

Legal Aid Society
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

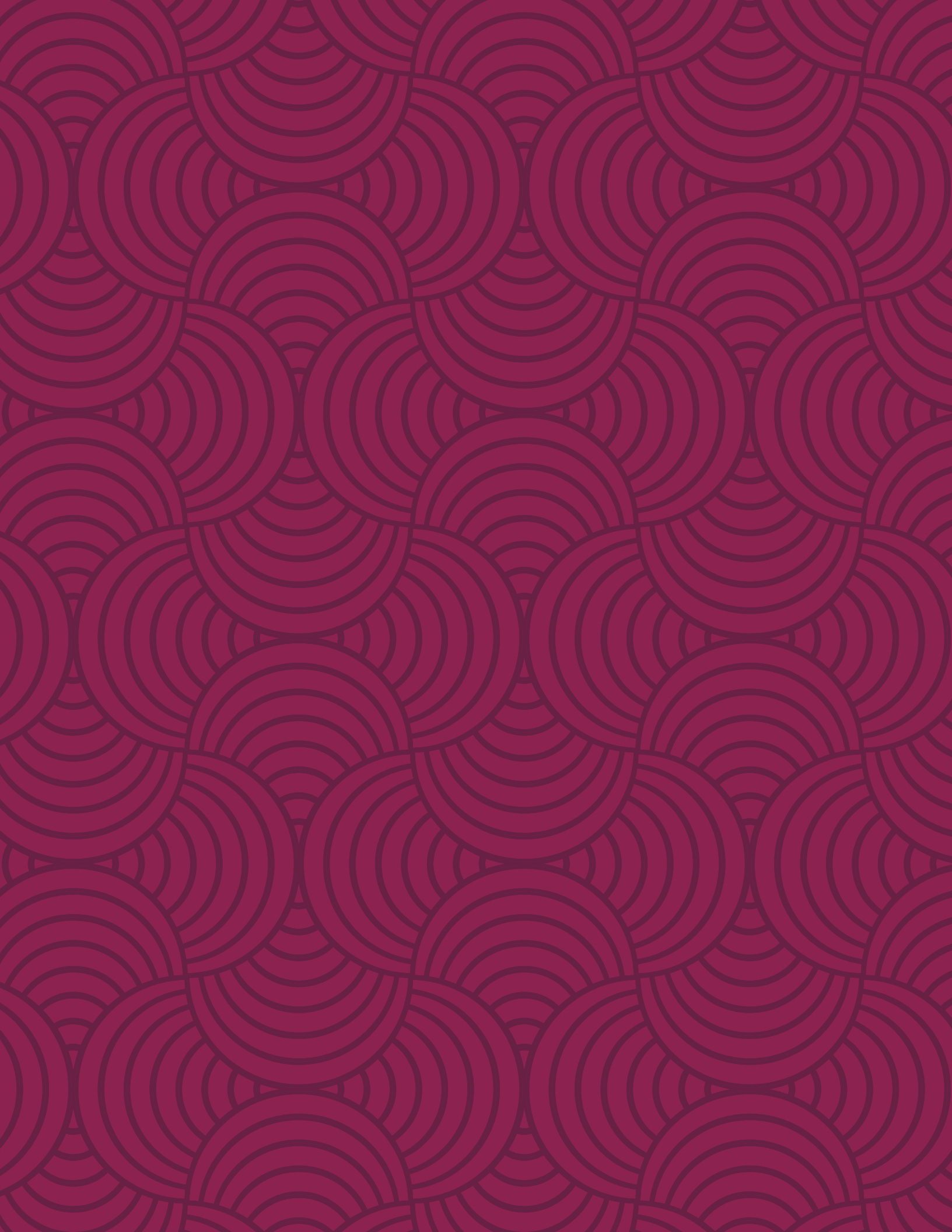
MAKING JUSTICE REAL

31ST

ANNUAL

SERVANT
of JUSTICE
AWARDS
DINNER





Latham is proud to support the Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia in its commitment to provide meaningful access to justice for all residents.

LATHAM & WATKINS LLP

Latham & Watkins congratulates and commends

John Heintz

and

Avis Buchanan

for their lifetime of good works in the service of justice.
They are examples to us all.

LW.com

Kirkland & Ellis is proud to support

The Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia's 31st Annual Servant of Justice Awards Dinner

Congratulations to this year's honorees.
The Firm commends their commitment
to ensuring that all people have equal
and meaningful access to justice.

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



*Shared vision.
Endless possibilities.*

WilmerHale proudly supports
Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia
and the 31st Annual Servant of Justice Awards Dinner.

Congratulations to the 2020 Servant of Justice Award
honorees John Heintz and Avis E. Buchanan.

Blank Rome LLP is proud to support the deeply important work of **The Legal Aid Society**.

Congratulations to our friend and partner

John Heintz

on his well-deserved recognition with this year's

Servant of Justice Award.



John Heintz, Partner, Insurance Recovery

John's lifelong commitment to pro bono service has had an extraordinary impact on our community. He is so deserving of this outstanding honor.

BLANKROME
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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.

31st Annual Servant of Justice Awards Dinner

Co-Chairs

Richard Byrne
Exxon Mobil Corporation

Brandon Gay
The Carlyle Group

Kimberly Parker
WilmerHale

Barbara Rossotti
Past President, Legal Aid

Benefit Committee

Josh Broaded
ACA Compliance Group

Dean Bunch
Ernst & Young

Michael Burton
Cornerstone Research

Robin Burton
City National Bank, Private Banking Law Firm
Group

Sheila Cheston
Northrop Grumman

Terry Forde
Adventist HealthCare

Michael Helfer
Past President, Legal Aid

John Johnson & Matt Milner
Edgeworth Economics

Marty & Arlene Klepper
Past President, Legal Aid

Marcus Meeks
Fannie Mae

Thomas Papson & Toby Singer
Past President, Legal Aid

Kerry Richard
MedStar Health

Kurt Richter
Cushman & Wakefield

Tangela Richter
American Express

Ricardo Yepes
Citi Private Bank Law Firm Group

David Zapolsky
Amazon.com, Inc.

Program

Co-Chair's Welcome

Kimberly Parker
WILMERHALE

Klepper Prize for Volunteer Excellence

Elliot Weingarten
BROWN RUDNICK

Presented by
Arlene Klepper

Co-Chair's Remarks

Brandon Gay
THE CARLYLE GROUP

Barbara Rossotti
PAST PRESIDENT, LEGAL AID

Partnership Award

Pamela Dyson
CLIENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Presented by

Chinh Le
LEGAL DIRECTOR

Program

President's Remarks

David Dantzig
LATHAM & WATKINS

Executive Director's Remarks

Eric Angel

Servant of Justice Award

John Heintz
BLANK ROME

Presented by

John Relman
RELMAN COLFAX

Servant of Justice Award

Avis Buchanan
PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Presented by

Angela Davis
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY WASHINGTON COLLEGE OF LAW

President's Closing

David Dantzig
LATHAM & WATKINS

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.....**Champion of Justice**.....

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.....**Leader of Justice**.....

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& Affiliates

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Advocate of Justice

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Cushman & Wakefield
Debevoise & Plimpton
Katten
King & Spalding
Morrison & Foerster

O'Melveny & Myers
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Cornerstone Research
DLA Piper
Edgeworth Economics
Epstein Becker & Green
Ernst & Young
Fried Frank
Goodwin
Hogan Lovells
Hughes Hubbard & Reed
Jones Day
Katz Marshall & Banks
Kelley Drye
Lowenstein Sandler
MedStar Health
Miller & Chevalier
Morgan Lewis
Northrop Grumman Corporation
Orrick
Thomas Papson & Toby Singer
Perkins Coie
Reed Smith
Robbins Russell
Barbara & Charles Rossotti
Sterne Kessler
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Private Bank



DC Bar Foundation Funding Access to Justice

David Ogden
President, Board of Directors

Kirra Jarratt
Executive Director

Imoni Washington
Director of Programs

The Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia expresses its deep appreciation to the Mayor, the DC Council, and the DC Bar Foundation for supporting legal assistance for low-income DC residents.

For both Legal Aid and the DC Bar Foundation, access to justice for residents living in Wards 7 and 8 is an important priority. Over the last decade, the DC Bar Foundation has provided more than \$4 million to support Legal Aid's Southeast Neighborhood Access Project, putting lawyers right in the communities where the need is greatest. The DC Bar Foundation is building on this commitment with the recently announced Neighbors Designing Justice initiative, which will engage legal providers and Anacostia residents from the very beginning in a creative problem-solving process that gives everyone a voice.

Since many DC residents do not realize they need a lawyer until they come to court, Legal Aid and the DC Bar Foundation have also partnered to ensure that lawyers are available at DC Superior Court. We truly appreciate the DC Bar Foundation's longstanding support for our courthouse projects for clients facing eviction, foreclosure, abusive debt collection, child support problems, and domestic violence. Nearly 1,200 clients, including 592 Ward 7 and Ward 8 residents, sought legal assistance at Legal Aid's courthouse offices in 2019.

1,185



Walk-Ins
Legal Aid Ward 8 Offices
2019

592



Walk-Ins, Ward 7 & 8 Residents
Legal Aid Courthouse Offices
2019

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

John Heintz

Blank Rome

John Heintz is a litigator and partner in Blank Rome's policyholder-only insurance recovery practice. John, who is well regarded across the insurance market for his landmark successes in complex coverage litigation, has made pro bono work central to his career.

In 1978, John served as a fellow at the Neighborhood Legal Services Program, assisting low income DC residents with eviction and public benefits cases, and subsequently served on the NLSP board. That commitment to helping individual clients has continued to this day. Under John's leadership over the past five years, Blank Rome has taken on more than 30 individual pro bono cases with Legal Aid alone, including as part of the groundbreaking Housing Right to Counsel Project, which provides representation for DC residents sued for eviction. Recently, John personally won a difficult case on behalf of two Amharic speakers, who had unjustly been sued by their landlord's insurance company in a subrogation case after a fire in their apartment, overturning an \$18,000 default judgment.

Throughout this career, John has also taken on important, precedent-setting pro bono cases that have had a far-ranging impact on housing and insurance discrimination. In *Wai v. Allstate*, for example, he helped win a ruling on "insurance redlining" at the DC Circuit that commercial insurance companies could not force landlords to purchase costlier insurance policies just because they rented homes to people with disabilities. Later he and his colleagues won a ruling that fair housing organizations had stated a disparate impact claim, under the FHA for redlining in the homeowner's insurance market in *National Fair Housing Alliance v. Prudential*. The defendant insurers ultimately agreed to modify their underwriting practices. More recently, John helped secure a ruling establishing criteria for holding developers liable for the design and construction of rental properties in violation of FHA accessibility standards in *Equal Rights Center v. Equity Residential*.

John has served on Legal Aid's Board of Trustees since 2009. John is also a member of the Board of the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs. He was recognized with the Outstanding Public Service Award by the Equal Rights Center in 2017, and the Edwin P. Rome Pro Bono Achievement Award by Blank Rome in 2019.

A life-long sailor, John was awarded the inaugural Triple Crown of Charity Sailing Trophy in 2018, recognizing his combined racing and fundraising accomplishments in three Annapolis charity regattas: The Leukemia Cup, Hospice Cup, and CRAB Cup for accessible boating.

John is a graduate of Cornell University, Princeton University Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, and New York University School of Law. He lives in Annapolis with his wife, Lynn Ohman.



The Servant of Justice Award

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

Avis E. Buchanan

Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia

Avis E. Buchanan is the longest-serving Director in the history of the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia (PDS), widely considered to be the finest organization of its kind in the country.

Avis first joined PDS as an Intern Investigator in 1979. She was recruited by future esteemed author and Harvard Law professor Charles J. Ogletree, Jr., then a staff attorney at PDS. After working as a law clerk for the late Honorable Theodore J. McMillian of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, Avis joined PDS as a staff attorney in 1982. She served as a staff attorney in the Trial Division for the next six and a half years.

In 1989, Avis joined what is now known as the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs as a staff attorney with the Committee's Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Project; she was responsible for litigating individual and class action employment and public accommodations cases in various federal and local courts. She went on to lead the EEO Project and later served as the Committee's Director of Litigation.

Avis rejoined PDS in 2002 as Deputy Director and was named Director in 2004. Now looking toward beginning her 17th year as Director, she supports an office of almost 200 staff members who assist in more than 18,000 legal matters annually. PDS's work has ramifications far beyond individual cases. In 2013, for example, PDS proved the innocence of three men in three different cases who had served more than seventy years combined in prison for offenses they did not commit, ultimately triggering a broad, ongoing federal review of 30 years of convictions based on hair and fiber evidence. In April 2015, the Department of Justice and the FBI, following a review of 200 convictions, formally acknowledged that nearly every hair examiner (46 of 48) in the FBI's forensic unit gave flawed testimony in almost all trials in which they offered evidence against defendants.

Avis is the recipient of numerous awards, including the 2016 Thurgood Marshall Award from the DC Bar, and the 2014 President's Award for Public Service from the Washington Council of Lawyers.

Her board memberships have included the National Legal Aid and Defender Association; the Washington Council of Lawyers Honorary Board; Adventist Healthcare; the Dupont Park Adventist School, where she attended elementary school; and the Dupont Park Seventh-day Adventist Church, where she is a member.

Avis is a graduate of Michigan State University and Harvard Law School, and a lifelong resident of Washington, DC.



Presenter

John P. Relman

Relman Colfax

John P. Relman is the founder and managing partner of Relman Colfax. For more than 30 years, he has represented individual plaintiffs, cities, and civil rights organizations in many of the country's most important civil rights cases. Widely recognized as one of the nation's leading civil rights lawyers, John has pioneered groundbreaking fair housing and fair lending cases that have expanded the scope and reach of the Fair Housing Act.

John founded the firm in 1999. Before that he served for 10 years as Director of the Fair Housing Project at the Washington Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights. Early in his career, John was lead counsel in the groundbreaking Denny's Restaurant class action, which resulted in a settlement of more than \$17 million for minority customers discriminated against at the chain's restaurants. He brought some of the first redlining and mortgage discrimination cases in the nation, including the first predatory lending case to recognize the cause of action now known as reverse redlining, *Hargraves v. Capital City Mortgage Co.* Following the mortgage foreclosure crisis in 2008, John filed the first reverse redlining cases to be brought on behalf of major U.S. cities against financial institutions that targeted minority communities for predatory loans.

John has won multi-million-dollar verdicts and settlements in housing and public accommodation discrimination cases across the country. Central to his work have been cases like *Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center v. St. Bernard Parish*, focusing on the discriminatory effect of policies and practices that perpetuate segregation. Recent litigation includes challenges to the use of blanket bans in housing for those re-entering society from jail and prison, and litigation against cities that use chronic nuisance ordinances to evict families in underserved communities of color.

In addition to litigation, John leads the firm's civil rights counseling practice, which provides compliance counseling and advice to progressive companies and lending institutions.

John has published and lectured extensively in the area of civil rights law and litigation. He is author of the widely used *Housing Discrimination Practice Manual*, published by the West Group, and has taught public interest law at Georgetown University Law Center and fair housing and employment discrimination law at the Washington College of Law at The American University. John has won numerous awards from civil rights organizations across the country for his work. John is a member of the Board of the Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia, as well as the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights; the D.C. Bar Foundation; the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights; and the Washington Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs.



Presenter

Angela J. Davis

American University Washington College of Law

Angela J. Davis, professor of law at AU's Washington College of Law, is an expert in criminal law and procedure with a specific focus on prosecutorial power and racism in the criminal justice system.

Angela previously served as director of the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia, where she began as a staff attorney representing indigent juveniles and adults. She also served as executive director of the National Rainbow Coalition and is a former law clerk of the Honorable Theodore R. Newman, the former Chief Judge of the D.C. Court of Appeals.

Angela is the author of *Arbitrary Justice: The Power of the American Prosecutor* (Oxford University Press 2007). She is also the editor of *Policing the Black Man: Arrest, Prosecution and Imprisonment* (Penguin Random House, 2017), co-editor of *Criminal Law* (Sage Publications 2015) (with Professor Katheryn Russell-Brown), *Trial Stories* (Foundation Press 2007) (with Professor Michael E. Tigar) and the 7th edition of *Basic Criminal Procedure* (Thomson West, forthcoming 2017) (with Professors Stephen Saltzburg and Daniel Capra). Angela's other scholarly publications include articles in the *Michigan*, *Iowa*, *Fordham*, and *Hofstra Law Reviews*. Angela won the Pauline Ruyle Moore award for *Arbitrary Justice: The Power of the American Prosecutor* in 2009 and for her *Fordham Law Review* article, *Prosecution and Race: The Power and Privilege of Discretion* in 2000.

Angela was awarded a Soros Senior Justice Fellowship in 2003. She won the American University Scholar/Teacher of the Year Award in 2015, the American University Faculty Award for Outstanding Scholarship, Research, Creative Activity, and Other Professional Contributions in 2009 and the American University Faculty Award for Outstanding Teaching in a Full-Time Appointment in 2002.

Angela is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Frederick Douglas Jordan Scholarship Board, the Southern Center for Human Rights, and the Sentencing Project. She was a reporter for the ABA Justice Kennedy Commission and a member of the ABA Commission for Effective Criminal Sanctions. Angela also served as a member of the Advisory Board for the Vera Institute of Justice Prosecution and Racial Justice Program. She teaches Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, and Criminal Defense: Theory and Practice.

Previous Award Recipients

Servant of Justice Award

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

2010

Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

Akin Gump

Florence Wagman Roisman

Indiana University School of Law – Indianapolis

Previous Award Recipients

Servant of Justice Award

2009

Anthony Herman

Covington

Dean Kurt L. Schmoke

Howard University School of Law

2008

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

2000

Patty Mullahy Fugere

Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless

Robert N. Weiner

Arnold & Porter

Previous Award Recipients

Servant of Justice Award

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

“If it weren’t
for Legal Aid,
I would have
never seen my
son again.”

—Jenay Kelson, 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 in order 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 Elliott Weingarten of Brown Rudnick.

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 & Burling

2014

Stefanie A. Doebler
Covington & Burling

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

Elliott J. Weingarten

Associate, Brown Rudnick

Elliott J. Weingarten is a litigation associate at Brown Rudnick. Since coming to Washington as a first-year associate in 2013, Elliot has made pro bono work a central part of his practice.

Over the past seven years, Elliot has been one of Legal Aid's most active pro bono volunteers, developing expertise in defending tenants facing eviction cases. Elliot has personally handled about 15 eviction cases, and mentored his colleagues on additional cases as well, ensuring that families are able to stay in their homes and that landlords remedy severe housing conditions as required by law.

Elliot has secured the dismissal of cases where his clients already paid the rent allegedly owed, and in other cases where landlords improperly noticed an alleged lease violation or lacked supporting evidence of a violation. He helped a couple who had lived in their apartment for decades avoid eviction when their landlord failed to respond to their request for a reasonable accommodation. Elliot also helped a mother of two negotiate a favorable settlement when she stopped paying rent after the landlord failed to make necessary repairs.

In his commercial practice, Elliot represents a wide variety of clients in complex litigation and investigations. His experience ranges from representing corporations and individuals in SEC and DOJ investigations, to representing both plaintiffs and defendants in commercial litigation. He has handled cases involving FCPA violations, improper disclosures, insider trading, business torts, and contract breaches.

Elliot graduated from the University of Michigan and Duke University School of Law. He lives in Washington, DC with his wife, Libby (also a lawyer) and their dog, Nino (not a lawyer)

Elliot Weingarten in
2016 with client Crystal
Taylor. Elliott helped
Ms. Taylor successfully
fight her landlord's
attempt to evict her



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

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

Pamela Dyson

Client Advisory Council

Legal Aid's clients are at the core of all we do. In the pursuit of justice, the individuals Legal Aid serves often are not only our clients, but are our true partners. We could not accomplish our mission without the courage and tenacity of our client community.

Few people exemplify the courage and perseverance we see in our clients every day more than Tamika Hayes. A lifelong resident of the D.C. area, Ms. Hayes attended Chamberlain High School in D.C., and ultimately graduated from Laurel High School in Maryland. She went on to University of Maryland University College, where she earned BA and MBA degrees. She now works in human resources management, owns her home in Southeast Washington, D.C., and has raised three smart, kind, and talented teenagers.

But she has also faced many challenges along the way. Ms. Hayes and her children endured years of chaos, violence and bizarrely cruel behavior at the hands of Mike Johnson*, Ms. Hayes' now-ex-husband and the children's father. With Legal Aid's help, Ms. Hayes obtained a civil protection order and filed for divorce and custody.

The divorce case dragged on for nearly a year and a half. When the case went to trial, Ms. Hayes testified over the course of four days, telling her harrowing story of decades of abuse. She explained how, despite countless separations over the years due to incidents of violence, she struggled to break the cycle of violence because – with the children's expenses, her mortgage, and student loans piling up – financial security felt impossible to achieve on her own. Their three children also testified at trial, telling the judge about their academic and athletic achievements despite the abuse they experienced, and crediting their mother with their success.

While the divorce was pending, Mr. Johnson retaliated by filing baseless civil suits against Ms. Hayes. Mr. Johnson also refused to provide any child support (even though required to do so by court order), causing Ms. Hayes to fall behind on her mortgage. To make matters worse, he sabotaged Ms. Hayes' efforts to obtain a loan modification, and the mortgage company sued her for foreclosure. Pro bono attorneys from Crowell & Moring ensured that the civil cases against Ms. Hayes were dismissed, and Legal Aid represented Ms. Hayes in her foreclosure case, ultimately getting the foreclosure claim dismissed and her loan permanently modified.

After many years and obstacles, Ms. Hayes finally obtained the justice she and her children deserved. Her divorce was finalized: she was able to keep her car, her house and its entire contents, and sole custody of her three children. Any visitation with their father is at her children's discretion. Thanks to her bravery and determination, she and her children are finally safe from both the economic consequences and absolute terror of domestic abuse.

*Name changed for confidentiality

“I’m a passionate person towards other people’s needs, because I’ve been there.”

—2020 Partnership Award Winner
Pamela Dyson (left), pictured with
Steptoe Deputy Pro Bono Counsel
Harmony Loubé Jones (right), then
a Staff Attorney at Legal Aid



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.

Individual

Legal Aid's team of zealous attorneys and legal staff provide legal assistance impacting more than 10,000 people annually. In 2019 alone, we provided direct legal services in more than 3,600 matters, benefiting more than 10,500 individuals:

Our **Housing** lawyers helped Keith King fight his landlord's attempt to evict him after his housing subsidy provider unjustifiably stopped making payments.

Legal Aid **Public Benefits** attorneys restored Brian Johnson's Medicaid, ensuring that he kept his health insurance with no interruptions in coverage.

With the help of our **Consumer Law** attorneys, Mr. Jackson's case in small claims court was dismissed by the plaintiff with prejudice, enabling him to keep the limited funds he desperately needs to support his family.

Legal Aid **Family Law** attorneys helped Diana Morrison* secure a civil protection order from her former boyfriend, providing her with the protection and safety she needs and deserves.

Through Legal Aid's **Immigrants' Rights Legal Services Project**, we successfully petitioned for two children who were abandoned by their parents to receive Special Immigrant Juvenile Status.

This represents only a fraction of the challenges our clients face, and the assistance that our donors provide through your support for Legal Aid.

Systemic

Legal Aid's systemic work grows out of the day-to-day needs of our clients. The **Barbara McDowell Appellate Advocacy Project**, for example, is designed to favorably influence the decisional law of appellate courts (primarily the DC Court of Appeals) to benefit individuals living in poverty. The Project provides expert, high-quality, zealous appellate representation (court cases and arguments) involving underserved District residents that would otherwise not be considered. This serves both individual clients and the client community as a whole. Legal Aid is currently addressing two significant systemic legal issues through non-litigation approaches. First, we are working on a strategy to decrease if not eliminate District agencies' practice of using confidential settlement agreements, which can stop or slow the process of correcting unlawful or problematic practices against unrepresented parties. Second, we are drafting accurate notices for OAH to substitute for its current inaccurate notices.

Legal Aid also advocates vigorously on behalf of our client community to promote institutional reforms. In 2019, we worked on a number of policy advocacy efforts, which included successfully pushing (in coalition with other advocates) for a legislative reform at the DC Council to end the unfair suspension of driver's licenses for nonpayment of certain types of civil judgments, and working with the DC Courts to reform the fee waiver application process.

*Name changed for confidentiality.

Steptoe



SERVES
PRO BONO

The Steptoe Foundation is proud to support the Legal Aid Society's **2020 Servant Of Justice Awards Dinner**

BEIJING BRUSSELS CHICAGO HONG KONG
LONDON LOS ANGELES NEW YORK SAN FRANCISCO WASHINGTON

www.step toe.com

Pro Bono

Hundreds of volunteers throughout the DC legal community devoted more than **40,000 hours** to providing legal assistance for our clients last year. Volunteer attorneys provide full representation for clients referred from Legal Aid, conduct initial interviews with prospective clients in our NW and SE locations, and work in-house with our Legal Aid team as law firm Loaned Associates or Volunteer Staff Attorneys.

For more information about pro bono opportunities with Legal Aid, please contact Jodi Feldman at jfeldman@legalaiddc.org.



Maryam Casbarro (left) with her client Fatoumata Niang (right). Maryam helped Ms. Niang secure a divorce from her abusive ex-husband, as well as child support and a favorable custody agreement.

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Former Legal Aid Presidents and Servant of Justice Award honorees Tony Pierce (left) and Phil Horton (right) at the 2006 Dinner.

2018 Generous Associates Campaign

Legal Aid's 2019 Generous Associates Campaign, our annual fundraising drive led by associates at Washington, DC law firms, raised \$2.48 million, beating the previous record by \$330,000. Thank you to our Honorary Chairs, Co-Chairs, Firm Coordinators, and the nearly 5,000 individuals who supported the Campaign last year!

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2019 Top Fundraising Firm Competition Results

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Latham & Watkins - \$212,911
WilmerHale - \$151,644
Williams & Connolly - \$142,278
Venable - \$70,832
Crowell & Moring - \$59,211

251 – 300 ATTORNEYS

Skadden - \$84,010
Steptoe - \$74,000
Sidley - \$56,697
Jones Day - \$47,167
Akin Gump - \$19,623

201 – 250 ATTORNEYS

Kirkland & Ellis - \$82,829
Mayer Brown - \$70,588
Wiley Rein - \$40,767
Arent Fox - \$18,536

151 – 200 ATTORNEYS

Pillsbury - \$49,938
King & Spalding - \$33,280
Dentons - \$26,833
Perkins Coie - \$10,848
Hunton Andrews Kurth - \$10,589

101 – 150 ATTORNEYS

Orrick - \$100,878
Alston & Bird - \$49,894
Baker Botts - \$32,920
Dechert - \$25,564
Morrison & Foerster - \$22,920

51 – 100 ATTORNEYS

Kelley Drye - \$67,506
Paul Weiss - \$56,501
Miller & Chevalier - \$43,160
Simpson Thacher & Bartlett - \$39,880
Katten - \$35,161

1 – 50 ATTORNEYS

Wilkinson Walsh + Eskovitz - \$56,644
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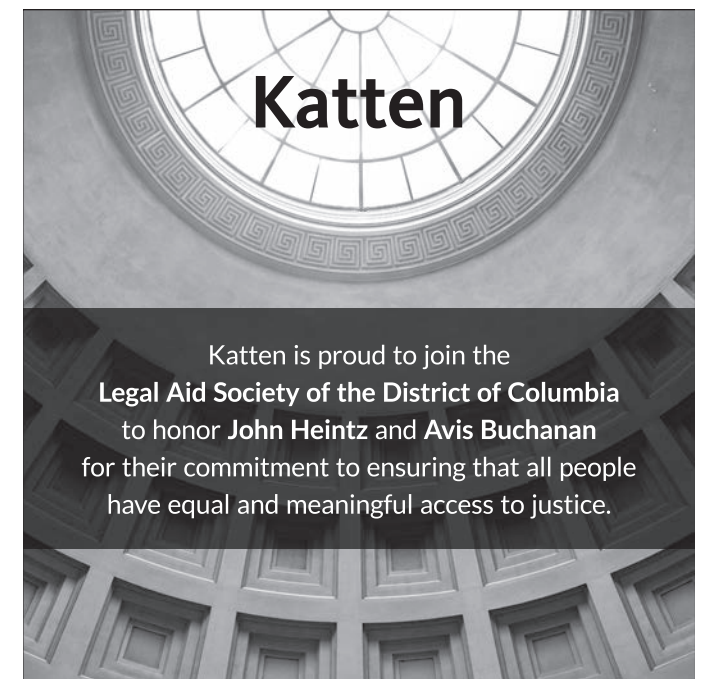
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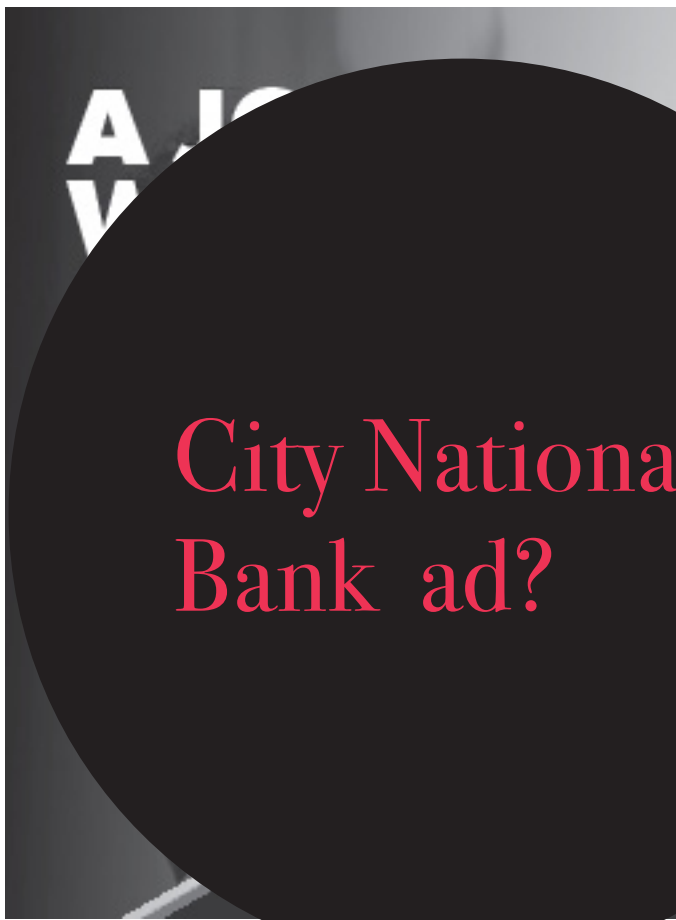
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Established in 2004 with seed money from the DC Bar Foundation, which continues to provide generous support, Legal Aid's Appellate Project has become a "model of excellence" that the National Legal Aid and Defender Association has urged other legal services programs to emulate. The Project was named for its founding Director, Barbara McDowell, after her untimely death.

The Project not only litigates appeals on behalf of Legal Aid clients but also files "friend of the court" briefs on cases involving matters of importance to people living in poverty. Beyond litigation, the Project provides appellate instruction, consultation, and advice to the larger DC legal services community. Although most of the Project's work involves cases before the District's highest court – the District of Columbia Court of Appeals – the Project also gets involved in administrative appeals and cases before the District of Columbia Superior Court and the federal courts.

After Barbara's untimely death, Legal Aid created the Barbara McDowell Endowment Fund for Appellate Litigation with funds donated both from Barbara's estate and from the generous donations of her husband, Jerry Hartman. The Fund was created "to honor the immeasurable contributions that Barbara made to Legal Aid and the legal needs of persons living in poverty in the District of Columbia." Jerry has continued to donate generously in Barbara's honor to the Fund to sustain the ongoing, important work of The Barbara McDowell Appellate Advocacy Project.

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