



Legal Aid Society
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

MAKING JUSTICE REAL

**Join us for the 25th Annual
Servant of Justice Awards Dinner**

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

6:00 pm Opening Reception
7:15 pm Dinner, Awards Program & Dessert Reception

JW Marriott Hotel
1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC

Servant of Justice Awards

Barbara McDowell

Legal Aid Society Barbara McDowell Appellate Advocacy Program
Posthumously

Accepted by

Jerry Harman

Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP

Presented by

Professor Sally Gordon

University of Pennsylvania School of Law

and

Donald P. Salzman

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

Presented by

Michele Roberts

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

For more information regarding the Servant of Justice Awards Dinner,

please call (202) 661-5964 or email gkelley@legalaiddc.org.

About Legal Aid

The District of Columbia is facing a crisis in access to justice for persons living in poverty. Poor persons are far more likely than persons of means to encounter the legal system in cases where the stakes are high. Currently, almost one in every five D.C. residents lives below the poverty line. East of the Anacostia River, one in three residents are poor. Compounding this issue is the dearth of free or affordable legal services for civil matters. In case after case about the most fundamental of things – the ability to remain in one’s home, the right to medical care, the capacity to keep a family together, the right to protection from an abuser – low-income D.C. residents find themselves facing the challenges and intricacies of the court system on their own.

At the Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia, the District’s oldest and largest general civil legal services program, we work each and every day to combat this injustice and ensure that as many people as possible have access to a lawyer. Every year, Legal Aid lawyers assist clients in hundreds of matters in the areas of family, housing, public benefits, and consumer law. Legal Aid attorneys also help hundreds of others with legal rights education or referrals and seek systemic and appellate change to better protect the rights of persons living in poverty.

In a city with one of the greatest income differences between rich and poor in the nation, the Legal Aid Society is working to make justice real for D.C.’s most vulnerable residents.

Practice Areas

Housing law: We represent tenants who need help to avoid eviction or have serious housing code violations corrected. Our housing lawyers also assist public housing tenants to preserve subsidies, fight illegal rent increases, and work to prevent displacement by development.

Family law: We work with victims of domestic violence to ensure their safety and work to achieve family stability through child support and custody cases.

Public benefits law: We work to ensure that the necessary “safety net” benefits and services (including health care, Food Stamps, Supplemental Security Income, and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) are available to all who qualify.

Consumer law: Our attorneys provide much-needed representation to help poor and low-income homeowners avoid foreclosure and fight foreclosure fraud and assist clients with a variety of small claims and other consumer cases.

Current Projects

The *Barbara McDowell Appellate Advocacy Project* – named after the first Director of this program, renowned Supreme Court litigator Barbara McDowell, this project litigates important

cases affecting persons living in poverty before the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. This nationally-recognized project was recently described by the National Legal Aid & Defender Association as a “model of excellence.”

Community Offices/Court-Based Projects – Legal Aid has two court-based projects: our Child Support Community Legal Services Project and our Landlord Tenant Court-Based Legal Services Project, through which we provide same-day legal services to some of the District’s most vulnerable families. We also have a critically-important partnership with D.C. Superior Court, government agencies and other service providers at the Domestic Violence Intake Center (DVICSE) at United Medical Center in Southeast. Having a regular and established presence at the DVIC in Southeast has greatly improved accessibility to our services for D.C. residents living east of the Anacostia River, where one in three residents live in poverty.

New Projects – With support from the D.C. Bar Foundation Access to Justice Funds, we started the Domestic Violence Underserved Communities Representation Project, expanding our domestic violence services to underserved communities in D.C., and establishing our presence at the Northwest Domestic Violence Intake Center (NW-DVIC). Two other new initiatives are worth highlighting: (1) a court-based legal services project in our Consumer Law Unit and (2) a health care advocacy initiative. In September 2012, Legal Aid began a program to help address abusive debt collection practices through the provision of same-day, in-court representation to low-income D.C. residents. Also in 2012, we launched a project to expand access to quality health care services for the African-American community in D.C. Though D.C. boasts one of the lowest uninsured rates in the nation, stark racial disparities persist. This health care project aims to ensure that individuals receive the health insurance benefits to which they are entitled regardless of race or income level.

Pro Bono

We have been able to cultivate an incredible base of support for our strong and well-respected Pro Bono Program. Attorneys and law firms volunteer significant time to our client communities through this Program. Our currently-unaudited figures indicate that Legal Aid volunteers devoted more than 34,000 hours – worth more than \$16 million – to support making justice real for our client community.

The Servant of Justice Award

Each year since 1990, the Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia has presented the Servant of Justice Award to individuals and 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. They have demonstrated on a daily basis their commitment to and concern for the community of which they are a part. Please join us in expressing our gratitude for their life-long commitment to access to justice.

Previous Servant of Justice Award Recipients

2013

John Payton
Posthumously

Paul M. Smith
Jenner & Block LLP

2012

James VanR. Springer

Susan M. Hoffman
Crowell & Moring LLP

2011

Brooksley E. Born
Arnold & Porter LLP

The Honorable Thomas E. Perez
Civil Rights Division of the United States
Department of Justice

2010

Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP

Florence Wagman Roisman
Indiana University School of Law –
Indianapolis

2009

Anthony Herman
Covington & Burling LLP

Kurt L. Schmoke
Dean, Howard University School of Law

2008

Richard L. Roe
Georgetown University Law Center

Seth P. Waxman
Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP

2007

E. Barrett Prettyman, Jr.
Hogan & Hartson LLP

Sidney White Rhyne

2006

Theodore A. Howard
Wiley Rein LLP

David A. Reiser
Zuckerman Spaeder LLP

2005

Katherine S. Broderick
Dean, University of the District of Columbia
David A. Clarke School of Law

Andrew H. Marks
Crowell & Moring LLP

2004

Lois G. Williams
R. Sargent Shriver
E. Clinton Bamberger, Jr.
Edgar S. Cahn
Jean Camper Cahn *posthumously*

2003

Peter J. Nickles
Covington & Burling LLP

The Public Defender Service for the District
of Columbia

2002

Samuel F. Harahan
Council for Court Excellence

Douglas G. Robinson
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

2001

Lynn E. Cunningham
George Washington University Law School

John E. Nolan
Steptoe & Johnson LLP

Charles F.C. Ruff, *posthumously*
Covington & Burling LLP

2000

Patty Mullahy Fugere
Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless

Robert N. Weiner
Arnold & Porter LLP

1999

Blossom Athey
Covington & Burling LLP

Eldon H. Crowell
Crowell & Moring LLP

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 LLP

1996

R. Kenneth Mundy

Robert L. Weinberg
Williams & Connolly LLP

1995

Willie E. Cook, Jr.
Neighborhood Legal Services Program

David B. Isbell
Covington & Burling LLP

1994

Charles T. Duncan
Reid and Priest

Stephen J. Pollak
Shea & Gardner

Janet Reno
Attorney General of the United States

1993

Justice Thurgood Marshall

Supreme Court of the United States

Zona F. Hostetler
O'Toole, Rothwell, Nassau & Steinbach

John H. Pickering
Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP

1992
Howard C. Westwood
Covington & Burling LLP

D.C. Legal Service Providers

1991
Augustus L. Palmer
Howard University

Barbara M. Rossotti
Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP

1990
Earl W. Kintner
Arent Fox Kintner Plotkin & Kahn, PLLC

Charles A. Horsky
Covington & Burling LLP