

UPDATE



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At the Washington Lawyers' Committee's 2015 Founders' Reception, Committee Executive Director Rod Boggs addresses the crowd. See article, more photographs on page 11.

Veterans' Rights and LGBT Initiatives Announced

In May 2015, the Washington Lawyers' Committee launched initiatives on veterans' rights and lesbian gay bisexual and transgender ("LGBT") rights, to be led by Peter Romer-Friedman, the Committee's new Deputy Director of Litigation. The initiatives will focus on enforcing the employment rights of veterans and service members, and the civil rights of the LGBT community in both individual and class action cases.

In the area of veterans' rights, the Committee is currently litigating several cases under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA). These matters include a case challenging a federal contractor's policy of firing employees for taking military leave; a case challenging a state's failure to follow its own veteran's preference law in hiring and promotions for law enforcement officers; and a case challenging a pension fund's miscalculation of pension benefits that aviation workers were entitled to receive for years of military service. The Committee is also representing a veteran before the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in an appeal that will resolve whether employers can force veterans to arbitrate their USERRA claims.

(Continued on page 5)

Fluvanna Prison Health Care Case Settles Following Landmark Rulings

On November 26, 2014, the Committee's DC Prisoners' Project, with co-counsel **Wiley Rein LLP** and in collaboration with the Virginia Legal Aid Justice Center, reached a settlement with the Virginia Department of Corrections in a health care class action lawsuit on behalf of women incarcerated at Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women (Fluvanna), the primary women's state prison in Virginia.

The lawsuit, *Scott v. Clarke*, filed on July 24, 2012, claimed that 1200 women incarcerated at Fluvanna were being provided constitutionally inadequate medical care, resulting in dangerous conditions and risks to health and life. Defendants included private health care providers Armor Correctional Health Services, Inc., of Miami, and subsequently Corizon Health, Inc., as well as the Virginia Department of Corrections. The plaintiffs sought improvements in basic medical care and correctional services at the prison. More than two years of investigation and preparation preceded the filing.

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Director's Corner

WASHINGTON LAWYERS' COMMITTEE



Rod Boggs
Executive Director
Washington Lawyers'
Committee

This issue of the Committee's **UPDATE** focuses particular attention on important new initiatives addressing the legal needs of veterans and our expanded efforts on behalf of the LGBT community. It also highlights our ongoing litigation and advocacy in the field of prisoners' rights and criminal justice reform, as well

as our expanded efforts to support our city's public schools.

We are especially pleased to announce the addition to our staff of Peter Romer-Friedman, who joins our office as Deputy Litigation Director with special responsibilities for implementing our veterans' rights and LGBT initiatives. Peter's extensive work in these areas as an Associate at **Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll PLLC** will be a great asset as we develop a growing docket of these new cases.

As the need for criminal justice and prison reform gain increasing national prominence, the Committee is proud to note that in recent months its longtime commitment to this work in these fields has produced two exceptional results with national implications.

One of these is the landmark settlement announced earlier this year of a case brought by lead counsel Ted Howard and **Wiley Rein LLP** successfully challenging the failure to provide legally mandated health care services to thousands of inmates at the largest women's prison in Virginia.

The second Committee effort of note was the release of a comprehensive and ground-breaking study of conditions at the DC Jail prepared by a team of attorneys at **Covington & Burling LLP**.

In combination these undertakings illustrate the Committee's unique ability to mobilize the resources of our city's leading law firms to achieve significant results for clients in dire need. In both its litigation and advocacy work, I believe the Committee's efforts provide models for national replication.

Similarly, there are opportunities for replication in the field of public education. The Committee's longtime and continuing support of law firm and corporate partnerships with DC public schools, students and parents is helping to produce notable progress in public education in our city. Hundreds of lawyers and support staff at dozens of firms throughout the city are actively committed to this work, with new partnerships being formed every year.

We are particularly grateful to **Akin Gump Strauss Hauer and Feld LLP** for continuing its highly successful 20-year partnership with Tyler Elementary School, and for its generous support during this period in hosting the Committee's quarterly city-wide meetings of school partnership program participants.

As the Committee looks beyond this year's Branton Luncheon, we are encouraged by the belief that we have in place a strong team of lawyers dedicated to addressing current civil rights and poverty issues, supported by a committed Board and leadership groups drawn from the pre-eminent law firms in Washington.

To realize our full potential for service, however, we need to increase our base of financial support, and we look primarily to the many participating law firms and lawyers of our city to secure these needed resources. Their continuing commitment to our organization is enormously appreciated.

I believe there is no better investment to assure the continuity of pro bono legal services that respond to the most pressing civil rights issues in our community.

Disability Rights

Blind Contractors' Website Accessibility Lawsuit Against GSA Enters Mediation

On April 22, 2014, the Committee with co-counsel **Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP** filed a lawsuit on behalf of federal contractors and the American Council of the Blind against the General Services Administration (GSA), alleging that GSA failed to provide an accessible website for blind federal contractors who must register and renew their federal contractor registration annually.

The GSA, a federal executive agency that administers the federal government's non-defense contracts, is responsible for ensuring that recipients of federal funding comply with the Rehabilitation Act, which prohibits the federal government and recipients of federal funding from discriminating on the basis of disability, including blindness.

Blind federal contractors have faced significant barriers to accessibility while attempting to renew their registration, and have been unable to informally resolve these issues with GSA. The barriers to accessibility discriminate against these individuals because they are blind, and violate Sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. These individuals face the risk that they will once again encounter significant barriers to accessibility when required to renew their registration next year.

On November 21, 2014, oral arguments were heard in front of Judge Howell in US District Court for the District

of Columbia on GSA's motion to dismiss the case. The Judge denied the motion, and in so doing, set new legal precedent stating that plaintiffs and plaintiff organizations have a private right of action under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act for injunctive relief. Discovery in the case is currently stayed pending mediation, which is ongoing.

MD and KY Deaf Prisoners' Cases Settle

In May 2015, the Committee and co-counsel **Foley & Lardner LLP**; **Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP**; and **Belzley Bathurst Attorneys**, successfully settled two important cases on behalf of deaf prisoners in state prison systems in Maryland and Kentucky. The firms in both cases filed complaints, engaged in initial pre-trial work, and extensively negotiated landmark settlements in the two state-wide cases.

Under the settlements, deaf prisoners will have adequate access to videophones, visual notification of oral announcements, sign language interpreters, and other auxiliary aids and services, and the settlements provide for implementation of necessary policies, training, outreach, and monitoring to ensure the protection of deaf prisoners' rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Foley & Lardner LLP represented the deaf prisoners in the Maryland case. Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP and Belzley Bathurst Attorneys represented deaf prisoners in the Kentucky case.

Accessibility Lawsuit Against Wings to Go Restaurant Settles

The Committee with co-counsel **Arnold & Porter LLP** filed a complaint on October 1, 2014, in the US District Court for the District of Columbia against Wings to Go, Inc. and AJ Eastern, Inc. on behalf of the Equal Rights Center and a wheelchair user who was unable to access the Wings to Go restaurant and had to be served outside on the sidewalk in the rain. The suit alleged that Wings to Go violated Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the DC Human Rights Act. The case settled in March 2015. Wings to Go, Inc., and AJ Eastern, Inc., also agreed to affirmatively cooperate with the ERC to promote equal access to public accommodations for people with disabilities.

Fair Housing

DC Court of Appeals Upholds Organizational Standing of Equal Rights Center

On February 15, 2013, the Committee and **Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP** filed a case on behalf of the Equal Rights Center (ERC) against Ernest Banks and Properties International in DC Superior Court, alleging source of income discrimination in the advertising of rental housing and in the terms and conditions imposed on housing choice voucher holders.

Specifically, the posted advertisement contained language requiring additional costs for Section 8 and other voucher holders. On July 26, 2013, the DC Superior Court dismissed the case, finding that the ERC lacked standing.

On February 26, 2015, the DC Court of Appeals reversed and remanded the trial court's dismissal of the complaint. According to the court, because the ERC alleged that it had committed resources to counteract the discriminatory conduct of Mr. Banks and Properties International, the complaint adequately pleaded that the ERC had been injured, providing a basis for the ERC's standing to bring the lawsuit.

The case recently concluded with a settlement for the ERC, plus attorney's fees and costs.

Committee Joins DC Right to Housing Initiative

The Washington Lawyers' Committee and a number of other DC legal service providers, including the Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless, DC Access to Justice Commission, and DC Bar Pro Bono Program have joined together to launch a DC Right to Housing Initiative.

Created in early 2015, the goal of the Initiative is to ensure that all DC residents are able to secure safe, affordable, and accessible housing.

The Initiative encompasses three key areas: fair housing, preservation of affordable housing, and homeless services.

A combination of individual representation, budget and policy advocacy, transactional work, and systemic litigation, in collaboration with other stakeholders and tenants' input, will be used to achieve this goal.

Committee Settles KMG Management Source of Income Discrimination Matter

On March 30, 2015, the Committee and co-counsel at **Hogan Lovells LLP** settled a matter on behalf of the Equal Rights Center (ERC) in a source of income discrimination claim involving KMG Management, LLC. The complaint was filed with the DC Office of Human Rights in August 2014.

The settlement agreement requires KMG Management to: (1) implement non-discrimination policies, including compliance with laws relating to source of income discrimination; (2) train officers and staff in fair housing laws; and (3) keep records of rental housing relating to Housing Choice Voucher Program recipients in the District of Columbia.

KMG also agreed to make a payment to the ERC in settlement of its claims.

Immigrant Rights

Wage Theft Collective Action Against DC Area Construction Company Heads to Trial

The Committee and co-counsel **Latham & Watkins LLP** are representing painters and other laborers at Tito Contractors who were denied wages for regular hours worked and not paid time-and-a-half for overtime hours over a period of many years, in some cases for more than a decade. Tito Contractors also retaliated against the workers when they complained about the wage and hour violations.

The complaint was filed on October 18, 2013, in the US District Court for the District of Columbia, as a class action and collective action with seven named plaintiffs. The case was certified as a collective action in 2014. There are currently 25 plaintiffs, 13 of whom accepted offers of judgment in May.

On March 4, 2015, the court granted plaintiff's summary judgment motion as to liability and denied defendant's summary judgment motion on the issue of equitable tolling. The case will proceed to a bench trial to resolve the equitable tolling claims of the remaining 12 plaintiffs.

Corporate Advisory Board members **FTI Consulting** and **Veris Consulting** have been providing assistance in calculating damages in the case.

Pregnancy Discrimination Lawsuit Against Chipotle Continues

In February 2014, the Committee and co-counsel **Debevoise & Plimpton LLP** filed a complaint in US District Court for the District of Columbia against Chipotle Restaurants on behalf of a Spanish-speaking woman who was terminated by the restaurant after disclosing she was pregnant.

Arnold & Porter LLP has succeeded Debevoise & Plimpton LLP as counsel in the case.

The facts in this case have been cited recently by the DC Council to support efforts to amend DC law to require that accommodations be made for pregnant employees

Chipotle has moved for summary judgment, and that briefing is scheduled to be completed in June.

Veterans' Rights and LGBT Initiatives Announced

(continued from page 1)

With respect to LGBT rights, the Committee is currently litigating a case against Exxon for engaging in sexual orientation discrimination in hiring.

The Committee is also representing a Wal-Mart worker who was unlawfully denied health care insurance for her same-sex spouse, who had ovarian cancer and suffered substantial out-of-pocket medical expenses.

For more information about these initiatives, contact Peter Romer-Friedman at: (202)319-1000, ext. 119; or Peter_RomerFriedman@washlaw.org.

Equal Employment Opportunity

Pregnancy Discrimination Claim Against Federal Law Enforcement Agency Settles

The Committee, with co-counsel **McDermott Will & Emory LLP**, have reached a major settlement on behalf of Detective Renee Abt in her pregnancy discrimination complaint against a Federal Law Enforcement Agency in D.C. Detective Abt was a highly successful officer who was placed on limited duty immediately after she told her superiors that she was pregnant.

The Agency had a written policy that required a pregnant officer to report her pregnancy the moment she learned she was pregnant, no matter how far along the pregnancy was. The policy required that the officer receive a certification from her doctor that she was capable of continuing work, and did not allow pregnant officers to make decisions about their own safety nor did it allow for determinations based on ability.

Detective Abt challenged 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.

Both Detective Abt and the government moved for summary judgment, and both motions were denied. In early May, Detective Abt and the Justice Department reached an agreement, which includes a monetary settlement as well as the removal of the Agency's discriminatory pregnancy policy.

Sexual Harassment Lawsuit Against DC Department of Corrections Resolved

The Committee and co-counsel **Arnold & Porter LLP** have resolved a sexual harassment lawsuit brought in US District Court for the District of Columbia on behalf of four current and former female corrections officers against the

DC Department of Corrections. Two other women are part of the lawsuit and represented by **Covington & Burling LLP** and **Kirkland & Ellis LLP**.

The corrections officers faced extreme sexual harassment by co-workers and superiors at the DC Jail. Harassment ranged from an overly sexualized hostile work environment, which included incidents of men exposing themselves to the women, to *quid pro quo* sexual harassment where women were given or denied promotions and other benefits based on requests for sexual favors. The clients also faced retaliation for reporting the harassment. Relief included settlements to the plaintiffs and attorney's fees.

Fluvanna Prison Health Care Case Settles (continued from page 1)

In memorandum opinions, the US District Court for the Western District of Virginia certified the class and issued summary judgment in our favor, ruling that the Virginia Department of Corrections may not delegate its constitutional obligation to provide adequate medical care by simply turning health care over to a subcontractor.

The settlement provides for significant reforms in medical care at Fluvanna as well as in other prisons across Virginia, and for health care services to be monitored by an outside observer. The agreement includes attorney's fees and costs.

Progress Continues in ADX Lawsuit

Discovery and settlement talks by the DC Prisoners' Project with co-counsel **Arnold & Porter LLP** in the highly publicized case *Cunningham v. US Bureau of Prisons* (formerly *Bacote et al. v. U.S. Bureau of Prisons*), a putative class action litigation filed on June 18, 2012, have led to initial improvements by the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) in mental health treatment of inmates at this facility, and even a new nationwide mental health care policy. The new policy excludes most men and women with serious mental disabilities from the highest security prisons.

DC Prisoners' Project

Committee Releases DC Conditions of Confinement Report

On June 11, 2015, the Committee with a team of lawyers from **Covington & Burling LLP** released the report *DC Prisoners: Conditions of Confinement in the District of Columbia*, to widespread media attention. The study examines conditions of confinement at the nearly 40-year-old Central Detention Facility (DC Jail), and at the privately run Correctional Treatment Facility (CTF), including serious, recurring problems to be remedied by DC Department of Corrections and DC policymakers. It offers proposed recommendations to address these recurring issues.

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An Interview with Kevin R. Glandon, Associate, Covington & Burling LLP, on DC Conditions of Confinement Report

Kevin R. Glandon, **Covington & Burling LLP** associate, led a team of associates who authored the Committee's recently released criminal justice report *DC Prisoners: Conditions of Confinement in the District of Columbia*. He spoke with **UPDATE** staff about his experience in coordinating preparation of the report with the Committee.

Q: *What was your major finding in investigating this topic?*

A: The physical condition of the Central Detention Facility (DC Jail) is alarming. Problems with operation of the Correctional Treatment Facility (CTF), and concerns with mental health, suicide, the confinement of youth, and other issues affecting District prisoners deserve our immediate attention. These problems disproportionately affect minority populations, and Black men in particular, in the District.

Q: *What do you hope to achieve with the publication of this report?*

A: Given the recurring problems discussed in the report, we recommend that the District close the DC Jail and CTF, and construct a new, safer, and more efficient facility that adequately addresses the District's needs in light of its different prisoner populations. Also, considering the history of problems associated with the Corrections Corporation of America, the private prison company currently operating the CTF, we strongly recommend that the CTF be returned to the control of the DC Department of Corrections, and that any new facility be run publicly.

Q: *Could you describe your experience in working with the Committee?*

A: Our Covington team greatly enjoyed working with the Committee. We found the Committee's depth of experience in the field to be enlightening and helpful, particularly as we combed through volumes of information. The Committee's staff members are knowledgeable, responsive, and friendly.

Q: *Would you recommend this type of pro bono assignment to other firms?*

A: Yes. In addition to increased knowledge about the issues, associates gain experience and develop important skills.



Kevin R. Glandon
Associate
Covington & Burling LLP

Public Education



Attending the May 21, 2015 School Partnership Lunch Meeting were (L/R): Charles W. Johnson, IV, Partner, Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP; Kent Withycombe, Washington Lawyers' Committee Public Education Project Director; and Najla Hussein, Director of Community Partnerships in the DC Public Schools Office of Family and Public Engagement.

2015 School Partnership Recruitment Meeting Held

Nearly 100 attendees from DC law firms, businesses, and area schools met on May 21, 2015, to promote more educational partnerships with DC public schools. Organized by the Washington Lawyers' Committee and hosted at **Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld LLP**, the annual recruitment luncheon featured remarks by Rod Boggs, Kent Withycombe, Akin Gump Partner and meeting host Charlie Johnson, and Josephine Bias Robinson, Chief, Office of Family and Public Engagement for DC Public Schools. Ms. Robinson strongly endorsed the Committee's DC Public School Partnership Program, and urged new organizations to partner with DC public schools.

The Partnership Program has now established a record high 50 school/firm partnerships, including five new educational partnerships this school year between law firms or area companies and specific D.C. public schools. They are: (1) **Baker Botts LLP** with Roosevelt High School; (2) **Carr Maloney P.C.** with Seaton Elementary School; (3) **Price Benowitz LLP** with the Incarcerated Youth Program; (4) **Bryan Cave LLP** with Burroughs Education Campus; and (5) **Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP** with Luke Moore High School.

Firms involved in the school partnership program provide much-needed academic enrichment and related support for about 11,000 DC Public School students. Many more schools are awaiting partnerships. For more information, contact Kent Withycombe at (202) 319-1000, ext. 145, Kent_Withycombe@washlaw.org.

Amicus Brief Supports DC Home Rule Authority on School Funding Decisions

The Committee, with co-counsel from **Lewis Baach PLLC**, **Dickstein Shapiro LLP**, and **Gilbert LLP**, recently prepared and submitted an amicus brief on behalf of DC public education advocates supporting the DC Attorney General's motion to dismiss a lawsuit that challenged the DC Council's Home Rule authority to make equitable adjustments in public school funding.

The lawsuit was filed by the DC Association of Chartered Public Schools and two individual charter schools challenging the current public funding for Charter Schools and DC Public Schools. The complaint attacks the authority of the DC Council under the Home Rule Act to make equitable and necessary modifications and adjustments to the School Reform Act and the per student funding formula. The amicus brief was filed on behalf of DC residents from every Ward and public education groups with an interest in this issue, including the 21st Century School Fund and the Senior High Alliance of Parents, Principals and Educators, among others.

Cooking for Kids Bake Sales Benefit DC Public Schools

A dozen law firms raised a record \$9,200 to benefit DC public schools by competing in the Committee's 15th Annual Cooking for Kids Bake Sale and Taste-Off on March 9, 2015. **BuckleySandler LLP** raised the most for its school partner, Cleveland Elementary School, with a total of \$4,648. After participating firms held bake sales at their offices to raise funds for their schools, they sent their best entries to the Committee's office for the Taste-Off competition. Culinary experts Frank Ruta, Aggie Chin and Alex Kramer determined the top three entries in the cake, pie and cookie categories.

Corporate Advisory Board

Corporate Advisory Board Activities

The Committee's Board of Directors launched the Corporate Advisory Board (CAB) in 2010 to offer the business community the opportunity to participate with the Committee in accomplishing our mission of addressing issues of discrimination and poverty in our community. The CAB is chaired by Jay Frankl, Senior Managing Director, **FTI Consulting**. Other members include **Savills Studley**, **Tower Legal Solutions**, **Veris Consulting, Inc.**, and **BDO USA, LLP**.

The CAB companies offer business perspectives and advice on Committee matters; work with Committee lawyers and co-counsel to provide legal services and support on Committee cases; serve as partners with the Committee's Education Project in the DC public schools; and attend Committee events throughout the year while establishing closer ties with our many supporting law firms.

The Committee recognizes participating CAB companies during Committee events, and in print and online publications. For more information about the Corporate Advisory Board, contact Deputy Director Rhonda Cunningham Holmes at: (202) 319-1000, x111; or rhonda_holmes@washlaw.org.

Law Firms Mentor High School Mock Trial Teams

Thirty-two teams from fourteen DC public high schools competed in the annual city-wide Mock Trial Tournament at DC Superior Court on March 19 and 25, 2015. The Committee coordinated all Mock Trial mentors. The Anacostia High School team, coached by attorneys from **Paul Weiss Rifkind, Wharton and Garrison LLP**, won the tournament. Corporate Advisory Board member **Veris Consulting** provided expert witness preparation. For more information, contact Kent Withycombe at (202) 319-1000, x145; kent_withycombe@washlaw.org.

Additional issues include the need to improve suicide prevention practices; improve facilities and programming for youth at the CTF; expand the secure residential treatment program for those suffering from addiction; address arbitrary restrictions on DC policies regarding "good time credit" for academic, vocational, and rehabilitation achievement; provide updated training to correctional officers; and improve access to DC Jail and CTF public records.

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Progress Continues in ADX Lawsuit (continued from page 6)

The case was brought on behalf of prisoners with serious mental illness held in the Florence, Colorado federal 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. 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. This case can be followed at www.supermaxlawsuit.com

The March 26, 2015 issue of *The NY Times Magazine* featured this case on the cover. To read the complete article, see: <http://nyti.ms/1GsrGDt>.

Committee Releases DC Conditions of Confinement Report (continued from page 7)

The report lists the top priority to be addressed as the deteriorating condition of the DC Jail, which DC Department of Health inspection reports have described as having numerous violations of established correctional and public health standards, serious structural and mechanical problems, poor housekeeping and sanitation practices.

Arrivals

New Board Members

The Washington Lawyers' Committee is pleased to welcome 4 new members to the Board of Directors. They are: William J. Tuttle (**Dechert LLP**); Melissa Felder Zappala (**Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP**); Ada Fernandez Johnson (**Debevoise & Plimpton LLP**); Jonathan E. Paikin (**Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP**); and Ian Simmons (**O'Melveny & Myers LLP**).

New Staff

David J. Cynamon, a former Committee Co-Chair and board member, and former Partner at **Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP**, coordinated litigation at the Committee from February – April 2015 while Committee Director of Litigation Matt Handley was on parental leave. Mr. Cynamon has handled a wide range of civil trial and appellate litigation matters, including class actions and employment discrimination cases. He is a graduate of Brown University and Harvard Law School.

Marc Efron, a retired **Crowell & Moring LLP** partner, is now Senior Counsel for general litigation focusing on disability rights issues at the Committee. His

law practice at **Crowell & Moring LLP** spanned a wide range of government contract matters. He graduated from Dartmouth College and Harvard Law School.

Peter Romer-Friedman recently joined the Washington Lawyers' Committee as Deputy Director of Litigation, focusing on enforcing employment rights of veterans and active-duty service members and LGBT workers in both individual and class action cases. Previously, as an Associate at **Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll PLLC**, he litigated class and impact litigation cases in the areas of veterans' rights, employment and credit discrimination, fair housing, disability rights, gay rights, and wage and hour law. He graduated from Columbia Law School and the University of Michigan.

Laura de las Casas is a George Washington University Law School Fellow with the Committee's DC Prisoners' Project. She is a graduate of Emory University and The George Washington University Law School.

Conrad Risher is a Legal Fellow working with the Committee's on equal employment opportunity and immigrant rights matters. He is a graduate of The George Washington University Law School.

Committee Releases DC Conditions of Confinement Report (continued from page 9)

The report also strongly recommends that the District of Columbia not renew its prison health-care contract with the for-profit Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) due to the high contract cost and a controversial record concerning the adequacy of its services.

The conditions of confinement report is the third in a series of significant and influential Washington Lawyers' Committee reports documenting the need for reform in the criminal justice system in the District of Columbia. It follows the widely cited July 2013 report *Racial Disparities in Arrests in the District of Columbia 2009-2011*, and the October 2014 report *Collateral Consequences of Arrests and Convictions under DC, Maryland, and Virginia Law*.

Annual Campaign

2014/2015 Annual Funding Campaign Advances

For the 2014-2015 Annual Campaign, the Committee has received contributions of \$851,249 from 66 firms and \$288,142 from 517 individuals as of June 4, 2015. These figures include contributions to the Committee's Wiley Branton Awards Luncheon, special gifts directed to the John Burke Fund, Judge Louis F. Oberdorfer Memorial Fund, and the Founders' Fund. To be included in the current year's campaign, gifts from individuals and firms should be sent to the Committee by the end of the campaign year on November 30, 2015.

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

2015 Founders' Reception Held May 4

Nearly 100 supporters, including Co-Chairs, Board Members, Trustees, and staff attended the Committee's 2014 Founders' Reception on May 4 at the beautiful home and gardens of Georgetown Law School Professor Emanuel Tersh Boasberg III in Washington, D.C. Committee Co-Chair 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 longtime supporters. Rod Boggs praised the vision of the founders involved in the Committee's creation, and expressed appreciation for the contributions received from the Committee's many supporters and their law firms. Committee Co-Chair Lewis S. Wiener encouraged everyone to support and attend the Committee's 2015 Wiley Branton Awards Luncheon on June 17.



2015 Founders' Reception attendees included (L/R): Richard P. Rome, Executive Vice President and Co-Regional Manager of Savills Studley; G. Brian Busey, Committee Board Member and Partner, Morrison & Foerster LLP; and Karen T. Grisez, Public Service Counsel, Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP.



Also attending the 2015 Founders' Reception were Committee Associate Trustees (L/R) Alexander B. White, Senior Associate, Wilmer, Cutler, Pickering, Hale & Dorr LLP; and Kristin Holbeck McFarlane, Senior Associate, Wilmer, Cutler, Pickering, Hale & Dorr LLP.

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

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