



Legal Aid Society  
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

MAKING JUSTICE REAL

# SERVANT of JUSTICE AWARDS DINNER



KIRKLAND & ELLIS

pro bono



Kirkland & Ellis is proud to  
sponsor the Legal Aid Society  
of the District of Columbia's

## 2022 Servant of Justice Awards Dinner

The Firm commends their work  
to bring equal justice to all.

Using our legal skills to better  
**LIVES, COMMUNITIES and OUR PROFESSION**

Kirkland & Ellis LLP  
2049 Century Park East, Suite 3700  
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& Flom LLP and Affiliates

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Skadden congratulates the  
Legal Aid Society of the District  
of Columbia on its achievements  
and outstanding commitment  
to the community.

We congratulate this year's  
honorees: Fatima Goss Graves  
and Daniel G. Jarcho.

Beijing	Los Angeles	Shanghai
Boston	Moscow	Singapore
Brussels	Munich	Tokyo
Chicago	New York	Toronto
Frankfurt	Palo Alto	Washington, D.C.
Hong Kong	Paris	Wilmington
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London	Seoul	



**LATHAM & WATKINS** LLP

Latham & Watkins congratulates the 2022 honorees

**Fatima Goss Graves and Daniel G. Jarcho**  
*Servant of Justice Award*

**Tonya Love and Melinda Gray**  
*Partnership Award*

**Matthew Cohen and Aaron Marx**  
*Klepper Prize for Volunteer Excellence*

**LW.com**



Covington is proud to sponsor  
Legal Aid Society's

# 2022 Servant of Justice Awards Dinner

We applaud tonight's honorees for their dedication to ensuring  
equal access to justice for those members of our community  
who need it most.

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# ALSTON & BIRD

*We are proud to support*

## THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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Thank you **Dan Jarcho** for making pro bono an important part of your career and focus at Alston & Bird and for serving on the Legal Aid Society board since 2004.

-AND-

Thank you **Fatima Goss Graves** for your efforts to fight for gender justice in this country.

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# Making Justice Real

Legal Aid is the oldest and largest general civil legal services program in the District of Columbia. Since the height of the Great Depression, Legal Aid lawyers have been making justice real – in individual and systemic ways – for persons living in poverty in DC. Our lawyers provide high-quality, zealous representation and engage in systemic advocacy in the areas of family law and domestic violence, affordable housing and eviction prevention, public benefits, consumer law, and immigration. We also have a nationally-recognized appellate program, the Barbara McDowell Appellate Advocacy Project. The generous support of our donors makes justice real for thousands of low-income DC residents every year.





# Welcome to the 32nd Annual Servant of Justice Awards Dinner

Since the very first Servant of Justice Awards Dinner on April 30, 1990, the DC legal community has come together each year to celebrate those who “have demonstrated faithful dedication and remarkable achievement in ensuring that all persons have equal and meaningful access to justice.”

Even over the past two years, when we had to cancel our dinner event for the first time ever in 2020 and hold it virtually in 2021, the legal community maintained its support of Legal Aid, knowing that every dollar would be critical to ensuring access to justice for our clients during these especially difficult times resulting from the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Over the last 32 years, your support of this event has helped Legal Aid grow to a staff of more than 90 – including more than 60 attorneys – directly helping more than 10,000 people with their legal problems each year, and tens of thousands more through systemic advocacy work.

Some of us were here for the 1990 Servant of Justice Awards Dinner, while others have joined for the very first time this year. All of us are proud to stand with Legal Aid and all of you as we work to make justice real in DC.

Thank you for your support and congratulations to our extraordinary honorees. Enjoy the evening!

Sincerely,

## Co-Chairs

**Chioma Achebe**

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**Raj De**

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**Kara Brockmeyer**

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**Dixie Johnson &  
Robert Rosenblum**

# Program

## Welcome

### Klepper Prize for Volunteer Excellence

**Matthew Cohen and Aaron Marx**

CROWELL & MORING

## President's Remarks

**Joan McKown**

JONES DAY

## Leadership Remarks

**Rachel Rintelmann**

INTERIM CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LEGAL AID

## Partnership Award

**Tonya Love**

CLAIMANT ADVOCACY PROGRAM

AND

**Melinda Gray**

CLAIMANT ADVOCACY PROGRAM AND LEGAL AID CLIENT

Panel moderated by

**Nicole Dooley**

SUPERVISING ATTORNEY, LEGAL AID



# Program

## **In Memoriam**

**Jennifer Mezey**

INTERIM CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## **Servant of Justice Award**

**Daniel G. Jarcho**

ALSTON & BIRD

Presented by

**Thomas C. Papson**

VOLUNTEER STAFF ATTORNEY, LEGAL AID

## **Servant of Justice Award**

**Fatima Goss Graves**

NATIONAL WOMEN'S LAW CENTER

Presented By

**Kristen Clarke**

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR CIVIL RIGHTS AT  
THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

## **Closing**

**Stephanie Troyer**

INTERIM CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LEGAL AID



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# Sponsors

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# Sponsors

## Corporate Honor Roll



# Partners for Justice

The Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia would like to extend special thanks and recognition to our partners for their unflagging support for access to justice in the District.

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Muriel Bowser, Mayor

Betsy Cavendish, General Counsel to the Mayor

Michelle Garcia, Director, Office of Victims Services  
and Justice Grants

## DC Council

Phil Mendelson, Chairman

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Kenyan R. McDuffie, Ward 5

Anita Bonds, At-large

Brooke Pinto, Ward 2

Charles Allen, Ward 6

Robert C. White, Jr., At-large

Mary Cheh, Ward 3

Vincent C. Gray, Ward 7

Christina Henderson, At-large

Janeese Lewis George, Ward 4

Trayon White, Sr., Ward 8

## The DC Bar Foundation

Since 1978, the DC Bar Foundation has awarded civil legal aid grants totaling more than \$95 million to ensure equal access to legal protection, regardless of income or circumstance. We thank the DC Bar Foundation (under the leadership of their Executive Director Kirra Jarratt) for being a leading funder of civil legal aid in the District and for their commitment to ensuring that DC residents have access to the legal assistance necessary to improve their lives, protect their families, and strengthen their communities.



# The Servant of Justice Award

Since 1990, the Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia has presented the Servant of Justice Award to individuals or organizations who have demonstrated faithful dedication and remarkable achievement in ensuring that all persons have equal and meaningful access to justice. Tonight's honorees have made the struggle for equal justice part of their personal and professional identities through their commitment to and concern for our community. Please join us in expressing our gratitude for their extraordinary contributions to the cause of access to justice in the District and beyond.



## The Servant of Justice Award

The Legal Aid Society of the  
District of Columbia is proud to honor

**Daniel G. Jarcho**

Alston & Bird

Dan Jarcho is a litigation partner at Alston & Bird LLP who has made pro bono a central part of his career. At his firm, Dan represents clients in federal trial-court and appellate litigation involving federal regulatory issues, with a focus on clients regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Dan litigates Administrative Procedure Act challenges to actions by FDA and other federal agencies. He also defends clients in investigations and enforcement actions initiated by FDA and the U.S. Department of Justice.

Dan's pro bono litigation work has benefited hundreds of thousands of people. He has collaborated closely with Legal Aid, serving as lead counsel in cases challenging systemic government practices that harm Legal Aid's client community. One recent case prevented implementation of a federal regulation that would have cut food stamp benefits for nearly 700,000 Americans nationwide. Another case successfully contested the Social Security Administration's seizure of federal tax refunds from more than 50,000 taxpayers without notice; the litigation led to payments of more than \$10 million to affected individuals. Another case triggered changes in D.C. Housing Authority practices that had restricted housing subsidies guaranteed to victims of domestic violence under the Violence Against Women Act. Dan is currently co-counseling with Legal Aid in a case challenging the D.C. government's reduction of workers' unemployment benefits without notice or an opportunity for an administrative appeal.

Dan's other pro bono work has included briefing and arguing appeals on appointment by the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit and Ninth Circuit and drafting Supreme Court amicus briefs supporting gun control and employment protections for people facing cancer. He is former Co-Chair of the ABA's Coordinating Committee on National Security and Civil Liberties. He also has worked to broaden law firm pro bono opportunities as a member of Alston & Bird's Pro Bono Committee and as the former firmwide Pro Bono Chair at McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP.

Dan has served on Legal Aid's Board of Trustees since 2004 and was Board President from 2014-2016.

Dan is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School. He was a law clerk for the chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Utah. Dan and his wife Wendy live in Maryland and have two daughters, Caroline and Michelle.





## The Servant of Justice Award

The Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia is proud to honor

**Fatima Goss Graves**

National Women's Law Center

Fatima Goss Graves is President and CEO of the National Women's Law Center, president of the National Women's Law Center Action Fund, and a co-founder of the TIME'S UP Legal Defense Fund. She is a nationally recognized leader in the fight for gender justice and an expert in law, policy, and culture change.

Prior to becoming President, Fatima served as the Center's Senior Vice President for Program, where she led the organization's broad program agenda to advance progress and eliminate barriers in employment, education, health and reproductive rights and lift women and families out of poverty. Prior to that, as the Center's Vice President for Education and Employment, she led the Center's anti-discrimination initiatives, including work to promote equal pay, combat harassment and sexual assault at work and at school, and advance equal access to education programs, with a particular focus on outcomes for women and girls of color.

Fatima has a distinguished track record working across a broad set of issues central to the lives of women and girls – including income security and COVID relief, equal pay, ending sexual harassment and violence, health and reproductive rights, education access, and workplace justice. She began her career as a litigator at the law firm of Mayer Brown after clerking for the Honorable Diane P. Wood of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. She currently serves as an advisor on the American Law Institute Project on Sexual and Gender-Based Misconduct on Campus and was on the EEOC Select Task Force on the Study of Harassment in the Workplace and a Ford Foundation Public Voices Fellow.

Fatima is widely recognized for her effectiveness in the complex public policy arena at both the state and federal levels, regularly testifies before Congress and federal agencies, and is a frequent speaker at conferences and other public education forums. She also appears often in print and on air as a legal expert on issues core to women's lives, including in the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, AP, Chicago Tribune, LA Times, San Francisco Chronicle, CNN, MSNBC, and NPR.

Fatima has received numerous awards and recognitions for her leadership, and currently serves as a member of numerous boards – in both advisory and governance capacities – including Indivisible and For(bes) the Culture.

Fatima is a graduate of UCLA and Yale Law School, and resides with her family in Washington, D.C.



Presenter

## Thomas C. Papson

Volunteer Staff Attorney

Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia

Thomas C. Papson is a Volunteer Staff Attorney in Legal Aid's Consumer Law Unit. He represents clients in a range of consumer matters and is a member of Legal Aid's team of lawyers representing defendants with cases on the Superior Court's high-volume debt collection calendar. He also is active in Legal Aid's court and legislative reform efforts relating to consumer protection and in broader efforts to enhance access to justice for Legal Aid's client community.

Tom joined Legal Aid in September 2013, following his retirement from McKenna Long & Aldridge. At McKenna, he maintained a commercial and government contracts litigation and compliance practice for more than 35 years, and served as Managing Partner of the Washington, D.C. office. He was a member of the Legal Aid Board of Trustees from 1992 to 2005 and was Board President from 2000 to 2002.

While in private practice, Tom was active in pro bono and other public service work. He served as court-appointed amicus in litigation concerning conditions in the D.C. Public Schools and as litigation counsel for two historic preservation groups in the District. Tom also held various leadership positions in the D.C. Bar, including Chair of the Judicial Evaluation Committee. He was the organizer and managing editor of the first D.C. Bar Practice Manual, for which he was recognized with the Bar's President's Award. In addition to his Legal Aid work, Tom serves as a volunteer mediator in the D.C. Circuit's Mediation Program and is an adjunct professor at The George Washington University Law School, where he teaches government procurement law and advocacy.

Since joining Legal Aid, Tom has assisted more than 400 clients in debt collection, insurance subrogation, structured settlement annuity, and other matters. In the course of that work, he obtained dismissals in over 80 cases, negotiated more than 140 settlement agreements, and secured court decisions in 35 cases. Legal Aid estimates that Tom's assistance resulted in a financial benefit for his clients of more than one million dollars.

Tom was honored with the Servant of Justice Award in 2018.

Tom is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and the Georgetown University Law Center. He began his legal career as a law clerk to Judge John J. Sirica of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. He lives in Maryland with his wife, Toby Singer, who is a retired Jones Day partner. They have a son, Daniel, who works with New York City youth in a college access and success program.



Presenter

## Kristen Clarke

Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at  
the U.S. Department of Justice

Kristen Clarke is the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Justice. In this role, she leads the Justice Department's broad federal civil rights enforcement efforts and works to uphold the civil and constitutional rights of all who live in America. Assistant Attorney General Clarke is a lifelong civil rights lawyer who has spent her entire career in public service.

Assistant Attorney General Clarke began her career as a trial attorney in the Civil Rights Division through the Department of Justice's Honors Program. In 2006, she joined the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, where she helped lead the organization's work in the areas of voting rights and election law across the country. Ms. Clarke worked on cases defending the constitutionality of the Voting Rights Act, presented oral argument to the D.C. District Court in *Shelby County, Alabama v. Holder*, and has provided testimony on federal and state voting rights legislation.

In 2011, she was named the head of the Civil Rights Bureau for the New York State Attorney General's Office, where she led broad civil rights enforcement actions. Under her leadership, the Bureau secured landmark agreements with banks to address unlawful redlining, employers to address barriers to reentry for people with criminal backgrounds, police departments on reforms to policies and practices, major retailers on racial profiling of consumers, landlords on discriminatory housing policies, school districts concerning issues relating to the school-to-prison pipeline and more. In 2015, Ms. Clarke was named the president and executive director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, one of the nation's leading civil rights organizations founded at the request of John F. Kennedy. There, she led the organization's legal work in courts across the country addressing some of the nation's most complex racial justice and civil rights challenges.

Assistant Attorney General Clarke was born in Brooklyn, New York. After graduating from Choate Rosemary Hall, she received her A.B. from Harvard University and her J.D. from Columbia Law School.





# Previous Award Recipients

## Servant of Justice Award

2021 .....

**Avis Buchanan**

Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia

**John Heintz**

Blank Rome

2019 .....

**Anthony T. Pierce**

Akin Gump

**Judith L. Lichtman**

National Partnership for Women & Families

2018 .....

**Thomas C. Papson**

Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia

**Abid Riaz Qureshi**

Latham & Watkins

2017 .....

**Vanita Gupta**

The Leadership Conference on Civil  
and Human Rights

**Donald B. Verrilli, Jr.**

Munger Tolles & Olson

2016 .....

**Marian Wright Edelman**

Children's Defense Fund

**Thomas S. Williamson, Jr.**

Covington

2015 .....

**Wade Henderson**

The Leadership Conference on Civil  
and Human Rights

**Philip W. Horton**

Arnold & Porter

2014 .....

**Barbara McDowell**, *posthumously*

Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia

**Donald P. Salzman**

Skadden

2013 .....

**John Payton**, *posthumously*

NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund, Inc.

**Paul M. Smith**

Jenner & Block

2012 .....

**Susan M. Hoffman**

Crowell & Moring

**James VanR. Springer**

Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia

2011 .....

**Brooksley E. Born**

Arnold & Porter

**Thomas E. Perez**

Civil Rights Division of the United States  
Department of Justice

# Previous Award Recipients

## Servant of Justice Award

2010 .....

**Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.**

Akin Gump

**Florence Wagman Roisman**

Indiana University School of Law – Indianapolis

2009 .....

**Anthony Herman**

Covington

**Dean Kurt L. Schmoke**

Howard University School of Law

2008 .....

**Professor Richard L. Roe**

Georgetown University Law Center

**Seth P. Waxman**

WilmerHale

2007 .....

**E. Barrett Prettyman, Jr.**

Hogan & Hartson

**Sidney White Rhyne**

2006 .....

**Theodore A. Howard**

Wiley Rein

**David A. Reiser**

Zuckerman Spaeder

2005 .....

**Katherine S. Broderick**

University of the District of Columbia

David A. Clarke School of Law

**Andrew H. Marks**

Crowell & Moring

2004 .....

**Lois G. Williams**

**R. Sargent Shriver**

**E. Clinton Bamberger, Jr.**

**Edgar S. Cahn**

**Jean Camper Cahn, *posthumously***

2003 .....

**Peter J. Nickles**

Covington

**The Public Defender Service for the  
District of Columbia**

2002 .....

**Samuel F. Harahan**

Council for Court Excellence

**Douglas G. Robinson**

Skadden

2001 .....

**Lynn E. Cunningham**

George Washington University Law School

**John E. Nolan**

Steptoe & Johnson

**Charles F.C. Ruff, *posthumously***

Covington



# Previous Award Recipients

## Servant of Justice Award

2000 .....

**Patty Mullahy Fugere**

Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless

**Robert N. Weiner**

Arnold & Porter

1999 .....

**Blossom Athey**

Covington

**Eldon H. Crowell**

Crowell & Moring

1998 .....

**Eric H. Holder, Jr.**

United States Department of Justice

**Francine Salzman Temko**

Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia

1997 .....

**Peter B. Edelman**

Georgetown University Law Center

**Timothy J. May**

Patton Boggs

1996 .....

**R. Kenneth Mundy**

**Robert L. Weinberg**

Williams & Connolly

1995 .....

**Willie E. Cook, Jr.**

Neighborhood Legal Services Program

**David B. Isbell**

Covington

1994 .....

**Charles T. Duncan**

Reid and Priest

**Stephen J. Pollak**

Shea & Gardner

**Janet Reno**

Attorney General of the United States

1993 .....

**Justice Thurgood Marshall**, *posthumously*

Supreme Court of the United States

**Zona F. Hostetler**

O'Toole, Rothwell, Nassau & Steinbach

**John H. Pickering**

Wilmer Cutler & Pickering

1992 .....

**Howard C. Westwood**

Covington

**D.C. Legal Service Providers**

1991 .....

**Augustus L. Palmer**

Howard University

**Barbara M. Rossotti**

Shaw Pittman

1990 .....


**Earl W. Kintner**

Arent Fox Kintner Plotkin & Kahn

**Charles A. Horsky**

Covington





Legal Aid client Zenaba Amadou (pictured with her children) dealt with over a year of delays from the District's unemployment agency in trying to obtain the correct benefits she was entitled to.

“When I got connected with Legal Aid, I felt safe, and I trusted them with my life. They helped me and got all my money to support my family.”

— Zenaba Amadou, Legal Aid Client

# The Klepper Prize for Volunteer Excellence

The Klepper Prize for Volunteer Excellence was created through the generosity of Martin and Arlene Klepper to recognize attorneys early in their careers who have made a significant volunteer contribution to the Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia. This evening we present the Klepper Prize to Matthew Cohen and Aaron Marx of Crowell & Moring for their extraordinary pro bono contributions to Legal Aid's client community.

## Previous Klepper Prize Recipients

2021 .....

**Elliot Weingarten**

2019 .....

**Emily Goldman**  
**Lance Murashige**  
**Susan Musser**  
**Kaitlin Welborn**  
Hogan Lovells

2018 .....

**Jahnisa Tate Loadholt**  
Alston & Bird

2017 .....

**David Young**  
Ropes & Gray

2016 .....

**Brendan Carroll**  
Alston & Bird

2015 .....

**Daniel L. Russell, Jr.**  
Covington

2014 .....

**Stefanie A. Doeblor**  
Covington

2013 .....

**Warren T. Allen, II**  
**Nicole L. Grimm**  
**Luke A. Meisner**  
Skadden

2012 .....

**Jonathan G. Lin**  
Simpson Thacher & Bartlett

2011 .....

**Aryeh S. Portnoy**  
Crowell & Moring

2010 .....

**Randall A. Brater**  
Arent Fox

2009 .....

**Julia Judish**  
Pillsbury

2008 .....

**Melissa K. Bianchi**  
Hogan & Hartson

# The Klepper Prize for Volunteer Excellence



The Legal Aid Society of the  
District of Columbia is proud to honor

**Matthew Cohen**

Crowell & Moring

Matthew Cohen is a counsel in the Mass Tort, Product, and Consumer Litigation and Product Risk Management groups at Crowell & Moring. He also serves as an elected Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner for the District of Columbia, advising the District on a wide range of public policy issues. Before attending law school, Matthew worked in the Policy & Government Affairs Department of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC).

Matthew received his J.D. from Washington University in St. Louis School of Law in 2008, cum laude, and a B.A. with distinction in all subjects from Cornell University in 2003.



The Legal Aid Society of the  
District of Columbia is proud to honor

**Aaron Marx**

Crowell & Moring

Aaron Marx is a counsel in Crowell & Moring's International Trade Group. Before joining the firm, Aaron worked for U.S. Customs and Border Protection as an attorney advisor in the Office of International Trade. He also worked for nine years as a chemical engineer in the automotive industry before attending law school.

Aaron earned his J.D. from Brooklyn Law School in 2010 and a B.S. in chemical engineering from the University of Michigan in 1998.

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**Matt** and **Aaron** have been involved with Legal Aid's pro bono program since 2016 and 2018 respectively. During that time, they have focused on defending tenants from eviction, taking on individual cases as well as supervising and serving as internal mentors for colleagues at their firm. Their support has been critical to Crowell & Moring's active participation in the city-wide Housing Right to Counsel Project, which focuses on representing tenants in subsidized and other types of affordable housing.

Matt and Aaron continued to represent clients throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, requiring them to adjust to virtual court proceedings and navigate pandemic-related emergency legislation. Their commitment to their individual clients and pro bono work more generally exemplifies the spirit of the Klepper Prize for Volunteer Excellence.

# The Partnership Award

Legal Aid's Partnership Award honors extraordinary individuals or organizations who have advanced our mission of making justice real in DC.

## Previous Partnership Award Recipients

2021

**Cynthia Spencer**

Member, Legal Aid Community Advisory Council

2019

**Tamika Hayes**

Legal Aid Client, Homeowner, Survivor

2018

**Monica Jackson**

Terrace Manor "Organized for Change" Tenants Association

2011

**DC Fiscal Policy Institute**

2010

**Fair Budget Coalition**

2009

**Housing Counseling Services**

2008

**Dr. Rhonique Shields-Harris**

Children's National Medical Center

**Dr. Gloria Wilder-Brathwaite**

Core Health

# The Partnership Award



The Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia is proud to honor

**Tonya Love**

Claimant Advocacy Program

Tonya Love has served as the Director of the Claimant Advocacy Program (CAP) for the past two decades. As Director, she has represented tens of thousands of jobless workers (claimants) in unemployment compensation appeals hearings and given legal advice to countless others. In response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, which resulted in an unprecedented spike in unemployment and unemployment compensation claims, Tonya and her fellow CAP attorney, Lolita Martin, represented as many as three to five claimants each day while participating in stakeholder meetings and advocacy efforts with the Department of Employment Services and the DC Council. Tonya is one of the District's foremost experts in unemployment compensation law and edits the Unemployment Compensation section of the DC Bar Practice Manual. Tonya also serves as a member of the Hearings Committee of the DC Board on Professional Responsibility.

## **CLAIMANT ADVOCACY PROGRAM**

The Claimant Advocacy Program (CAP) is a free legal counseling service available to individuals who file unemployment compensation appeals in the District of Columbia. CAP attorneys meet with workers denied unemployment compensation in D.C. or whose benefit awards have been appealed by the employer. CAP represents thousands of jobless workers each year.

CAP has helped thousands of jobless workers obtain safety net benefits throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. CAP provides free legal services to individuals who file unemployment compensation appeals and has worked tirelessly to improve DC's unemployment system through their ardent advocacy. They are vital partners in Legal Aid's efforts to reform the unemployment system for all DC workers.





# The Partnership Award



The Legal Aid Society of the  
District of Columbia is proud to honor

**Melinda Gray**

Claimant Advocacy Program and Legal Aid Client

Melinda Gray was born in Washington, DC and raised in Prince George's County, Maryland. After earning a Business Administration degree from Bowie State University, she worked for over 17 years as a Registered Sales Assistant. She then pursued further education, earning health certifications, leading to healthcare work in nursing homes, hospitals and private home settings. Today, she is a Patient Care Technician with the Med/Surg/Oncology unit at George Washington University Hospital. Her healthcare work has helped her become a better person and better parent of two wonderful children. In her spare time, she enjoys cooking, dancing, swimming and traveling with her family.

When Ms. Gray lost her job in 2019 providing home healthcare services for an elderly individual, the system worked, and she was awarded unemployment benefits. But then her former employer appealed, twisting the words of the statute to argue that workers like Ms. Gray, who are employed directly by an individual in need of care rather than through a healthcare agency, could not receive benefits. The Claimant Advocacy Program (CAP) represented Ms. Gray in her administrative appeal, and the Administrative Law Judge agreed that Ms. Gray was entitled to benefits. Undeterred, Ms. Gray's former employer filed a judicial appeal before the District's highest court – the D.C. Court of Appeals.

With help from CAP, Legal Aid represented Ms. Gray before that Court, and Ms. Gray again prevailed. The Court of Appeals decision in Ms. Gray's case finally settled her entitlement to benefits. The Court also definitively rejected all of her former employer's legal theories and firmly established that the unemployment system covers home healthcare workers regardless of whether they are employed by an agency or directly by a patient. Thus, Ms. Gray's victory was not only a personal one, it will also benefit the many members of Legal Aid's client community who do the essential work of providing home health care services that allow elderly individuals and those with disabilities to remain in their homes and communities.



# In Memoriam

Legal Aid remembers and celebrates the following extraordinary individuals whose lives and devotion to justice have made an indelible impact on our client community.

## **Edgar S. Cahn**

Ed Cahn was a lifelong advocate for access to justice, and a visionary leader who was instrumental in the founding of what is now the largest federally funded civil legal aid program for low-income Americans. In 2004, Ed was honored with Legal Aid's Servant of Justice Award for his faithful dedication and remarkable achievement in ensuring that all people have equal and meaningful access to justice.

## **Mark Herzog**

Mark Herzog was a highly respected legal services and pro bono leader in the DC community, known for his steadfast commitment to furthering access to justice and providing counsel to individuals, families, and communities who cannot afford to pay for legal representation. Mark was a fierce ally, a champion for justice, and a dear friend to Legal Aid.

## **Lee Horton**

Lee Horton was a passionate advocate for justice and a member of the Legal Aid family. He was the youngest son of Phil and Roberta Horton, long-time supporters and friends of Legal Aid, and was himself an aspiring public interest lawyer.

## **Vernon Jordan**

Vernon Jordan was a civil-rights leader, lawyer, and adviser to President Clinton. He held leadership positions in many different civil-rights organizations and was influential in pushing for diversity in the corporate world, including within the legal profession. In 2010, he was honored with the Servant of Justice Award.

## **James VanR. Springer**

Jim Springer served as a Volunteer Staff Attorney at Legal Aid for eight years, helping countless DC residents and mentoring dozens of junior Legal Aid attorneys. In 2012, he was honored with Legal Aid's Servant of Justice Award. Throughout his time at Legal Aid, Jim was universally adored by his clients (who would always ask for him by name) and his colleagues. Jim was also a tremendously generous financial supporter for Legal Aid and was one of the 20 most generous individual donors in the organization's history.

# Lee Horton Memorial Scholarship for Aspiring Public Interest Lawyers

Legal Aid is pleased to announce the creation of the Lee Horton Memorial Scholarship for Aspiring Public Interest Lawyers. The scholarship has been endowed in honor of Lee Horton, a member of the Legal Aid family who died tragically in 2021 one day after his 18th birthday after having a seizure. Lee was passionate about racial justice, something that stemmed in part from the murder of a close family friend, who was a West African immigrant, when Lee was a young child. Lee planned to go to law school after college, with the hope of becoming a public interest lawyer.

Having to take an unpaid internship can create financial hardship for many who would otherwise wish to pursue a career in public interest law. We believe that increasing the number of Black, Indigenous and people of color as well as those with a diversity of lived experiences in the legal profession – and specifically in legal services – should be a high priority.

Initial funding for the Lee Horton Scholarship has been provided by Lee's parents, Phil and Roberta Horton. Phil started his career as a Legal Aid attorney in Boston and chaired Arnold & Porter's Pro Bono Committee for many years. He has done extraordinary pro bono work in a range of matters, including representing defendants threatened with the death penalty, and victims of international terrorism. Phil has served on Legal Aid's Board since 1997, including a term as President. He was honored with the Servant of Justice Award in 2015. Roberta, also a partner at Arnold & Partner, is a longtime pro bono lawyer with Legal Aid. She is an active gun control lawyer as well, working with the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence among other groups.

We are so appreciative of Phil and Roberta's long-time support of Legal Aid and for entrusting us with this scholarship fund to honor Lee's memory.



# Legal Aid's Impact

Since our founding in 1932, Legal Aid has been dedicated to making justice real in **individual** and **systemic** ways for people living in poverty in DC. Over the past two years, the COVID-19 crisis has affected every aspect of Legal Aid's work and created unprecedented challenges for our client community. Still, our clients continue to demonstrate incredible strength and resilience as they fight for their rights, their families, and their homes. And we continue to fight with them.

Since March 2020, Legal Aid has shifted from providing largely in-person direct legal services to remote legal services, systemic advocacy, and outreach to represent our clients, ensure that our client community knows their rights and are aware of available resources, and were able to maintain their housing, safety, access to safety net benefits, and access to the courts. Some of our accomplishments over the past two years include:

- Substantially increasing our Unemployment Insurance (UI) team from one to 15 attorneys, handling over 400 UI matters and securing over \$2.18 million in UI benefits for clients in 2021 alone.
- Starting the Petition Assistance Project, a collaboration with two other domestic violence programs, to assist hundreds of domestic violence survivors in filing petitions for protection virtually while the court was closed for in-person services.

We know that when it comes to ensuring a just and equitable recovery for our client community, we have a long, long road ahead of us. But thanks to your support, we can make a real difference in the lives of our neighbors here in DC.

## **Systemic and Policy Advocacy**

Over the past two years, Legal Aid has moved swiftly to help shape and advocate for multiple far-reaching emergency relief bills in DC that expanded access to healthcare, operationalized new federal unemployment benefits programs, and created some of the nation's most far-reaching and protective eviction, foreclosure, and debt collection moratoria. Although existing racial disparities in income, employment and health care in the District led to the burden of the pandemic falling hardest on our client community (made up mainly of low-income Black and Brown individuals), the protections and assistance that Legal Aid advocated for were critical in ameliorating some of the disparate burdens of the pandemic experienced by our clients. We were able to:

- Work with partner organizations to advocate for protections that resulted in ZERO evictions in the District between March 16, 2020 and September 13, 2021, and
- Help struggling homeowners avoid foreclosure by advocating with the DC Council to extend the District's foreclosure moratorium (originally set to expire in November 2021) into 2022.

Legal Aid's **Barbara McDowell Appellate Advocacy Project** provides appellate representation and participates in important appellate matters as *amicus curiae* before the DC Court of Appeals each year. The Project currently focuses on appellate issues created or exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the past year, Legal Aid has actively litigated numerous appeals regarding unemployment insurance claims, as well as handled cases involving housing conditions and subsidies, domestic violence, foreclosure, and consumer credit. In 2021, Legal Aid successfully represented a coalition of legal services providers working to preserve the District's moratoria on eviction filings and actual evictions as *amici curiae*.

# Pro Bono

Legal Aid is fortunate to have a robust pro bono network supporting our mission. These past two years have been no exception as attorneys across the city continued to step up to address urgent needs for our client community. With an anticipated surge in need for help with eviction defense and other areas over the coming year, we look forward to strengthening these partnerships and growing our pro bono network to help close the access to justice gap in the city.

For more information about pro bono opportunities with Legal Aid, please contact Jodi Feldman at [jfeldman@legalaiddc.org](mailto:jfeldman@legalaiddc.org) or Sylvia Soltis at [ssoltis@legalaiddc.org](mailto:ssoltis@legalaiddc.org).



Lakeshia Battle (second from left), with her Crowell & Moring attorneys (left to right) Emily Tucker, John McCarthy, and Chalana Damron, who helped her in her custody case.

“We ended up in court, thanks to John, Emily and Chalana – all of the three of them jumped in and supported me on this emotional rollercoaster to do the right thing for the child. That was what it all boiled down to.”

— Lakeshia Battle

# Making Justice Real Giving Circle

Annual Gift Recognition Program

The Making Justice Real Giving Circle recognizes our most generous individual donors. Your support means so much to us and the people we serve.

▲ Denotes Making Justice Real Legacy Council members, Legal Aid supporters who have made a transformative impact on Legal Aid and the cause of access to justice in DC by committing to donate at least \$100,000 to Legal Aid.

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# 2021 Making Justice Real Campaign

Legal Aid's 2021 Making Justice Real Campaign, our annual fundraising drive led by associates at Washington, DC law firms, began the summer with an ambitious goal to raise \$3 million for our client community. This year's Campaign raised \$3.1 million – smashing our previous record set in 2020.

## Honorary Chairs

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# 2021 Top Fundraising Firm Competition Results

A spirit of friendly competition has long been the hallmark of the Making Justice Real Campaign. The following are the top-contributing firms in each size category.

## 300 + ATTORNEYS

Latham & Watkins - \$235,322  
Williams & Connolly - \$209,614  
WilmerHale - \$155,674  
Crowell & Moring - \$118,742  
Steptoe - \$100,613

## 250 – 299 ATTORNEYS

Sidley - \$118,162  
Skadden - \$64,572  
Jones Day - \$61,860  
Akin Gump - \$25,196

## 200 – 249 ATTORNEYS

Kirkland & Ellis - \$150,250  
Mayer Brown - \$81,170  
King & Spalding - \$45,370  
Wiley Rein - \$31,666  
Arent Fox - \$18,050

## 150 – 199 ATTORNEYS

Pillsbury - \$59,122  
Dentons - \$40,836  
Cooley - \$40,455  
Hunton Andrews Kurth - \$32,708  
K&L Gates - \$27,004

## 100 – 149 ATTORNEYS

Orrick - \$80,897  
Kelley Drye - \$70,519  
Alston & Bird - \$64,411  
Baker Botts - \$47,372  
Morrison & Foerster - \$37,170

## 75-99 ATTORNEYS

Miller & Chevalier - \$58,401  
Paul Weiss - \$52,168  
Simpson Thacher & Bartlett - \$45,571  
Dechert - \$41,143  
Fried Frank - \$38,371

## 50 – 74 ATTORNEYS

Zuckerman - \$39,969  
Weil - \$23,875  
Epstein Becker & Green - \$21,345  
Harris, Wiltshire & Grannis - \$12,496  
Vinson & Elkins - \$12,436

## 25-49 ATTORNEYS

Wilkinson Stekloff - \$54,213  
Debevoise & Plimpton - \$39,934  
Bryan Cave - \$30,182  
Gilbert - \$22,596  
Womble Bond Dickinson - \$16,487

## 1-24 ATTORNEYS

Alex Walsh Law - \$10,000.00  
Munger Tolles - \$9,114  
Stroock - \$3,659  
Legal Aid DC Marketing Pro Bono Committee - \$3,333



# Leadership Cabinet

## Annual Law Firm, Corporation, and Foundation Gift Recognition Program

The Leadership Cabinet annually recognizes our most generous organizational donors.  
We are proud to recognize our Leadership Cabinet members for their generous support.

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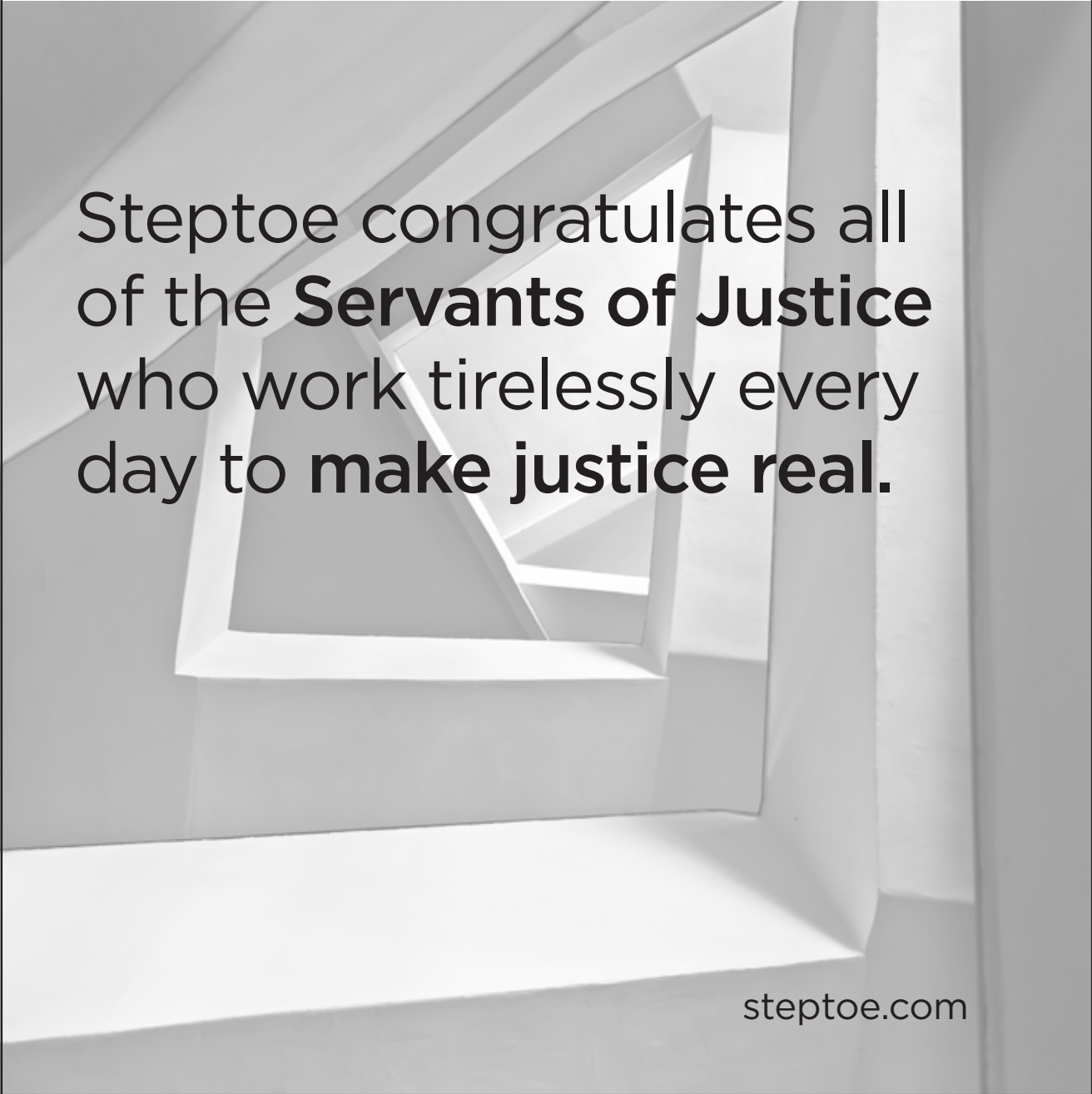
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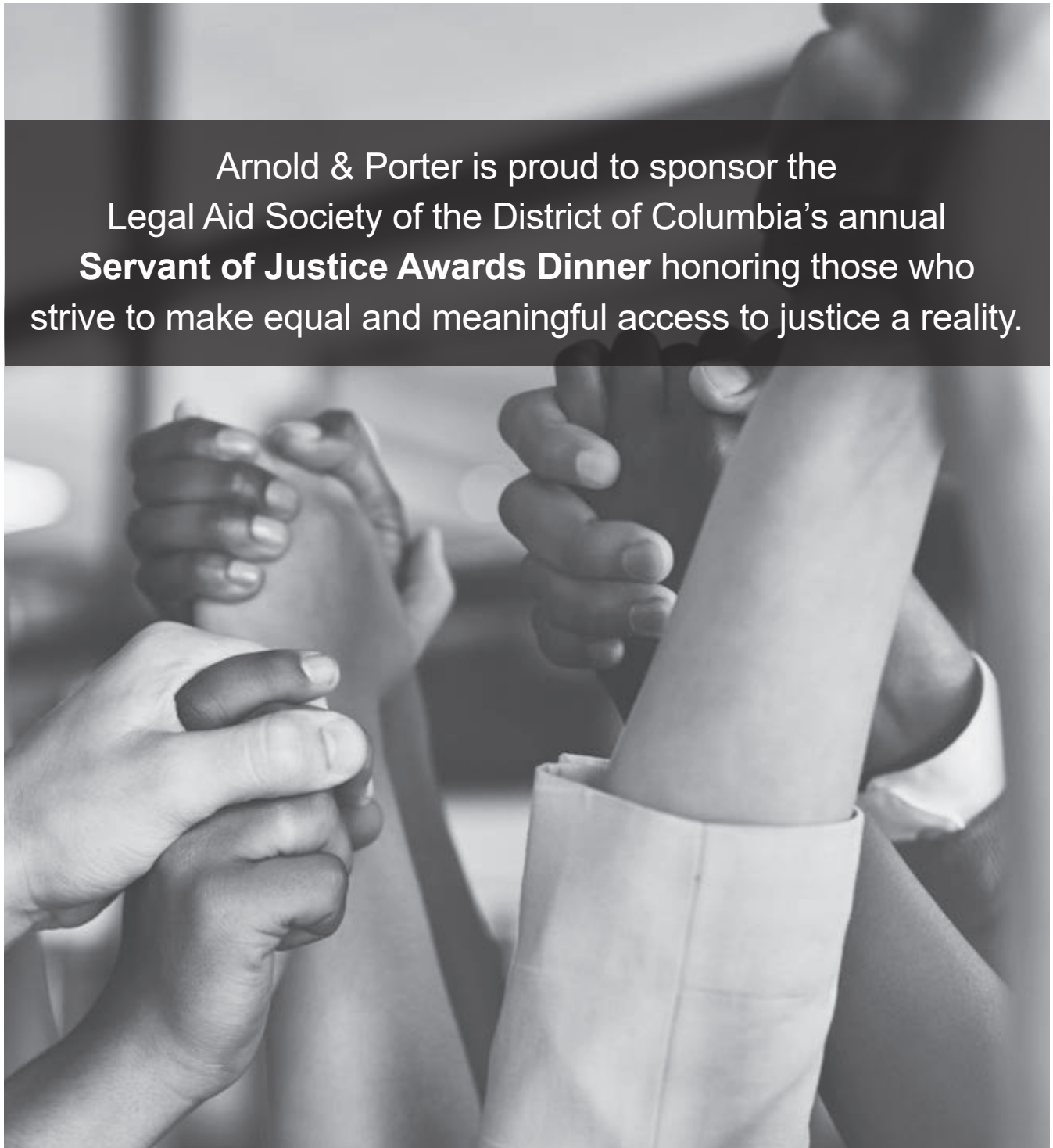
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# Justice For All

Mayer Brown applauds the 2022 Servant of Justice Award honorees and the Legal Aid Society of DC for its dedication to ensuring equal access to justice for all.







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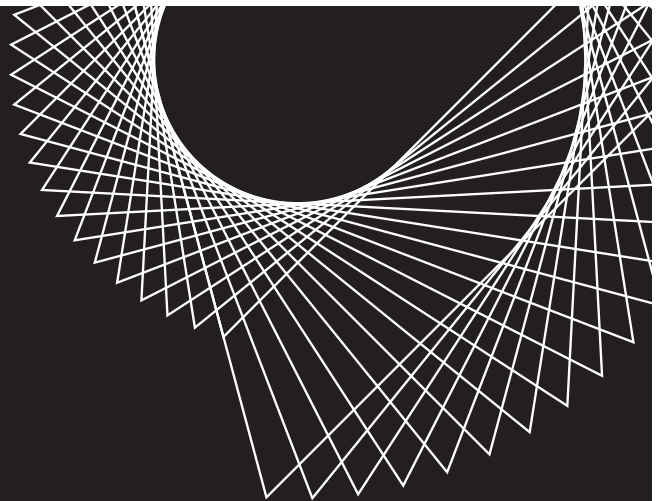
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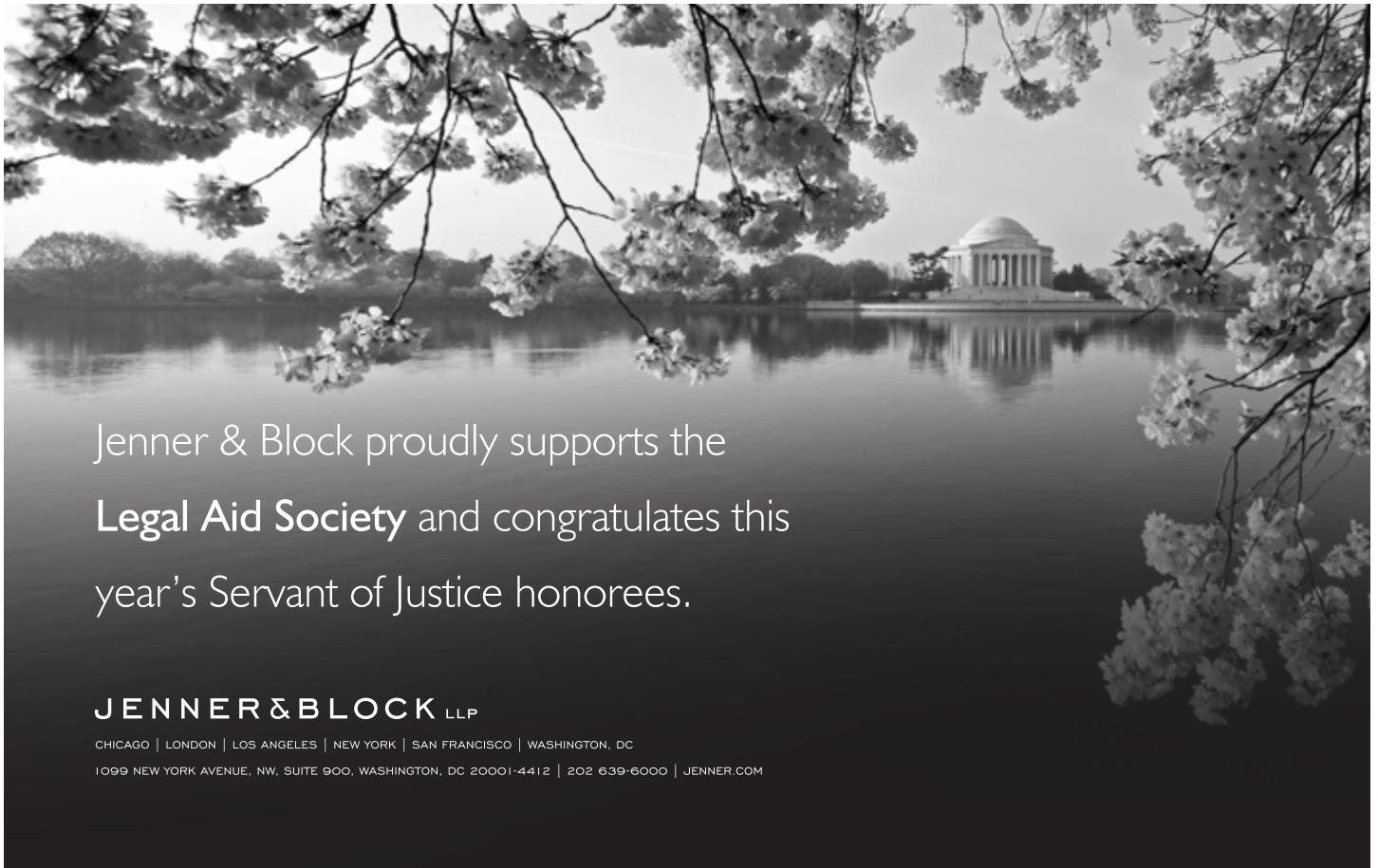
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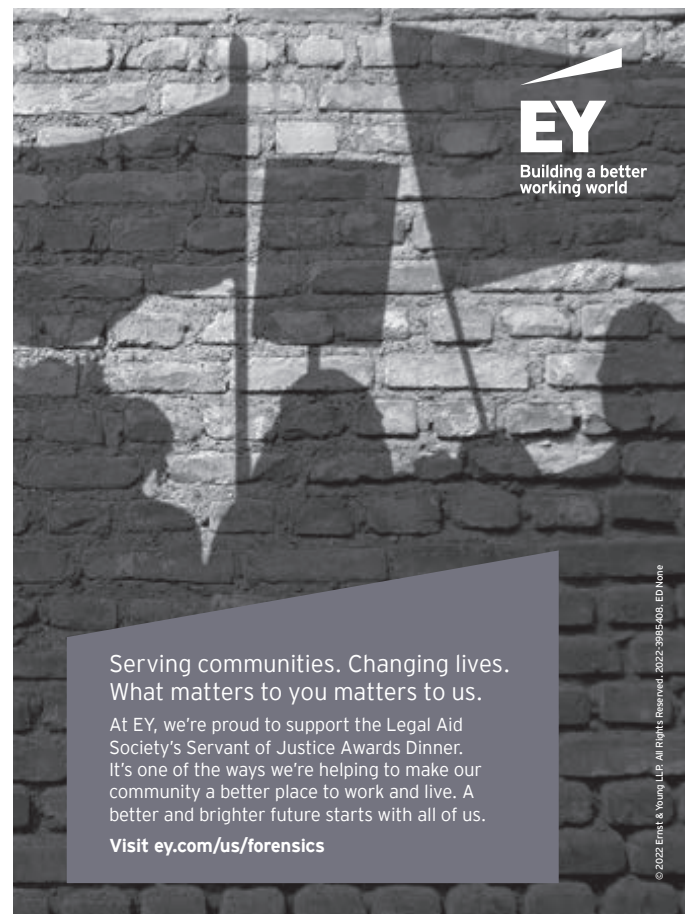


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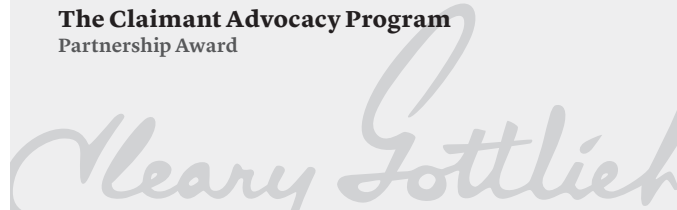
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Daniel G. Jarcho, Partner, Alston & Bird

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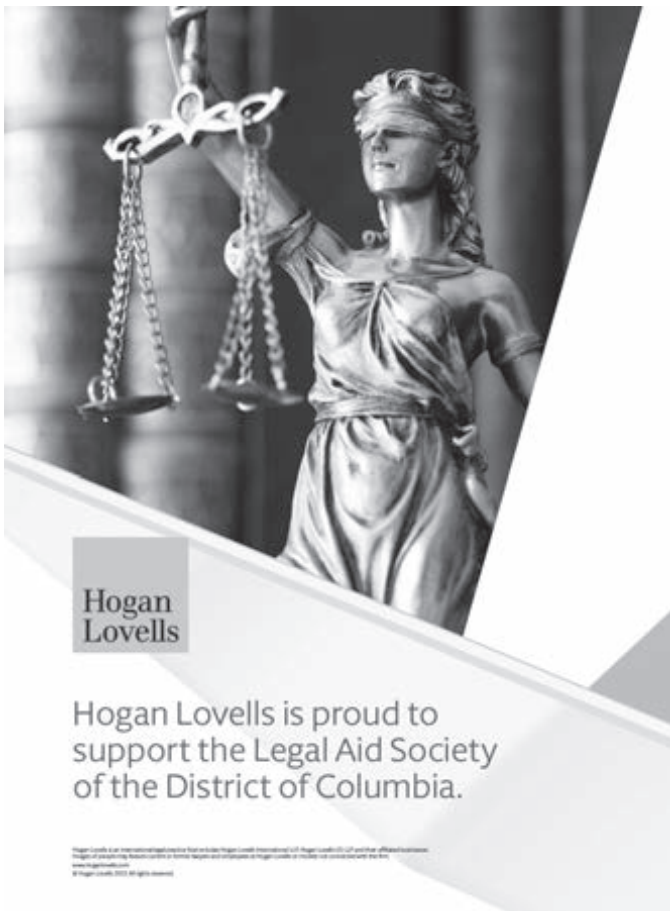
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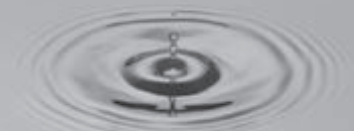
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A close-up, sepia-toned photograph of a man with a beard and short hair, looking down at a young girl. The girl has a large, light-colored bow in her hair and is wearing a dark shirt with white polka dots. The background is blurred.

“It was my first time going to a family court and working with a family lawyer, but I had one of the best experiences with Jamie. I ended up winning both of my cases.”

— Damion Burriss, Legal Aid client, with his youngest daughter Reign

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