



UPDATE



Vol. 19, No. 1

Spring 2013



At the Washington Lawyers' Committee's 2013 Founders' Reception: attendees included (L/R) Committee Executive Director Rod Boggs, with family members of Committee Founder Louis F. Oberdorfer; William L. Oberdorfer, Executive Director, Avalon Theatre; Kevin Oberdorfer, Visiting Attorney with the Committee's Public Education Project; and Committee Trustee John L. Oberdorfer, Partner, Patton Boggs LLP. See article and more photographs on page 11.

Justice Reform Initiative Examines Racial Impact of Policing and Prosecution

For the past year, the DC Prisoners' Project has been working with the law firm of **Covington & Burling LLP** to research and publish a report examining the racial impact of criminal law enforcement in the District of Columbia.

The firm helped to secure data on all arrests in Washington, DC during the last three years, and the Project is analyzing the data and working with the DC Superior Court to secure information about the outcomes of those arrests.

The Project has assembled an advisory panel that includes distinguished senior and retired judges—the Hon. John Ferren, the Hon. Rufus G. King III, the Hon. James Robertson, the Hon. Ricardo Urbina, and the Hon. Patricia M. Wald—to advise on strategies for addressing racial disparities in arrests and prosecutions in DC.

(Continued on page 5)

Committee Holds 2013 School Partnership Recruitment Meeting

The Committee's 2013 partnership recruitment meeting at **Sidley Austin LLP** on May 14, 2013, brought more than 50 attendees from DC area law firms and businesses together to discuss the importance of recruiting more organizations to establish educational partnerships with DC public schools.

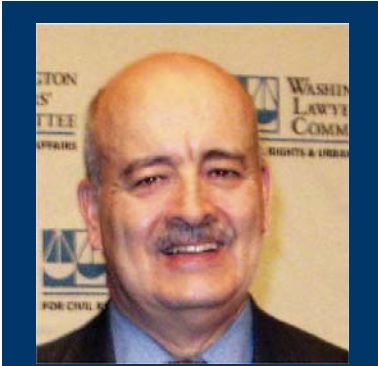
The annual meeting featured remarks by former DC Bar President and Sidley Austin LLP partner Ron Flagg, and Josephine Bias Robinson, Chief of the Office of Family and Public Engagement for DC Public Schools. Ms. Robinson strongly endorsed the Committee's DC Public School Partnership Program, and challenged organizations that do not yet have partnerships to become partners with DC public schools most in need of improvement.

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Director's Corner



Rod Boggs
Executive Director
Washington Lawyers'
Committee

This issue of the *UPDATE* coincides with the celebration of the Committee's 45th Anniversary and presents an opportunity to reflect on our past record and future agenda.

The Committee is extremely proud of its record over the past four decades in

addressing the most serious issues of discrimination and poverty in our community and is extremely appreciative of the enormous pro bono resources that so many of our city's leading law firms and lawyers have contributed to this effort.

In February, we received an especially poignant reminder of the Committee's history and the debt owed to its Founders with the passing of Judge Louis F. Oberdorfer, the remarkable man who convened the group of bar leaders who founded our organization in 1968 and served on our Executive Committee until his elevation to the Bench in 1977.

Judge Oberdorfer's vision and commitment to the principles of equal justice lie at the heart of the Committee's mission. We are honored that the Oberdorfer family has named the Committee as the beneficiary of the Louis F. Oberdorfer Memorial Fund.

We will do our best to see that the nearly \$50,000 in donations already committed to this Fund, along with future gifts, are used to advance the causes of criminal justice reform and expanded pro bono services for victims of discrimination that Judge Oberdorfer championed so eloquently and effectively throughout his career as a lawyer and jurist.

In addressing criminal justice reform, the Committee is very pleased that an advisory group of eminent senior and retired federal and DC judges--including Patricia Wald, Rufus King, James Robertson, Ricardo Urbina and John Ferren--is working with Committee staff and a team of law firms led by **Covington & Burling LLP** to prepare a series of reports documenting unequal enforcement and racial disparities in our criminal justice system.

The Committee's criminal justice initiative evolved directly from the expanding work of the Committee's DC Prisoners' Project. This Project, led with distinction for over a decade by Philip Fornaci and now headed by Deborah Golden, is engaged in some of the most challenging and important prison reform litigation in the country.

These efforts include a major class action challenge involving the failure of the ADX federal supermax prison in Florence, Colorado to provide basic medical services to mentally ill inmates. The Project has also filed new cases in recent months against nearly a dozen state and federal facilities for failing to accommodate thousands of inmates with serious disabilities.

In facing the challenges ahead, we will strive to combine the historic mission first set forth by Judge Oberdorfer with an evolving program agenda responsive to areas of both traditional and emerging concerns. As in the past, our future success will depend on sustaining pro bono support for our efforts. On this 45th Anniversary, we pause to thank all of our law firm and individual supporters for their past service.

We invite all of our supporters to join us in reaching out to the next generation of leaders and volunteers to assure that the Committee can build on its successes and remain a vital force for equal rights and justice for years to come.

Disability Rights

TJX Companies, Inc. Agrees to Promote Accessibility Initiative

In March 2013, the Committee negotiated an accessibility initiative agreement with TJX Stores on behalf of the Equal Rights Center (ERC).

The Agreement promotes accessibility in three major national retail chains—TJ Maxx, Marshalls and Home Goods, and includes an ADA-compliance survey of all stores.

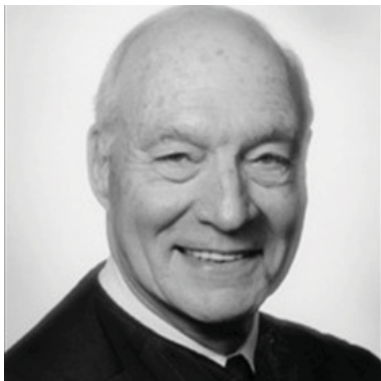
In addition, the agreement includes a commitment to spacing around merchandise display fixtures; accessible sales counters, restrooms, and similar features; accessible point of sale devices by 2015; an accessibility walkthrough program to ensure clutter-free and accessible aisles; employee training; as well as website accessibility.

Dental Services Chain Kool Smiles Sued for Inaccessibility

The Project and co-counsel **Covington & Burling LLP** filed a lawsuit on May 16, 2012, against Kool Smiles, a low-cost dental services chain in the District and throughout the region.

The complaint, filed on behalf of a wheelchair user, alleges that the plaintiff was denied services due to the inaccessibility of the dental offices and equipment. The dental chain could not perform dental procedures on the patient unless the patient was able to transfer from his wheelchair, and the dental chain was unable to provide such transfer.

As this chain primarily serves Medicaid beneficiaries, the lawsuit will have a major impact on the ability of low-income individuals with disabilities in the District to access this important medical service.



The Hon. Louis F. Oberdorfer

Washington Lawyers' Committee Remembers Founder Judge Louis F. Oberdorfer

Judge Louis F. Oberdorfer, Committee Founder, distinguished jurist, former Assistant Attorney General in the U.S. Department of Justice under Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, and partner at the law firm of Wilmer Cutler & Pickering (now **Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP**), passed away on February 21, 2013 in McLean, Virginia.

In 1968, Judge Oberdorfer was the guiding force in the creation of the Washington Lawyers' Committee and other local Lawyers' Committees throughout the country.

He served with distinction as a member of our Executive Committee from 1968 until his appointment to the Federal Bench by President Carter in 1977. In all respects, Judge Oberdorfer's career epitomized the highest standards of professionalism and commitment to equal justice.

The Committee is exceedingly grateful and proud that the Oberdorfer family has requested that gifts in Judge Oberdorfer's memory be directed to the Judge Louis F. Oberdorfer Memorial Fund at the Washington Lawyers' Committee.

For additional information about the Judge Louis F. Oberdorfer Memorial Fund, please contact Rod Boggs, Executive Director, Washington Lawyers' Committee at (202) 319-1000, ext. 103; Rod_Boggs@washlaw.org.

Fair Housing

Detrick Plaza Apartments and Patriot Realty Deny Persons Using Service Animals Equal Access to Housing, Lawsuits Filed

The Committee recently filed two lawsuits on behalf of the Equal Rights Center (ERC) alleging violations of the Fair Housing Act and local laws for denying persons with disabilities equal access to housing.

On April 23, 2013, the Committee and co-counsel **McDermott Will & Emery LLP** filed a lawsuit against Detrick Plaza Apartments in US District Court for the District of Maryland, and on May 8, 2013, the Committee with co-counsel **Covington & Burling LLP** filed a separate lawsuit against Patriot Realty in the US District Court for the District of Columbia. Both lawsuits alleged violations of the Fair Housing Act and local laws for denying equal access to housing to blind persons using service animals.

The ERC conducted three tests of Huntwood Courts apartments in the District of Columbia, which is managed by Patriot Realty. According to the complaint, in each test, the blind tester was subjected to adverse, disparate treatment.

In one test, an application fee was imposed on the blind tester, but was waived for the tester without a disability or a guide dog. In another test, the blind tester was told that no pets were allowed, and the rental agent failed to respond to the tester's repeated requests for an exception to this policy, while the tester without a disability was told that some pets

are allowed. In the final test, the rental agent said a pet fee was required of the blind tester, unless she could provide certification for the guide dog and medical documentation of her blindness.

The ERC conducted two tests at Detrick Plaza Apartments in Frederick, Maryland. According to the ERC's complaint, in both tests, a blind tester was told that the property had a "no pets" policy and that no exception would be made to accommodate a guide dog.

The ERC reached out to these housing providers in an effort to resolve the issues collaboratively, but when they were not able to do so, the Committee agreed to find co-counsel and represent them.

"Guide dogs and other assistance animals are not pets; they are animals that assist people who are blind or have other disabilities as they move through their daily activities," said Megan K. Whyte de Vasquez, the Committee's Director of the Fair Housing Project. "When housing providers apply 'no pets' policies, limit the type or size of animal allowed, or impose additional costs or requirements for having a guide dog or other assistance animal, they deny people with disabilities equal access to housing in violation of the federal Fair Housing Act and local laws."

Mortgage Loan Modification Scam Case Filed Against Lasker & Associates

On February 1, 2013, the Committee and co-counsel **Kirkland & Ellis LLP** filed a complaint alleging that Lasker & Associates, LLC and Lasker M. Ahmed operated an unlawful loan modification scam in Gaithersburg, Maryland that defrauded the plaintiff, Edwin Lemus, and eventually caused him to lose his home.

The complaint alleges violations of the Maryland Credit Services Businesses Act, the Protection of Homeowners in Foreclosure Act, the Maryland Consumer Protection Act, fraud/fraud in the inducement, fraudulent concealment, negligent misrepresentation, conversion, negligence, breach of contract, and unjust enrichment.

The Defendants filed an answer, pro se, on March 19, 2013, and Mr. Lemus has moved to strike that answer. A hearing on the motion is scheduled for June 2013.

DC Prisoners' Project

Justice Reform Initiative Examines Racial Impact of Policing and Prosecution (continued from page 1)

This effort is the first of the Project's three-part research and advocacy initiative to document and counteract racial bias in criminal law enforcement, incarceration, and reentry policies affecting DC prisoners. The undertaking is a logical extension of the Committee's historic commitment to prisoners' rights and draws new impetus from the research presented by Michelle Alexander's best-selling book *The New Jim Crow* examining the racial impact of mass incarceration nationwide.

Lawsuit Claiming Inadequate Care of Mentally Ill Prisoners Advances

On April 22, 2013, a preliminary hearing was held in US District Court in Denver, Colorado, in the case of *Cunningham et al v. U.S. Bureau of Prisons*, a class action litigation filed on June 18, 2012, by the DC Prisoners' Project, with co-counsel **Arnold & Porter LLP**, on behalf of prisoners with serious mental illness held in the federal Florence, Colorado, maximum-security facility, known as the "supermax" or "ADX."

The lawsuit alleges inadequate medical care for mentally ill inmates at the facility. It is one of the most complex and ambitious cases the Project has ever filed, and it has attracted nationwide media coverage.

Four ADX prisoners, including two DC prisoners, filed the lawsuit on behalf of all mentally ill prisoners in the facility. The named plaintiffs are men with long histories of psychiatric problems and treatment. Because of their untreated or poorly treated mental illness, many prisoners at ADX act out, resulting in disruption, compromised security, and a risk of harm to themselves, ADX staff, and other prisoners.

The lawsuit alleges that the defendants have violated BOP policy and the US Constitution by failing to diagnose and treat prisoners at ADX with serious mental illness.

Settlement Reached in Inmate Religious Discrimination Case

The DC Prisoners' Project and co-counsel **Latham & Watkins LLP** have reached a settlement in the case of *Gartrell v. US Bureau of Prisons*, involving a Muslim man incarcerated at a federal prison in central Pennsylvania. As a Muslim, he is required to pray five times every day at designated times, set according to the Muslim calendar. Very often, these designated times for prayer fall during our client's work, recreation, or school hours.

The federal prison, however, would not let him engage in his short prayer while at work, recreation, or school. Rather, the prison has said that designated spaces for religious activities included only the chapel, outdoor worship area, and his individual cell.

The inmate challenged this policy, arguing that the prison's policy that an inmate must stay in each location for one hour means that if he were to leave work and recreation to pray, then he would be deprived of the benefit of daily work and recreation.

He claimed further that there is no outdoor worship area designated for Muslims; that the fluctuating times of his mandatory prayers make it nearly impossible to get special permission to leave work and recreation in advance; and that Christians and other religions are being accorded benefits that he is not receiving.

After more than two years of litigation and extensive discovery, defendants agreed to settlement with provisions that include a new policy allowing our client to pray during working hours.

Equal Employment Opportunity

Detective Brings Pregnancy Discrimination Claim Against US Park Police

The Committee, with co-counsel **McDermott Will & Emory LLP**, represent Renee Abt in her pregnancy discrimination complaint against the United States Park Police. Detective Abt was a highly successful officer who was placed on limited duty immediately after she told her superiors that she was pregnant.

The Park Police have a written policy that requires a pregnant officer to report her pregnancy the moment she learns she is pregnant, no matter how far along the pregnancy is. The policy requires that the officer receive a certification from her doctor that her continued work will not affect the health of her child. The policy does not allow pregnant officers to make decisions about their own safety nor does it allow for determinations based on ability.

Detective Abt challenges the way that this discriminatory policy forced her into an office job despite her ability to continue performing her work. The complaint was filed in US District Court for the District of Columbia at the end of January 2013. The government has answered the complaint and discovery has commenced.

Shoe Store Sued for Disability Discrimination and Wage & Hour Claims

The Committee's Equal Employment Opportunity and Disability Rights Projects, with co-counsel **Kaye Scholer LLP**, represent Justyn Belton in his discrimination and wage and hour claims against a Maryland shoe store.

Mr. Belton, a 36-year-old man with learning disabilities and dyslexia, worked as a sales associate of the store before he was terminated. He never once received a promotion to assistant manager, and his district manager told him it was because of his disability and age.

Within a few weeks of Mr. Belton filing a charge of discrimination he was terminated by the district manager about whom he complained.

While working at the store, Mr. Belton often worked past his shift and came in on weekends in order to prove his ambition as an employee. He was never compensated for that time.

The complaint was filed in January 2013 in the US District Court for the District of Maryland.

Bartender Files Race Discrimination Lawsuit Against Red Line

The Committee and co-counsel **Relman Dane & Colfax PLLC** represent Briggitta Hardin in her race discrimination claims filed against Red Line LLC and its owner on November 18, 2011.

Ms. Hardin, who is African American, was hired to fill a much-needed bartender position at Redline, a Washington, DC bar, lounge and restaurant. However, upon discovering that his staff had hired an African-American bartender when Ms. Hardin arrived for her first shift, the restaurant's owner appeared disgusted and fired Ms. Hardin on the spot.

Evidence gathered during discovery shows that this discriminatory denial of employment was part of a broader scheme of discriminatory exclusion, including policies that excluded African Americans from working in visible positions and denied African-American customers equal access to the establishment.

Discovery is complete and a summary judgment motion is being briefed.

Public Education

2013 School Partnership Recruitment Meeting Held

(continued from page 1)

Since Fall 2012, the Committee has added several new firm/school partnerships. They include: **Buckley Sandler LLP** (Walker-Jones Education Campus); **Hogan Lovells US LLP** (Kimball Elementary School); **Deloitte** (Raymond Education Campus); and **Veris Consulting, Inc.** (Ludlow-Taylor Elementary School).

Firms participating in the school partnership program provide much-needed tutoring, mentoring and other supportive services for about 10,000 students at 42 public schools. Many more schools are awaiting partnerships. For more information, contact Project Director Kent Withycombe at (202) 319-1000, ext. 145; Kent_Withycombe@washlaw.org.

Cooking for Kids Bake Sale and “Taste-Off” Benefits DC Public Schools

The Committee’s 13th Annual Cooking for Kids Bake Sale and Taste-Off, held on March 4, 2013, saw 11 law firms competing for the honor of being named “Best Baker,” and raised \$8,419 to benefit the DC public schools that have established educational partnerships with the firms.

Participating firms held bake sales at their offices to raise funds for their schools in the morning. That afternoon, they sent their best entries to the Committee’s offices for the final Taste-Off judging.

Culinary experts Frank Ruta and Aggie Chin of Palena restaurant, along with Alex Kramer of Dos Gringos, and attorney and author David Dorsen, former restaurant and wine critic for *Washingtonian* magazine, donated their time and expertise to determine the top three entries in the cake, pie and cookie categories. The winning bakers received gold, silver or bronze medals.



During the 8th City-wide GeoPlunge Tournament at the Smithsonian Institution’s National Portrait Gallery, Arent Fox LLP Partner Alan G. Fishel, inventor of the popular, award-winning geography game GeoPlunge, takes a moment for a photo.

Committee, Arent Fox, DCPS Host 8th City-Wide GeoPlunge Tournament

In conjunction with **Arent Fox LLP** and the DC Public Schools, the Committee hosted the 8th city-wide GeoPlunge Geography Tournament on January 9, 2013, at the Smithsonian Institution’s National Portrait Gallery.

More than 220 students from 30 DC public schools participated, with a team from Alice Deal Middle School winning the tournament. The DC Public Schools’ Chief of Family and Public Engagement, Josephine Bias Robinson, presented the awards, including the GeoPlunge Trophy, to the winners and their coach.

GeoPlunge is the award-winning card game invented by Arent Fox LLP partner Alan Fishel that helps students learn U.S. geography.

The popular annual tournament, which brings together fourth through sixth graders in an exciting and educational competition, was supported by the generosity of law firms and individuals who sponsored the GeoPlunge teams.

Immigrant and Refugee Rights

Health Care Company Sued By Janitor For Supervisors' Sexual Abuse

On June 21, 2012, the Committee and co-counsel **Hogan Lovells US LLP** filed a lawsuit on behalf of a Spanish-speaking immigrant from Honduras, who alleged that she was sexually assaulted and abused while working as a janitor for a cleaning company and a nursing home in Virginia.

While employed, the janitor was raped by her immediate supervisor and told not to tell anyone or she would lose her job. Soon after she was raped, she found out that she was pregnant. Her immediate supervisor told her that she had to decide between having a baby and having a job and strongly suggested that she have an abortion. Because she already had a son to support, she was afraid to lose her job so she made the difficult decision to terminate her pregnancy – paid for by the supervisor. She was eventually fired because she later refused to have consensual sex with her immediate supervisor.

She filed a charge with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and requested that they certify a U-visa certification for her cooperation in the investigation. The EEOC signed her U-visa certification on July 19, 2012.

Workers Denied Wages, Sue Window-Washing Company Clean & Polish

On November 6, 2012, the Committee and co-counsel **McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP** joined a collective action proceeding initiated by the **Zipin Law Firm, LLC**. On November 14, 2012, the Committee, McKenna and the Zipin Law Firm filed a Second Amended Complaint in the US District Court for the District of Maryland to add two Spanish-speaking individuals who were denied straight wages and overtime wages while working for Clean & Polish, a regional window-washing company.

Leasing Consultant Sues Archstone for Pregnancy Discrimination

The Committee and co-counsel **Heller, Huron, Chertkof & Salzman, PLLC**, filed a pregnancy discrimination lawsuit in the US District Court for the District of Maryland on May 22, 2012, on behalf of leasing consultant Aida McCallum against Archstone property management company.

Ms. McCallum was a top-performing leasing consultant for the defendant property management company when she announced that she was pregnant

with twins. She was terminated two weeks later, purportedly for a data-entry error she made during a routine training program, and after her supervisors made disparaging comments about her pregnancy and her continued ability to work. Discovery is complete and a summary judgment motion is being briefed.

Committee Achieves Proposed Settlement in Nastos Construction Lawsuit

The Committee, with co-counsel **Arnold & Porter LLP** and **Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP**, recently reached a proposed settlement 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 parties have moved for approval of the proposed settlement.

The Committee and co-counsel filed the FLSA collective action on October 7, 2009, in the US 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.

Public Accommodations

Addiction Prevention Facilities Sued for Sexual Harassment and Abuse

The Committee and co-counsel **Patton Boggs LLP**, filed a complaint on October 3, 2012, on behalf of a woman who was sexually harassed and abused by staff at the Addiction Prevention and Recovery Administration (“APRA”) of the District of Columbia.

After years of struggling with drug addiction, at the age of 22, our client approached the Addiction Prevention and Recovery Administration (“APRA”) of the District of Columbia. APRA agreed to pay for her to attend an inpatient substance abuse treatment program and assigned her to a program run by Regional Addiction Prevention, Inc. (“RAP”).

During her stay at the RAP facility, she was sexually harassed and abused by a 55-year-old married staff member and one of RAP’s most senior staff members onsite at the facility. This abuse continued after our client left the facility, and she confided in one of RAP’s other senior staff members and a licensed counselor. The counselor, another married man in his 50s, also began engaging in sexual activity with our client shortly after she left the facility. She relapsed, and when she approached APRA again to receive substance abuse treatment services, APRA again placed her in a RAP program.

Our client then made formal complaints against the two men who had sexually abused her, both with RAP and with APRA, and was reassigned to a substance abuse treatment program unaffiliated with RAP. After successfully completing her program, she approached us to ensure that other individuals going through recovery would not be subjected to the same treatment.

The District of Columbia, in a separate proceeding, moved to strip the counselor of his license to practice. A decision on that matter is pending.

2013 Corporate Advisory Board Expands

The Committee’s Board of Directors recently welcomed **Studley**, a global commercial real estate firm, as a Leadership Level member; and **Bloomberg L.P.**, a multinational mass media limited partnership, as an Associate Level member of the Committee’s Corporate Advisory Board (CAB).

The CAB was established in 2010 to take full advantage of all the legal and 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, donating legal support services to advance cases, and participating with the Committee’s DC Public School Partnerships Program.

The Board of Directors has expanded opportunities for more companies to get involved by offering three levels of CAB participation that provide distinct benefits and opportunities. They are: \$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 Asbill & Brennan LLP**, and Jennifer Levy, **Kirkland & Ellis LLP**, serve as the Board Corporate Outreach Co-Chairs. For more information, contact the Committee’s Deputy Director Rhonda Holmes at: Rhonda_Holmes@washlaw.org, or (202) 319-1000, ext. 113.

Arrivals

New Board Members

The Washington Lawyers' Committee is pleased to welcome four new members to the Board of Directors: John A. Freedman (**Arnold & Porter LLP**); Jennifer Levy (**Kirland & Ellis LLP**); Constantinos Panagopoulos (**Ballard Spahr LLP**); and Joseph M. Sellers (**Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll PLLC**).

New Staff

Elizabeth K. Canizares has joined the Committee as a Pickering Fellow. She graduated from George Washington Law School and University of California, Los Angeles.

Alicia Danze recently joined the Committee as a Paralegal, working primarily with the Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project. She is a graduate of Middlebury College.

Matthew Handley recently joined the Committee as Director of the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Project. Previously, Mr. Handley was a litigation partner at **Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll PLLC**. He also worked as an associate at **Covington & Burling LLP**. He received his JD from the University of Texas School of Law, and BSE from Princeton University.

Peter Spring joined the Committee as Assistant for Administration in January 2013. He is a graduate of the University of Florida.

Visiting Attorneys

Sunhee Choi is a Visiting Attorney with the Committee's Equal Employment Opportunity Project. She is a graduate of the University of Illinois Law School and the University of Pennsylvania.

Kevin Oberdorfer is a Visiting Attorney with the Committee's Public Education Project. He is a graduate of Georgetown University Law Center and the University of Michigan.

Victoria Stewart is a Visiting Attorney with the Committee's Equal Employment Opportunity and Public Education Projects. She is a graduate of the University of Michigan Law School and Dartmouth College.

Volunteer Staff

Cynthia Pratt has been volunteering as Database Coordinator maintaining and updating the Committee's database records over the past 2 ½ years. She joined the Committee after retiring as a professional Association Manager for the American Council of Consulting Engineers.



The 2013 Washington Lawyers' Committee Co-Chairs Luncheon was hosted by Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP on March 8. Attendees included: (front row L/R) Stuart Land, Robert Kapp, John Nolan, Howard Willens, Sally Determan, Sheldon Cohen; and (back row L/R) Steve Pollak, Melvin White, Tom Brunner, Jim Bierman, Jeff Robinson, George Jones, James Robertson, Stasia Kelly, Rod Boggs, Donald Remy, George Ruttinger, Tom Williamson, Lew Wiener, and Ted Howard. Also attending the luncheon but absent from the photo: David Tatel. Those unable to attend were Tyrone Brown, David J. Cynamon, Marc L. Fleischaker, Philip A. Fleming, Laurence J. Hoffman, Philip A. Lacovara, Inez Smith-Reid, John H. Schafer, Denise A. Vanison, Roger E. Warin, Marguerite Owen Webster, and Benjamin F. Wilson.

Photo credit: Taisie Berkeley

Annual Campaign

2012/2013 Annual Funding Campaign Advances

For the 2012-2013 Annual Campaign, the Committee has received contributions of \$210,460 from 20 firms and \$315,223 from 462 individuals as of May 30, 2013. These figures do not include contributions to the Committee's Wiley Branton Awards Luncheon or special gifts directed to the Judge Louis F. Oberdorfer Memorial 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, 2013.

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 firms.

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

2013 Founders' Reception Held May 6

Over 100 of the Washington Lawyers' Committee's supporters, including Co-Chairs, Board Members, Trustees, and staff attended the Committee's 2013 Founders' Reception on May 6 at the beautiful home and garden of Georgetown Law School Professor Emanuel Tersh Boasberg III in Washington, DC.

Current Committee Co-Chairs Theodore A. Howard, a partner at **Wiley Rein LLP**, Lewis S. Wiener, a partner at **Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP**, and the Committee's Executive Director Rod Boggs welcomed attendees to the reception and acknowledged long-time supporters. Rod Boggs praised the vision of the founders who were involved in the Committee's creation, remembering especially Committee founder, the late Judge Louis F. Oberdorfer. William J. Kolasky, **Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale & Dorr LLP** partner and former colleague of Judge Oberdorfer, recalled Judge Oberdorfer's many contributions to the bench and bar. Mr. Boggs expressed his appreciation for the contributions that the Committee has received from its many supporters and their law firms and encouraged everyone present to attend the Committee's 45th Anniversary Wiley Branton Awards Luncheon on June 10.



2013 Founders' Reception attendees included (L/R): Committee Board Member and former Co-Chair Thomas S. Williamson, Jr., Partner, Covington & Burling LLP, and President, District of Columbia Bar; Committee Trustee Matthew L. Jacobs, Partner, Jenner & Block LLP; Committee Trustee David F. Williams, Partner, Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP; and James J. Sandman, President, Legal Services Corporation.



Also attending the 2013 Founders' Reception were (L/R): Kent Withycombe, Director, Public Education Project; Elizabeth K. Canizares, Pickering Fellow with the Committee's Equal Employment Opportunity and DC Prisoners' Projects; and Alexander O. Canizares, Associate, Covington & Burling LLP.

WASHINGTON LAWYERS' COMMITTEE

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Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs UPDATE

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Matthew Handley, Project Director
Equal Employment Opportunity Project

Megan Whyte de Vasquez, Project Director
Fair Housing Project

Deborah Golden, Project Director
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CORPORATE & FOUNDATION CONTRIBUTORS

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

BET Networks

John Burke Memorial Fund

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