

WILEY A.

BRANTON

AWARDS

June 16, 2021

2021



WASHINGTON LAWYERS' COMMITTEE
FOR CIVIL RIGHTS AND URBAN AFFAIRS



**“WHILE WE
HAVE OUR
EYES ON THE
FUTURE,
HISTORY
HAS ITS EYES
ON US.”**

—AMANDA GORMAN

First National Youth Poet Laureate



WASHINGTON LAWYERS' COMMITTEE

FOR CIVIL RIGHTS AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs is a leader in civil rights, anti-poverty, and equal justice advocacy. The Committee has fought to ensure that every child, regardless of race, disability, or poverty has an equal access to an education, that people of color and women have access to employment opportunities, that housing discrimination on the basis of race, disability, family size, and criminal history be eliminated, that places of public accommodation serve everyone regardless of race or disability, that prisoners not be subjected to unconstitutional conditions, and many, many other causes.

BRANTON AWARDS 2021

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TODAY'S PROGRAM

WELCOMING REMARKS

Jamie S. Gardner

Co-Chair, Washington Lawyers' Committee

Beth Wilkinson and Jennifer Levy

Co-Chairs, Wiley A. Branton Awards Event

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REMARKS

Jonathan M. Smith

Washington Lawyers' Committee

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

THE CRIMINAL LEGAL SYSTEM

Sekwan Merritt

Owner, Lightning Electric, and Justice Reform Advocate

VINCENT E. REED AWARD

Introduction: Jhonna Turner

Washington Lawyers' Committee

Friends of Ketcham Elementary School (FoKES)

Remarks by **Christina Hanson**

Ketcham Elementary Assistant Principal

Amira Moore

Ketcham Elementary parent, accepting on behalf of FoKES

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

HOUSING JUSTICE

Alex Guzmán

Housing Opportunities Made Equal of Virginia

RODERIC V.O. BOGGS AWARD

Introduction: Susie Hoffman

Crowell & Moring LLP

Marc Efron

Washington Lawyers' Committee

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

DISABILITY RIGHTS

Kaitlin Banner

Washington Lawyers' Committee

WILEY A. BRANTON AWARD

Introduction: N. Thomas Connally, III

Hogan Lovells US LLP

Neal Katyal

Hogan Lovells US LLP

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

SYSTEMIC RACISM

Robert Barnett

Hanover County NAACP

Catherine Yao

Latham & Watkins LLP

ALFRED MCKENZIE AWARD

Introduction: Jonathan M. Smith

Mary Price, FAMM, accepting on behalf of:

Akin Gump Strauss

Hauer & Feld LLP

DLA Piper LLP (US)

FAMM

George Washington

University Law

School's Prisoner &

Reentry Clinic

Matt Kaiser

National Association

of Criminal Defense

Lawyers

Public Defender Service

Second Look Project

Sidley Austin LLP

Steven M. Salky

Zuckerman Spaeder LLP

Wiley Rein LLP

CLOSING REMARKS

Kevin H. Metz

Co-Chair, Washington Lawyers' Committee

POST EVENT PANEL

**June 1, 2020: BLM v. Trump
and the Swann Street Kettling**

Toni Sanders

Black Lives Matter Revolutionary

Christopher A. Eiswerth

Sidley Austin LLP

Jacquelyn E. Fradette

Sidley Austin LLP

Among his most notable cases was the litigation that desegregated the Little Rock public schools. It was Dean Branton's injunction that led President Eisenhower to call out federal troops to escort African American students to school.



Wiley A. Branton was a tireless advocate for civil rights and equal justice throughout his entire career

as a private practitioner in Arkansas, a leader of federal agencies in Washington, and a dean of the Howard University School of Law. The Wiley A. Branton Award is annually bestowed upon members of the legal community whose careers embody a deep and abiding commitment to civil rights and economic justice advocacy.

Dean Branton started his career in private practice in Arkansas in the 1950s, representing African American criminal defendants in often racially charged prosecutions. Working with Justice Thurgood Marshall and the NAACP, he took on some of the most significant civil rights cases in the South. He represented the Freedom Riders in Mississippi, who were arrested for desegregating public transportation and public accommodations.

Among his most notable cases was the litigation that desegregated the Little Rock public schools. It was Dean Branton's injunction that led President Eisenhower to call out federal troops to escort African American students to school. From 1962 to 1965, he led the Voter Education Project in Atlanta. During his three years at the helm the project registered more than 600,000 African Americans to vote.

President Lyndon Johnson appointed Dean Branton to lead the President's Council on Equal Opportunity and then to work on the implementation of the Civil Rights Act as special assistant to the United States Attorney General. In 1967 he became executive director of the United Planning Organization, the District of Columbia's antipoverty agency. Two years later, he directed the social action program of the Alliance for Labor Action.

From 1978 to 1983, Mr. Branton was dean of Howard University Law School, where he dedicated himself to the training of the next generation of civil rights advocates.

Following Dean Branton's death in 1988, his friend Justice Thurgood Marshall remembered him as follows: "He was a great guy, a warm person who believed in people and believed in what was right."

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



NEAL KATYAL

NEAL KATYAL, former Acting Solicitor General of the United States, has argued more US Supreme Court cases than any other attorney of color, having recently broken the record long held by Thurgood Marshall. Many of his most impactful cases have sought to protect the rights of some of our society's most vulnerable populations.

Mr. Katyal fought to protect key provisions of the Voting Rights Act against a constitutional challenge, for example, temporarily forestalling the Supreme Court's eventual striking of Section 5 of the Act in a subsequent term. He has also handled critical cases preserving civil rights and civil liberties in the national security context. One such case – *Hamdan v. Rumsfeld* – challenged the practices employed in the trials of detainees at the Guantanamo Bay prison, and produced what former Solicitor General Walter Dellinger described as “simply the most important decision on presidential power and the rule of law ever. Ever.”

Mr. Katyal argued the challenge to Donald Trump's Muslim travel ban in *Trump v. Hawaii*, highlighting and rejecting the religious discrimination that

served as the basis of the president's executive order. And he fought to protect the rights of whistleblowers – rights essential to protecting against executive abuse.

Equal protection of the law has been a central theme to many of the cases that Mr. Katyal has handled in the Supreme Court. He argued that religious adoption agencies should be prohibited from discriminating against lesbian and gay parents, for example, and contested systemic racial discrimination against employees and against persons on death row.

In 2021, amid a nationwide reckoning regarding entrenched racial injustice and police brutality in our society, Mr. Katyal and a pro bono team he led assisted in the prosecution of Derek Chauvin for the murder of George Floyd. Chauvin's ultimate conviction served as a critical societal inflection point, and offered a glimpse of renewed hope for lasting change. When Mr. Katyal is not advocating for a better world, he is a husband and father, a Hogan Lovells partner, a Georgetown Law professor, and a frequent and in-demand guest on radio and television news programs.



The Vincent E. Reed Award was established to recognize individuals and organizations for their positive achievements in education justice issues.

The award is given in the name of Dr. Vincent Reed, the distinguished educator whose encouragement and support were directly responsible for the Committee's decision to establish its public education support programs.

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

In 1978, Dr. Reed met with the Washington Lawyers' Committee and encouraged our organization to seek law firm volunteers to serve as legal counsel for parent leaders at a dozen public schools in Southeast Washington. This initial effort became the basis for the Committee's representation of Parents United for the DC Public Schools and the DC Public School Partnership Program, which now operates in more than 50 schools across the city.

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

Dr. Reed was a distinguished educator whose encouragement and support were directly responsible for the Committee's decision to establish its public education support programs.

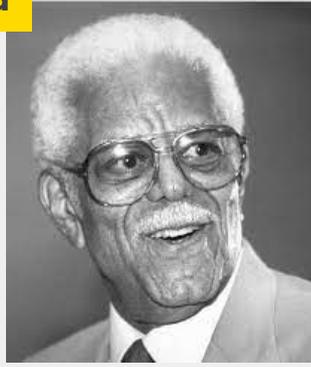


FRIENDS OF KETCHAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (FOKES)

FRIENDS OF KETCHAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (FoKES) is a community-based organization dedicated to uprooting structural racism in the public education system by supporting a neighborhood school in Anacostia. By creating a web of support to ensure children are receiving their civil rights to a high quality education, parents, neighbors, staff, church members, and local advocates work together to bring resource equity and strong learning opportunities to the school. The mission of FoKES can be summarized by the term: “community support for a community school.” This concept and call-to-action works to develop a well-rounded educational environment appropriate for each to flourish and thrive.

In partnership with the Parent Empowerment Program, FoKES has been able to raise funds, membership, participation, time, and sweat equity into Ketcham. What originally started with \$20, a dream, and a dedicated parent, has brought economic power, advocacy, awareness, and educational opportunities to this school community. In its first year, FoKES

was able to raise \$20,000 and to date, has raised more than \$95,000 in total. Since COVID-19, access to necessary technology – and the need for stronger STEM support – has become a priority. FoKES continues to survey the school and the community to assess needs, opportunities to gain greater awareness, critically think through safety, and have an impact in the Anacostia neighborhood. FoKES is a phenomenal demonstration of what the Washington Lawyers' Committee is striving for: repairing the damage of historic racial inequity in public education and to break down barriers to opportunity and advancement.



The Alfred McKenzie Award was established in 1994 to recognize Committee clients whose dedication and courage have produced civil rights victories of particular significance.

It takes its name from a man whose efforts as a Committee plaintiff helped to change an institution.

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

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

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COMPASSIONATE RELEASE CLEARINGHOUSE

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP • DLA Piper LLP (US) • FAMM • George Washington University Law School's Prisoner & Reentry Clinic • Matt Kaiser • National Association for Criminal Defense Lawyers • Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia • Second Look Project • Sidley Austin LLP • Steven M. Salky • Wiley Rein LLP

The Compassionate Release Clearinghouse was formed in January of 2019 to provide pro bono counsel to prisoners who sought relief under the newly enacted First Step Act. The First Step Act allowed sick, elderly, and terminally ill prisoners and prisoners with special circumstances to apply to the court for a reduction in their sentence.

The COVID-19 pandemic dramatically expanded the need for attorneys to take compassionate release cases. Moreover, in 2020, the District of Columbia Council expanded the local law to allow prisoners convicted in the Superior Court to seek a reduction in their sentence. The Clearinghouse expanded to meet this need.

Prisoners are at an unusually high risk for infection from COVID-19. They live in congregate settings, have no control over their environment, have no effective means to physically distance, encounter staff who enter and leave the prison daily without proper screening, and lack access to necessary medical care. Screening, identification, quarantine, and isolation practices are woefully deficient.

Through the incredible dedication of all our awardees, hundreds of lawyers have provided representation to prisoners who are terminally ill, have a disabling condition, are of advanced age, or have other special circumstances to seek compassionate release. The work of the Compassionate Release Clearinghouse and our awardees especially in this past year has been lifesaving.

The organizations, individuals, and law firms above are being recognized for their work to form and operate the Clearinghouse, including the screening of thousands of cases, the development of training and reference materials, the creation and operation of the case management system, work with the Courts to expedite the resolution of cases, and the provision of advice, support, and counsel to pro bono attorneys who undertook representation of hundreds of men and women seeking relief.

The COVID-19 pandemic **dramatically expanded** the need for attorneys to take compassionate release cases.



Over a long and distinguished career, Rod Boggs has left an indelible mark on the civil rights and anti-poverty law landscape in our city and beyond.

Rod's work as the Executive Director of the Washington Lawyers' Committee, and earlier as a Staff Attorney at the national Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, has extended nearly five decades beginning in 1969. He contributed to advances in virtually every area of civil rights law and raised the profile of pro bono practice in the legal profession.

Under Rod's leadership, the Committee served as counsel or co-counsel in some of the most significant civil rights cases of the past 50 years. One of these was *Runyon v. McCrary*, a case that he helped argue in the US Supreme Court in 1976, which successfully challenged the racially discriminatory admissions' policy of a private nursery school. Another was the class action brought in 1993 on behalf of a group of uniformed Secret Service Agents denied service at a Denny's Restaurant while on active duty protecting President Clinton. The settlement of this case provided \$17.5 million dollars of monetary and injunctive relief to 175,000 individual class members.

In recognition of his accomplishments, among other honors, Rod has received the Justice Potter Stewart Award from the Council for Court Excellence, the Thurgood Marshall Award from the DC Bar, and most recently the President's Award from the Washington Council of Lawyers.

The overarching goal of Rod's work has been to harness the resources of our city's private bar and its leaders to help secure justice and equal opportunity for all who seek the protection of our civil rights laws. He has pursued this objective over a long career with infectious enthusiasm, an abiding sense of commitment to the Committee's clients, and strong collaboration with his staff and law firm colleagues.

The Roderic V.O. Boggs award is given to a member of the legal profession who has made a sustained commitment to the Washington Lawyers' Committee, its clients, and its values.

Under Rod's leadership, the Committee served as counsel or co-counsel in some of the most significant civil rights cases of the past 50 years.



MARC EFRON

When Marc Efron retired from a successful career as a partner at Crowell & Moring in 2014, he joined the Washington Lawyers' Committee as volunteer working a significant portion of the week in the office. For the last six years, Marc has been a critical member of the staff and has been involved in some of our most important disability rights cases. Marc was part of the team that secured a consent decree against BarBri for discrimination against blind bar exam applicants. The resolution of the case ensured that the test preparation materials that were published online were equally accessible to persons using screen readers.

Marc played a central role in the Committee's representation of the American Council of the Blind in a complaint with the Federal Communications Commission regarding the accessibility of voice over internet protocol (VOIP) phones. VOIP phones were not originally designed to be used with screen reader technology. The settlement of that complaint will ensure the accessibility of VOIP phones which have become ubiquitous in business settings.

Most recently, Marc was a critical member of the Committee's litigation team that fought to ensure blind and low vision Virginia voters can cast their ballot privately and independently from the safety of their homes. This case, litigated in the midst of COVID-19, addressed a critical issue of equal access to the ballot.

Marc's work has not been limited to our disability rights practice. He makes a significant contribution to litigation and policy advocacy across the program. Marc serves as a mentor to lawyers throughout the office. On hundreds of cases and matters, he consults, provides guidance and advice, and assists to improve written and oral advocacy. He is an ever wise, kind, and encouraging presence.

Marc's deep commitment to justice is present in all of his work. The Committee is grateful for his many contributions.

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

For Exceptional Commitment
to Civil Rights and Justice

ARNOLD & PORTER | ACLU OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Enzo Costa, et al. v. Barbara J. Bazron, et al.

When COVID-19 struck, the District of Columbia was unprepared to take even the most basic infection control measures at its only public psychiatric hospital, St. Elizabeths, resulting in unnecessary sickness and death. The mortality of patients was forty-times that of the general population. Arnold & Porter, the ACLU of DC, and the Committee filed suit against the City and secured an injunction requiring the hospital to take essential steps to stop the spread of COVID-19. Before the injunction was issued on May 24th, 79 patients were infected and 13 had died. The measures required by the preliminary injunction brought transmission under control and the rate of illness dropped dramatically. The District's failure to be prepared for the pandemic was part of a pattern of inadequate emergency planning at the Hospital, including a weeks-long water outage where patients were forced to live in squalid conditions. We continue to litigate to ensure that the Hospital is prepared to protect its patients in the future.

ARNOLD & PORTER | WILMER CUTLER PICKERING HALE AND DORR LLP

Forest Ridge and The Vistas

The Ward 8 Forest Ridge and The Vistas properties fell into disrepair over a period of years. Leaks, mold, and rodents plagued the property and many tenants' homes, forcing tenants to endure substandard conditions and, in some cases, to pay for repairs. When the complex owner filed for bankruptcy protection in 2019, tenants were outraged that the owner would be absolved of its neglect, and that they might lose their housing. In 2020, a settlement with the former complex owner provided 97 tenant-claimants payments of \$20,000 each. WilmerHale and the Committee counseled tenant-claimants regarding the settlement and assisted them to compensation. Arnold & Porter further collaborated with the Committee to provide comprehensive advice to tenants on the possible impact the \$20,000 settlement on tenants' public benefits.

ARNOLD & PORTER

Thomas Heyer and Robert Paul Boyd v. United States Bureau of Prisons et al.

Thomas Heyer has been deaf for his entire life and communicates primarily through American Sign Language. While incarcerated at the federal prison in Butner, North Carolina, the Bureau of Prisons refused to provide him with the means to communicate with the outside world. Mr. Heyer cannot effectively communicate in writing or by TTY and the

In 2020, a settlement with the former complex owner provided 97 tenant-claimants payments of **\$20,000 each.**

Overly broad conviction background screening policies disproportionately exclude Black and Latinx applicants from housing opportunities.

only meaningful mechanism is through a videophone. In litigation filed by Arnold & Porter and the Committee, the case made its way twice to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals resulting in two landmark opinions: first, that prisoners have a First Amendment Right to communicate with the free world, and second, that the Bureau of Prisons must provide a video phone if that is the only effective way to facilitate the communication.

BAKER & HOSTETLER LLP | LAWYERS' COMMITTEE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS UNDER LAW

Mara B. Kniaz, et al. v. Kay Management Company et al.

Mara Kniaz, Kuir Phillips, and their children lived in their apartment for three years. With a growing family, they applied for a larger unit. The landlord ran a background check and discovered an old conviction that should have had no bearing on their tenancy. Not only were they denied a new apartment, but they were forced to leave the complex altogether. For decades, Black and Latinx communities have been targeted by over policing and mass incarceration. Overly broad conviction background screening policies, as a result, disproportionately exclude Black and Latinx applicants from housing opportunities. For these reasons, BakerHostetler, the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, and the Washington Lawyers' Committee filed suit on behalf of the family and Housing Made Equal of Virginia, Inc. (HOME) challenging the screening policy. The settlement of the case compensated Ms. Kniaz, Mr. Phillips, and HOME and forced the management company to change its screening policy to significantly reduce its discriminatory impact.

BELZLEY, BATHURST & BENTLEY | WEIL, GOTSHAL & MANGES LLP

Oscar Adams and Michael Knights v. the Commonwealth of Kentucky et al.

The State of Kentucky failed to have in place the most basic provisions to accommodate deaf and hard of hearing prisoners. As a result, people who were incarcerated were denied access to basic medical care, rehabilitative programming, contact with their families, denied due process during discipline hearings, discriminated against in work assignments, and placed at risk because they could not hear announcements or instructions from staff. Filed in 2014, Belzley, Bathurst & Bentley, Weil, and the Committee, represented people who were incarcerated in Kentucky state prisons in a State-wide class action for more than seven years. The case was settled in 2015, and in 2020, the State finally came into compliance with the consent decree, ensuring deaf and hard of hearing people in the prison system have access to necessary accommodations.

BROWN, GOLDSTEIN & LEVY LLP | SHEPPARD, MULLIN, RICHTER & HAMPTON LLP | DISABILITY LAW CENTER OF VIRGINIA

Carshena Gary, et al. v. Virginia Department of Elections, et al.

As the country shifted to mail-in voting during the COVID-19 pandemic, voters with print disabilities, including blindness, were faced with an untenable decision to either vote absentee with assistance, revealing their choices to another person and hoping that person correctly records their vote, or risk COVID-19 infection by travelling to the polls to vote in person. Brown, Goldstein & Levy; Sheppard Mullin; the disAbility Law Center of Virginia; and the Committee filed suit against Virginia on behalf of voters with disabilities, the American Council of the Blind of Virginia, and the National Federation of the Blind of Virginia to ensure blind voters were able to exercise their right to vote privately and independently via a remote ballot access tool. In response, the Commonwealth agreed to a consent decree for the November 2020 election that included an accessible electronic voting option and in 2021, Virginia committed to

permanently providing an accessible absentee ballot option for voters with print disabilities.

COVINGTON & BURLING LLP

Hanover County Unit of the NAACP v. Hanover County and County School Board of Hanover County

For decades, students in Hanover County, Virginia have been forced to attend schools bearing the names of Confederate generals, play sports and engage in school activities under the names “Confederates” and “Rebels,” and endure daily symbols venerating the Confederacy. These schools were built during the period of mass resistance to integration and given their names to deliberately make Black students feel unwelcome. The Hanover County NAACP has been fighting for equity and inclusivity for years and in 2019, Covington and the Committee filed a lawsuit on their behalf seeking not only to change the names and mascots, and to remedy the hostile environment that confronted generations of students of color. When the District Court dismissed the case, the Committee and Covington appealed that decision to the Fourth Circuit. While on appeal, the Hanover County School Board voted in June 2020 to change the names and mascots at both schools. Both schools were renamed before the start of the 2020-2021 school year.

COVINGTON & BURLING LLP

Mary McBride v. Michigan Department of Corrections

Deaf and hard of hearing prisoners confined to prisons operated by the Michigan Department of Corrections were denied basic accommodations. As a result, people who were incarcerated could not meaningfully participate in prison programming, were denied access to religious services, were denied due process, and prevented from communicating with people outside of prison. In 2015, Covington pursued a state-wide class action that secured wide-ranging relief, including auxiliary aids, American Sign Language Interpreters, access to videophones, and accommodations for religious services. The well-fought litigation lasted over six years, but the success of this case brought essential accommodations to prisoners in the Michigan system.

JENNER & BLOCK LLP | WEIL, GOTSHAL & MANGES LLP | ACLU | PUBLIC INTEREST LAW CENTER

Defy Ventures, Inc. et al. v. United States Small Business Administration et al.

As small businesses struggled through the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress made hundreds of billions of dollars in Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loans available to help keep small businesses and their employees afloat. The Small Business Administration (SBA) promulgated rules that prohibited the issuance of PPP Loans to small business owners with certain conviction or arrest records. This rule disproportionately excluded people of color who have been the target of a racialized criminal legal system. Jenner, Weil, ACLU, Public Interest Law Center, and the Committee filed suit challenging this regulation on behalf of Sekwan Merritt and John Garland, two Black small business owners, and Defy Ventures, a nonprofit organization that works with formerly incarcerated people to provide them entrepreneurial training and support. One week later, in response to our suit, the SBA issued a new rule expanding eligibility for PPP loans to include small business owners with conviction records. The Court subsequently found the original rule to be arbitrary and capricious opening up loan opportunities for thousands of small business owners.

LATHAM & WATKINS LLP | ACLU OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Thurman Williams and Ronald Ian Boatright, each individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated v. Federal Bureau of Prisons, et al.

The COVID-19 pandemic hit persons in institutions first and hardest, including residents in the District’s only halfway house for men: Hope Village. In March 2020, Hope

The well-fought litigation lasted over six years, **but the success of this case brought essential accommodations to prisoners in the Michigan system.**

Village locked more than 225 men into confined quarters, failed to allow for physical distancing or adequate cleaning, and failed to screen staff for COVID-19 – or even take their temperature – as they entered the facility each day. Latham & Watkins and the ACLU of DC filed suit together with the Committee challenging the failure of Hope Village, the Federal Bureau of Prisons, and the DC Department of Corrections to take even the most basic measures to protect residents. As a result, approximately 200 men were released to home confinement, the Hope Village halfway house was closed, and the remaining men were transferred to a halfway house in Baltimore while their home confinement was arranged.

LATHAM & WATKINS LLP

Independent Investigation into the Death of Elijah McClain in Aurora, Colorado

Amid the national reckoning with race this past summer, the City of Aurora, Colorado commissioned an independent investigation of the circumstances surrounding the 2019 officers involved in the death of Elijah McClain. A team of attorneys at Latham & Watkins served as outside pro bono counsel and advised the Panel, extensively reviewing evidence including body camera footage and police interviews and helping to draft the report. In February 2021, the Panel, led by Jonathan Smith, Executive Director of the Washington Lawyers' Committee, presented their report and recommendations to the Aurora City Council which found none of the factors officers identified amounted to reasonable suspicion to stop Mr. McClain. Within 10 seconds after officers approached Elijah McClain, force was used against him which continued unabated for 18 minutes until he entered a health crisis from which he did not recover.

TROUTMAN PEPPER HAMILTON SANDERS LLP

Marcus Rodgers v. Bradley Trate, Warden, United States Parole Commission

After having served more than 20 years in prison, Marcus Rodgers was granted parole and released to a halfway house. He was successfully re-integrating into the community when, without due process, his parole was revoked and he was returned to prison. The Parole Commission reversed its decision after a family member for the victim objected to his parole. Mr. Rodgers was then unlawfully incarcerated for more than 18 months during which Troutman Pepper and the Committee filed a habeas petition on his behalf. In March 2020, the petition was granted and Mr. Rodgers was allowed to come home. This timing was especially important given the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

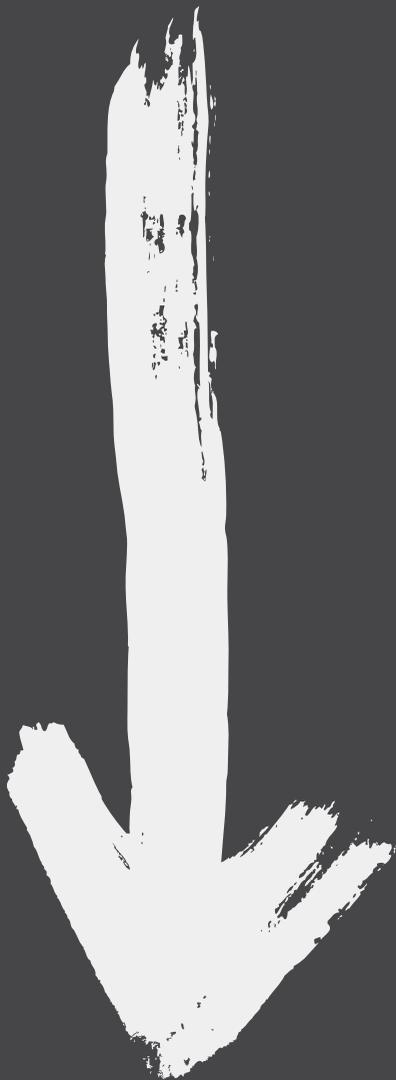
WILEY REIN LLP

John Doe 4, by and through his next friend, Nelson Lopez, on behalf of himself and all persons similarly situated v. Shenandoah Valley Juvenile Center Commission

Since 2017, Wiley and the Committee have challenged the inhumane treatment of immigrant children at the Shenandoah Valley Juvenile Center, a secure detention facility in Virginia. Our clients are young people forced to leave their homes, primarily Mexico and Central America, to escape violence. They have experienced unimaginable trauma. Instead of treatment and services, when confined, they were subjected to a pattern of excessive force, unnecessary and punitive seclusion, and deprivation of adequate mental health care. In January 2021, the Fourth Circuit ruled that, when considering detention conditions, the court must take into account the needs of these young people and provide services consistent with professional standards regarding mental health care. This decision is very important not only for our clients, but is a huge victory for all detained youth in the Fourth Circuit.

This decision is very important not only for our clients, but is **a huge victory for all detained youth in the Fourth Circuit.**

INEQUALITY IN OUR NATION'S CAPITAL



This last year has been transformative for the District, the region, and the nation.

COVID-19, the resulting economic crisis, and the national movement for race equity and to end police violence have made a lasting and durable impact. COVID exposed existing inequities. Pre-pandemic, the average net worth of a white family – \$171,000 – was ten times that of a Black family – \$17,500. Black unemployment was twice white unemployment. Twenty percent of Black women lived in poverty in contrast to seven percent of white men. People of color and women were disproportionately harmed by the health and economic crisis, causing these disparities to grow. Racial disparities in educational achievement, health outcomes, homeownership, and life expectancy expanded. The racialized enforcement of laws that criminalized and imprisoned generations of people of color was graphically on display.

This moment has also created opportunity.

The movement for race equity and reparations has been energized and legislative and policy changes are being debated and enacted that just two years ago were unthinkable. Police reform, experiments with a guaranteed minimum income, increased worker protections, bans on evictions and increased measures to create housing stability have proven a success in the pandemic that should remain after the health crisis subsides.

As we continue to work to address the consequences of the pandemic, we must also set our goals beyond returning to the before times. **Returning to business as usual and failing to face the injustices of our history, policies, laws, and practices is not an option.** We must strive to dismantle injustice and pursue lasting change.

The Washington Lawyers' Committee is **dedicated to dismantling systems of injustice and pursuing real and lasting change** for our clients and our communities.

Through litigation, policy advocacy, client education, and efforts to change the narrative, we seek to end discrimination in all of its forms.

In the face of the past year and a half's pain and grief, it is easy to lose sight of the humanity and good that was on display. **We are incredibly proud of what we have been able to accomplish in the fight for racial and economic justice:**

Secured a lifesaving injunction against the St. Elizabeths psychiatric hospital in the face of an uncontrolled outbreak of COVID-19 which caused more than twenty deaths of patients and staff.

Provided low-wage workers, who are disproportionately people of color, with advice, counsel, and brief services as they were the first to lose their jobs or more likely to be frontline workers who faced higher risk for COVID.

Forced the Bureau of Prisons to send more than 200 men to home confinement from a dangerous halfway house that engaged in grossly inadequate efforts to control the spread of COVID-19.

Fought to close the digital divide through policy advocacy, by organizing parents, and working with law firms and business to contribute hundreds of devices to be distributed to students.

Demanded the Small Business Administration change its discriminatory rule that excluded returning citizens from access to Payroll Protection Loans

which had a significant racially discriminatory impact that we could not let stand.

Ensured voters in Virginia with print disabilities, such as blindness, had access to the same technology used by military and overseas voters so that they could vote independently, privately, and safely amid the pandemic.

Recruited thousands of lawyers in coalition to bring compassionate release petitions to courts across the nation or to represent prisoners seeking parole as COVID-19 swept through prisons and prisoners sickened and died at five times the rate of the general population.

Sued the President and Attorney General when they ordered a violent attack on anti-racism protesters outside the White House targeting them because the majority were Black and all were opposing racialized police violence.

Compelled a large housing provider to cease discrimination against returning citizens and to open up housing opportunities to thousands.

POST-EVENT PANEL DISCUSSION



The Events of June 1, 2020: **BLM v. Trump** and the Swann Street Kettling

One year ago, on June 1, 2020, hundreds of racial justice protesters were violently attacked outside the White House by law enforcement officers deploying tear gas, rubber bullets, and sound cannons. Later in the day, more than 200 protesters, many of whom had been at the White House, were surrounded by police and arrested. The events were part of a pattern of excessive force and other tactics used against people protesting police brutality and excessive force and calling for racial justice.

Represented by the Washington Lawyers' Committee, the ACLU of DC, the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, and Arnold & Porter, Black Lives Matter DC and five protesters filed suit against Donald Trump, William Barr, and other high-level federal officials and law enforcement officers. Subsequently, Sidley Austin LLP, the ACLU of DC, and the Washington Lawyers' Committee released "Protest During Pandemic," a report documenting and identifying the questions raised by the actions of MPD on June 1, 2020.

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This year's Associates Campaign was built around "Meeting the Moment" and our Associate Trustees did just that by setting a **new Campaign record of \$275,526.**

We are so thankful to everyone who helped make this year's Campaign a success.

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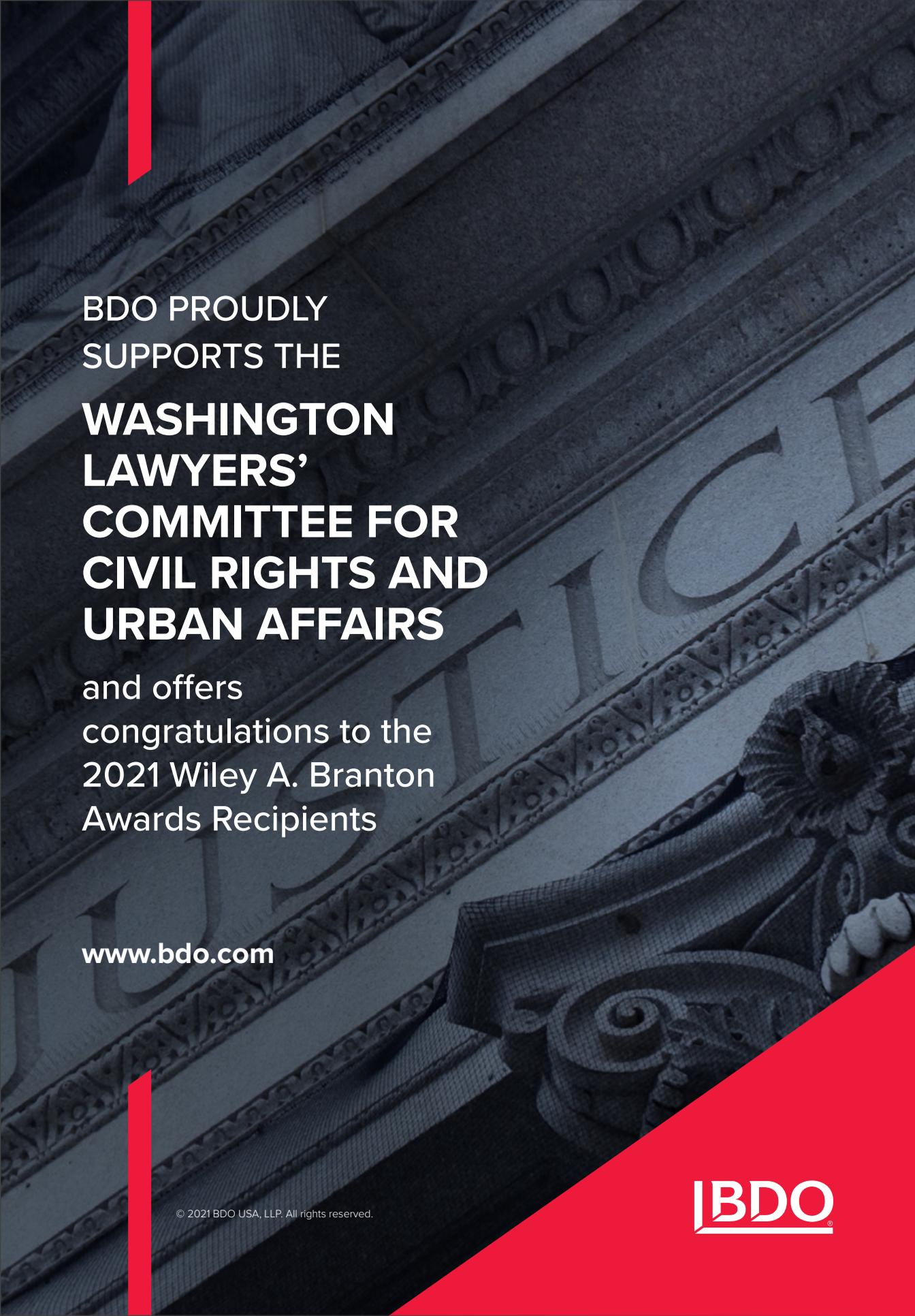
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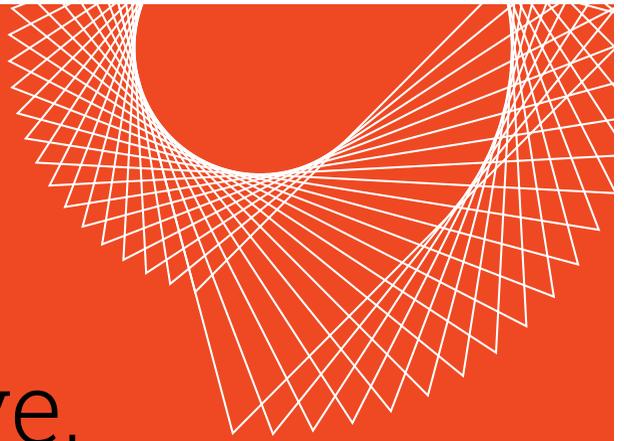
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