defense team of Street Law student teachers from Georgetown University Law School.

Many of the Committee's School Partnership firms provided attorney mentors for Street Law teams: **Paul Weiss** for Anacostia and H.D. Woodson; **Bracewell & Giuliani** for Banneker; **Dickstein Shapiro** for Duke Ellington; **Williams & Connolly** for Dunbar; **Arent Fox** for Eastern; **Coburn & Greenbaum** for the Incarcerated Youth Program; **Fried Frank** for School Without Walls, and **O'Melveny & Myers** for Washington Metropolitan. Corporate Advisory Board member **Veris Consulting** volunteered their services in expert witness preparation to several firm mentors and their partner schools.

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Taste-Off Winners with their medals (L/R): Julia Hardinger, Hogan Lovells; Karen Jenkins, Zuckerman Spaeder; Felecia Quentzel, McKenna Long.



Buckley Sandler's recognition party for students from Walker Jones Education Campus. Adults standing (L/R): Betty Pelton, Jaime Nace, Nicole Steekman, Katy Hospital, Annie Coffman, Adam Miller, Lauren Ward, Jerry Buckley, and Mary Andrews. Walker Jones faculty seated at table on the right: Ms. Touchstone, Mrs. Cline, Ms. Kenley.

More Reading and Tutoring Activities Developed by School Partners

During the 2013-14 school year, 30 volunteers from **Buckley Sandler** read with 5th graders at Walker Jones Education Campus once a month. In between visits, the firm's attorneys and staff and the students communicated through letters to each other.

According to Stephanie Schlatter, the firm's school partnership coordinator, some students were initially very unenthusiastic about reading. It took a book about basketball to overcome one boy's resistance.

In June, the students with whom Buckley Sandler worked came to the firm for a recognition program. After being treated to pizza and ice cream, the students were given certificates and gift bags. As it did last year, Buckley Sandler and the Kolar Foundation will provide a book for every child (nearly 500 in total) to read over the summer.

For over 15 years, the **U.S. Courts** have sent tutors to J.O. Wilson every week. Tutors from the Courts include judges, clerks, and administrative staff. When Judge Merrick Garland goes to J.O. Wilson, he is often accompanied by one of his clerks.

Firms with relatively new tutoring and reading programs include **Beveridge & Diamond** attorneys and staff volunteering at Savoy Elementary, and **Cadwalader Wickersham and Taft** volunteering at Hart Middle School. Other firms that have developed tutoring and reading projects for their partner schools include **Crowell & Moring**, **Pierce Atwood**, and **Shearman & Sterling**.

An emergency book drive conducted by **Zuckerman Spaeder** provided 200 urgently needed reading books for students at Orr Elementary School.

Step toe & Johnson Volunteers Read with H.D. Cooke Students

Twice a month this past school year, a dozen volunteers from **Step toe & Johnson** worked on exercises with H.D. Cooke Elementary School students who needed to improve their reading skills.

Even though each Step toe volunteer went to the firm's partner school only twice each month, the schedule was arranged so that each student participating in the program worked with a reading partner from the firm at the same time every week.

The Committee's partnership program introduced Step toe volunteers to Reading Partners, a nonprofit organization working to improve the academic performance of elementary school students who are reading below their grade level.

Volunteers work with a curriculum developed by Reading Partners which assesses the progress of the students several times a year.

According to Larry Katzman, who coordinates the firm's school partnership activities, Step toe's reading partners appreciate how effectively the program is organized and are encouraged by the progress of the students.

The firm expects to continue working with Reading Partners in the coming year.



Millie Germany from Step toe & Johnson with Andrea, her 1st grade reading partner.



Mark Director from Kirkland & Ellis with Maropa Sharmin from Marie Reed Elementary School.

Students and Mentors Meet For Reading Lunches In 10 DC Public Schools

For years, **Kirkland & Ellis** Partner Mark Director and over 25 volunteers from the firm have shared a Power Lunch hour and reading every week with students from Marie Reed Elementary School.

The Committee's School Partnership Program helped Kirkland expand their relationship beyond the reading program to include other activities to benefit students at the school.

Kirkland's reading program is coordinated by Everybody Wins! DC, a nonprofit organization that handles the administration and coordination of the Power Lunch program.

According to independent research, participation in reading and mentoring improves academic performance. Reading mentors promote reading for pleasure, serve as role models and help students develop confidence and self-esteem.

Noted Mark Director, "Our lawyers and staff love reading with the children through this program."

Everybody Wins provides books, training materials, and orientation as well as a coordinator for each school. Law firms and other businesses participating in the Power Lunch program are asked to pay a fee to Everybody Wins for each volunteer to cover the cost of administration and coordination.

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BUG Club at Cardozo Middle School.

Kilpatrick Townsend Creates BUG Club And Hosts Honors Luncheon for Cardozo Middle School

Membership in the BUG Club that **Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton** sponsors at Cardozo Middle School is growing. BUG stands for “Bring Up your Grades.” The club is open to students with a grade of C or above in English. Privileges include a certificate and the opportunity to participate in a drawing for a gift card.

To make the drawings as motivational as possible, the firm conducted surveys to determine the most desirable card. For the 2nd quarter, the card was for Chipotle; for the 3rd quarter, it was for Target. At the end of the 2nd quarter, the BUG Club had 20 members, and by the end of the 3rd quarter, membership had increased to 33.

According to Daniella Farmer, who coordinates BUG Club activities, the firm anticipates a significant increase in membership at the end of the 4th quarter. At the end of the school year, all BUG Club members will participate in a drawing for a Kindle Fire.

Cardozo Middle School students who are on the honor roll are treated to an Honors Luncheon and a special program at Kilpatrick Townsend at the end of each quarter. The special program at the end of the 3rd quarter was a poetry slam.

DC-based slam poet Regie Cabico led the students and people from Kirkpatrick Townsend into the world of slam poetry, a mix of spoken word, poetry and bold performance.

Special guests, the American University Slam Poetry Team, provided a 15-minute performance “filled with attitude, confidence, positive messages and sly social commentary, recalled Susan Boscarino, who organizes the honors luncheons.

“Afterwards, kids and adults participated in theater games to loosen up and then were instructed to write short poems that were all shared in a circle. Shy kids talked, legal professionals created and the room sparked with energy.”

Sutherland Junior College Prepares Students For Higher Education

This summer, six graduates of Sutherland Junior College will be enrolling in four-year colleges and universities in the mid-Atlantic region, while six rising seniors will be working as paid interns at the Washington office of **Sutherland Asbill & Brennan**. For seven years, the firm has sponsored Sutherland Junior College, or SJC, for Bell Multicultural High School students at the Columbia Heights Education Campus.

The Sutherland Junior College Program is designed for students whose grades are high enough to meet admission standards, but may believe that college is financially out of reach, have concerns about the cultural or familial implications of going away to college, or simply be unaware of the value of higher education. Many SJC graduates are the first in their families to attend college, and many are the children of immigrants.

During the summer between their junior and senior years, SJC students work at the firm in a variety of jobs that help them to understand the requirements of a professional environment and the relationship between education and various career paths. They also get to know people at the firm, including their attorney mentors. Every week, during their summer at the firm, they spend two hours preparing for the SAT.

During their senior year, SJC students come to Sutherland one evening a week to work with their attorney mentors on further SAT prep, college applications, personal essays, and scholarship applications. They also learn what to expect during their first year of college.

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College bound, Sutherland Junior College graduates from Bell Multicultural High School (L/R): Dominique Wooden, Khadejah Sangore, Kimberly King, Andrea Guerra, Avonne Moore, Sarah Forde, with Joy Rodriguez from Sutherland.

Cleary Gottlieb Volunteers Help Make College A Reality For McKinley Students

During the 2013-14 school year, attorneys from **Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton** went to McKinley Technology High School twice a week to help seniors navigate the process of getting into college. They met with the students after school and assisted them with college and financial aid applications.

Cleary volunteers also helped seniors who were writing their personal statements. Some of the guidance provided by Cleary attorneys came in e-mail messages sent between visits to the school.

“This spring, record numbers of McKinley seniors applied to and were accepted by colleges and universities,” reported attorney Steve Archibald, who coordinates the firm’s school partnership activities. Steve remarked that he and his colleagues really enjoyed working with the McKinley students.

The firm supported several after-school programs, including the Model UN and debate teams and the poetry club. Firm volunteers also advised students who were seeking to improve their writing skills on a weekly basis.

Looking ahead to the next school year, firm volunteers are looking forward to their traditional participation in DCPS Beautification Day. They also plan to become more involved in the school’s new greenhouse and parent university projects.





Judy Leon from Goodwin Procter with Moses, her 3rd grade reading buddy from West Education Campus.

Good Read Program At Goodwin Procter (Cont'd)

“Their buddies truly became role models and mentors for many of the kids,” she added. “They built great friendships with adults who were consistent in their lives—a consistency, that unfortunately, due to difficult circumstances, some of them do not have the privilege of experiencing.”

Prizes for every five books read also kept the students motivated.

According to Cammy Contizano, who coordinates the Good Read program for Goodwin Procter, the two keys to success are a strong commitment to the program on the part of the 3rd grade teacher and frequent communication between the teacher and the law firm coordinator.

For more information about the Good Read program, contact Kiva Zyantick, former Goodwin Procter associate and Good Read coordinator who now works at the Washington Lawyers' Committee. She can be reached at: Kiva_Zyantick@washlaw.org, or (202) 319-1000, ext. 117.

GeoPlunge Tournaments (Cont'd)

Deal Middle School won senior advanced champion and Shepherd Elementary was the junior advanced champion in the November tournament. Janey and Murch Elementary Schools were also recognized for their achievement in the advanced competition.

In the May 22nd spring tournament, the intermediate winners were Shepherd and Ludlow-Taylor Elementary Schools. The Advanced winners were Deal Middle School and Murch Elementary.

The Fall 2014 citywide GeoPlunge Challenge Tournament will be held on December 11 at the National Portrait Gallery.

Sutherland Junior College Prepares Students For Higher Education (Cont'd)

In a few months, the Sutherland Junior College Class of 2014 will be attending Trinity Washington University and the University of the District of Columbia here in DC, Virginia Commonwealth University and the University of Mary Washington in Virginia, Pennsylvania State University, and Glenville State University in West Virginia.

Associates Jeanette Curtis and Katherine Kelly coordinate the Sutherland Junior College Program. According to Katherine, “Attorney mentors have a lot of fun working with the students, and it is what I most enjoy about my job at Sutherland.”

Mock Trial Competition Involves Record Number Of Schools and Mentors (Cont'd)

Firms and organizations that have not yet joined our Partnership program also provided mentors: **Venable; Baker Botts; Navy JAG Corps;** and three divisions of the **US Department of Justice.**

The Committee's Kent Withycombe, Victoria Stewart, and Kevin Oberdorfer also mentored teams at Duke Ellington, Banneker, Incarcerated Youth, and Cesar Chavez.

Additional mentors for the 2014-15 school year are welcome. To get involved in mentoring at a high school, contact Kent Withycombe at (202) 319-1000, x145, kent_withycombe@washlaw.org.

14th Cooking For Kids Bake Sales Set Fundraising Record, Benefit 11 Schools (Cont'd)

The culinary experts who selected the Taste-Off winners were Alex Kramer, owner and chef at Dos Gingos in Mount Pleasant; Chef Frank Ruta of Palena in Cleveland Park; and Palena's pastry chef, Aggie Chin. The other firms participating in Cooking for Kids 2014 were **Akin Gump, Beveridge & Diamond, Buckley Sandler, and Perkins Coie.**

PARTNERSHIPS

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld
Tyler Elementary School

Arent Fox
Randle Highlands Elementary School
Eastern Senior High School

Beveridge & Diamond
Savoy Elementary School

Bracewell & Giuliani
Brightwood Elementary School

BuckleySandler
Walker Jones Education Campus

Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft
Hart Middle School

Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton
McKinley Technology High School

Coburn & Greenbaum
Incarcerated Youth Program

Covington & Burling
Cardozo Senior High School

Crowell & Moring
Davis 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

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 Elementary School

Hogan Lovells
Kimball Elementary School

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

Mayer Brown
Garrison Elementary School

McDermott Will & Emery
Stuart-Hobson Middle 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

Reed Smith
Bruce Monroe at Park View Elementary
School

Savills Studley
Hendley Education Campus

Shearman & Sterling
Ketcham Elementary School

Sidley Austin
Thomson Elementary School

Squire Patton Boggs
School Without Walls/Francis Stevens
Education Campus

Steptoe & 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

Veris Consulting
Ludlow Talor Elementary School

Williams & Connolly
Dunbar Senior High School

Zuckerman Spaeder
Orr Elementary School

**2014-2015
SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP
DATES**

Saturday, August 23, 2014
DCPS Beautification Day

Thursday, September 18, 2014
School Partnership Luncheon
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld

Wednesday, October 15, 2014
John Burke Pro Bono Breakfast
Grand Hyatt Washington Hotel

Monday, November 24, 2014
Celebration of Song Benefit at Theatre J,
Washington DC Jewish Community Center

Thursday, December 11, 2014
10th Annual Citywide GeoPlunge Tournament
National Portrait Gallery

Partnership Luncheons will be held at
Akin Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld

Roderic V.O. Boggs
Executive Director

Washington Lawyers' Committee
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