

WCL NEWS FORUM

Newsletter of the Washington Council of Lawyers

A Public Interest Voice in the Legal Community



SUMMER/FALL 2008

Reverend Barry Lynn Addresses Summer Associates:

This year's Summer Pro Bono Forum was kicked off by keynote speaker, Reverend Barry Lynn, Executive Director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State. An accomplished speaker and lecturer, Rev. Lynn has appeared frequently on television and radio broadcasts to offer analysis of First Amendment issues. His career is a testament to public service, making him an ideal person to address future lawyers on the importance of pro bono service in the legal profession.

With dry wit and humor, Rev. Lynn recounted several cases he has seen of both great need and great service to illustrate the responsibility and ability to serve that comes with being a lawyer. The audience of 200 summer associates laughed in one moment and nodded agreement in the next. With his natural ability to engage the audience, Rev. Lynn started the Council's Summer Pro Bono Forum on the right note.

Following Rev. Lynn's speech, the attendees chose among four panels that were moderated by WCL board members and experienced practitioners, including Civil Rights/Civil Liberties, Criminal Law/Death Penalty, Immigration/Human Rights, and Non-Litigation Services. Each panel was organized to encourage open discussion about the opportunities and realities of public interest and pro bono service within the specific practice areas.

The resultant discussions were lively—two panels proving reluctant to disperse! ■



Rev. Barry Lynn speaks to a packed house at Summer Pro Bono Forum 2008.

Over 200 Summer Associates came to hear Rev. Lynn and attend Summer Pro Bono Forum Panels.

Many Thanks to This Year's Panelists for Donating Their Time and Experience!

Kathryn Doan, *CAIR Coalition*

Richard Dieter, *Death Penalty Information Center*

Todd Edelman, *Georgetown University Law Center*

Philip Fornaci, *Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs*

Reena Glazer, *Pro Bono Institute*

Lynsay Gott, *World Organization for Human Rights USA*

Karen Grisez, *Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP*

Laura Hankins, *The Public Defender Services for DC*

Regina Hopkins, *DC Bar Community Economic Development Project*

Tricia Jefferson, *The Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law*

Joy Moses, *Center for American Progress*

Todd Pilcher, *Whitman-Walker Clinic*

Leslie Proll, *NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund, Inc.*

Walter Smith, *D.C. Appleseed Center for Law and Justice*

Rebecca Troth, *Sidley Austin LLP*

Carolyn Weiss, *U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division*

WCL Summer Forum Panels



Professor David Cole speaks about the importance of the rule of law and the fight on terror.

Then-President, Joy Moses, opens the Awards Reception, welcoming the guests and honorees.



2007 Government Award recipient, James Yoon, talks about his pro bono work.



Professor David Cole Speaks at 2007 Awards Reception:

David D. Cole, Professor at Georgetown University Law Center and co-author of *Less Safe, Less Free: Why America is Losing the War on Terror*, spoke to the gathered award recipients and supporters at the Council's Annual Awards Reception last November. Professor Cole's emphasis on the importance of public service and preserving the rule of law was timely and well received.

Amidst good food and excellent company, the Council presented the 2007 awards. The Government Pro Bono Award went to James Yoon with the Antitrust Division



WCL Board Member, Jodi Feldman, presents the President's Award to Daniel Bruner, Executive Director of Legal Services at the Whitman-Walker Clinic.

of the U.S. Department of Justice. Mr. Yoon's steadily expanding pro bono efforts have earned him the votes and respect of his colleagues and all of us at the Washington Council of Lawyers.

The President's Award went to Daniel Bruner, Director of Legal Services at the Whitman-Walker Clinic. We honor Mr. Bruner's tireless efforts to support and expand Whitman-Walker Clinic Legal Services. He is well known and respected as an advocate for the HIV-positive and Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender communities.

The 2007 Law Firm Honoree was Crowell & Moring LLP, a staunch and reliable supporter of the Council's activities. The firm actively supports the Council's programming by generously providing space for meetings and events as well as dedicated Council boardmembers. ■

SAVE THE DATE: The 2008 Annual Awards Reception is set for November 13th with keynote speaker, Elisa Massimino, CEO and Executive Director of Human Rights First.



Taking That First Pro Bono Case...

In his first pro bono case, 2007 WCL Government Award Recipient, James Yoon, agreed to represent three tenants facing eviction in a landlord-tenant case from the DC Bar Pro Bono Program. The clients all

had limited English skills, hindering James' ability to communicate and build trust. The landlord was trying to evict the tenants by sending them a notice to vacate for discontinuance of use and occupancy, while at the same time listing the property for sale as "vacant" and ready to move in. Working with two other Department of Justice attorneys who represented other groups of

tenants from the same building, James filed a motion to consolidate the cases. The attorneys then filed a motion for summary judgment, arguing that the landlord had violated DC law because the notice to quit was inadequate and that he could not evict tenants for the purpose of selling the property as "vacant." Faced with the listing, the landlord settled the case and gave each tenant \$7000 and three months' free rent while they looked for new housing. This was clearly an excellent beginning for James and has preceded several other pro bono cases, taken on top of a demanding job as an attorney in the Antitrust Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. ■

New Advanced Litigation Skills Training a Success:

Building on the success of the Council's bi-annual Litigation Skills Training, this past May marked the opening of our new advanced course in trial litigation. Like the basic course, the advanced course offers a modestly priced training program for public interest lawyers. Advanced Litigation Skills

Training emphasizes practical learning through seeing and doing, building upon the foundation of our basic course with enhanced role playing and critical analysis by experienced litigators.



(Above) Roy Austin of McDermott Will & Emery provides a foundation in jury selection

(Left) WCL Board Member, Mary Kennedy, of Arnold & Porter LLP demonstrates introducing exhibits and impeachment.

This year's course focused on direct and cross examination with additional training in opening statements, closing arguments, introducing exhibits and impeachment.

ALST Participants Give Praise

"It was a wonderful opportunity to put knowledge into practice."

"I loved that there were a lot of practice sessions. Hearing different perspectives was great."

"I found the trainers were extremely knowledgeable and enjoyed their feedback. Excellent faculty."

Participants attended break-out sessions in small groups where they practiced using their skills among their peers and two or more experienced litigators. Over 45 of the District's finest litigators volunteered their time and expertise to lead the break-out sessions.

We were fortunate to have Roy L. Austin, Jr. of McDermott Will & Emery deliver the lecture on jury selection. Mr. Austin's engaging presentation clearly, and humorously, demonstrated the do's and don't's of selecting a jury.

Arnold & Porter LLP joined WCL as an official sponsor of the training. In addition to providing the space and logistical support that made the event possible, the firm also helped the Council ensure CLE credit for the program. ■



Coming Around Again in April 2009

WCL's basic course, Litigation Skills Training

WCL Mentoring Program Provides Valuable Resource for New Lawyers

by Taryn Wilgus Null and Jen Swedish,
2008-2009 Mentoring Program Facilitators

The Washington Council of Lawyers' Mentoring Program recently completed a very successful third year. Twenty-four new lawyers and public interest fellows from thirteen local and national organizations participated as mentees, and thirty-two experienced attorneys served as mentors. Emily Benfer and Noah Metheny did a wonderful job coordinating and facilitating the 2007-2008 program.

The WCL Mentoring Program assists new public interest lawyers to better and more quickly integrate into DC's vast public interest community. The goals of the program include providing an opportunity for new attorneys to build relationships with experienced attorneys with years of public interest or pro bono work. The Mentoring Program also strives to create a forum for new lawyers from different organizations to socialize and share their experiences.

The October kick-off luncheon at Arnold & Porter welcomed the mentees to the program and featured a talk by mentors Jess Rosenbaum and Mary Bissell, who shared some of their trials and tribulations as new lawyers. The speakers' stories illustrated, in a very humorous and entertaining way, the very real challenges that new public interest lawyers face. Three more Mentoring Program luncheons, held between December and April, allowed mentees and mentors to network and get to know each other. Crowell & Moring, Steptoe & Johnson, and Hunton & Williams generously hosted these lunches.

In addition to the lunches, several Mentoring Program panels were held over the course of the year. The December panel provided an "Introduction to DC's Public Interest Players, Providers, and Coalitions." Mark Herzog from the DC Bar Pro Bono Program, Sunil



(Above) Mark Herzog of the DC Bar Pro Bono Program, Jodi Feldman of the Legal Aid Society of DC, and Sunil Manshukhani of the DC Access to Justice Commission of the December mentoring panel, DC's Public Interest Players, Providers, and Coalitions



(Left) The March panel discusses sustaining public interest careers.

Manshukhani of the DC Access to Justice Commission, and Jodi Feldman of the Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia provided invaluable information about the ins and outs of the DC Bar and the legal community here.

The January panel on "Techniques for Change" focused on different ways to use the law to effect social change. Susan Huhta from the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights & Urban Affairs spoke about her litigation work, and Linda Perle from the Center for Law & Social Policy discussed using public policy as a vehicle for change.

In March, a panel was held on "Sustaining Your Public Interest Career: How to Get Your Next Public Interest Job (or Keep the One You Have)," featuring Matt Fraidin, Professor of Law at UDC-David A. Clarke School of Law, Julia Gordon from the Center for Responsible Lending, and Barbara Moulton, Assistant Dean for Public Interest Programs at Georgetown University Law Center. The panelists answered mentees' questions and provided priceless advice, including how to handle a negative job situation, how to extend a positive experience, and how to get into the organization of your dreams.

We both greatly enjoyed participating in the WCL Mentoring Program as mentees, and we are excited to build on this year's successes in the 2008-2009 program. Next year, we will continue holding lunches featuring panels of experienced attorneys, and we plan to organize happy hours and other social events to allow mentees and mentors to get to know each other in more informal settings. We look forward to working with WCL on the 2008-2009 Mentoring Program. ■

WCL Welcomes New Mentees and Mentors!

Please contact Taryn Wilgus Null at tnull@nwlc.org.
For more information on the mentoring program, visit the
WCL Website at www.wclawyers.org.

Going Public

As has become tradition, the Council hosted a Going Public event to provide a forum in which law firm associates can discuss how to transition to public interest or government employment. This year's panel focused on marketability, networking, the hiring process, and the professional and financial transitions. The experienced panelists have all made the move from law firm to public interest or government employment:

- Jodi Feldman of Legal Aid Society of DC, former counsel at Wiley Rein LLP
- Laura Fentonmiller of Environmental Protection Agency, former counsel at Constantine Cannon LLP
- Candice Jones of Washington Lawyers' Committee, former counsel at Hogan & Hartson LLP and Carter Ledyard & Millburn LLP
- Lisa Martin of Clinical Program at Catholic University, former counsel at Arent Fox PLLC

Staying Public

The transition to public interest employment can be challenging. Of primary interest to many are financial considerations associated with the comparatively lower salaries paid to public interest attorneys—minimizing loan repayment, changing life-styles, and supporting a family.

At this year's Staying Public event, our expert panel provided the base for a lively discussion of options and suggestions. We were pleased to have Jeff Hanson of Access Group, Heather Jarvis of Equal Justice Works, and Amber Harding of Washington Clinic for the Homeless to lead the discussion.

The group of panelists and participants had so many thoughts, suggestions, and questions to share that we ran out of time. As a group, we decided to reconvene for Staying Public II at which the more logistical challenges of a public interest career were discussed—career development, professional mentorship, and more. Joining Ms. Harding for that discussion were Joy Moses of Center for American Progress and Steve Grumm of NALP, WCL President and Vice President respectively.



Amber Harding of Washington Clinic for the Homeless brainstorms with Staying Public participants about the challenges to a public interest career.



Going Public panelists share their experiences transitioning to public interest careers.

We were very pleased to host such productive and enthusiastic discussions around managing the challenges of starting and maintaining a public interest career. We will continue those discussions at 2009 Going Public and Staying Public events. ■

Financing Your Public Interest Career:

View the complete WCL Staying Public manual on our Website at www.wclawyers.org!

Other Resources:

Access Group at www.accessgroup.org

Equal Justice Works at www.equaljusticeworks.org

DC Bar Foundation at www.dctbarfoundation.org

Tulane Law School CCRAA Fact Sheet – www.pslawnet.org/assets/

Professor Philip G. Schrag's Fall 2007 Hofstra Law Review article – Federal Student

Loan Repayment Assistance for Public Interest Lawyers and Other Employees of Governments and Nonprofit Organizations – www.law.georgetown.edu/news/releases/documents/Forgiveness_000.pdf

NCLC's Student Loan Borrower Assistance Project – www.studentloanborrowerassistance.org/

Chicago Bar Foundation's Investing in Justice recruitment/retention study – www.chicagobarfoundation.org/documents/Retention-StudyFINAL.pdf

NLADA Retention Report – www.nlada.org/DMS/Documents/

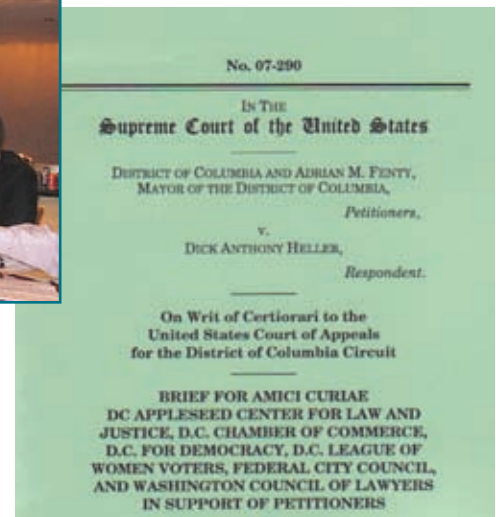
Caught in the Crossfire – a Debate on DC Gun Control

This past Spring, the Council joined an amicus brief submitted to the U.S. Supreme Court in *District of Columbia v. Heller* to reverse the judgment of the D.C. Court of Appeals in *Parker v. District of Columbia*, which struck down the ban on hand guns in the District's Firearms Control Regulations Act of 1975 as a violation of the Second Amendment right to bear arms. Spearheaded by the DC Applesseed Center for Law and Justice, amici argued that even if the Supreme Court found that the Second Amendment guarantees a private right to keep and bear arms, unrelated to service in a militia, the Court should accord substantial deference to the regulations passed by locally elected officials. View the entire brief on our Website, www.wclawyers.org.

Prior to the Court's decision this past March, the Council hosted Caught in the Crossfire, a debate on DC Gun Control and the Second Amendment. Panelists included Jonathan Lowy, Senior Attorney for the Legal Action Project at the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence; Walter Smith, Executive Director of DC Applesseed Center; and John Frazer, Director of Research and



Debate panelists, Jonathan Lowy of the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence, Walter Smith of DC Applesseed Center, and John Frazer of the National Rifle Association



WCL Joins Brief for Amici Curiae in *D.C. v. Heller*

Information of the National Rifle Association's Institute for Legislative Action.

A lively debate resulted, with excellent discussion all around. As has been widely publicized, the Supreme Court subsequently decided in favor of Heller and finding broadly for the first time ever that the Second Amendment protects an individual's right to possess a firearm and use it for traditionally lawful purposes, such as self-defense in the home. ■

Thinking About Pro Bono Work? A Few Pointers to Get You Started...

Find Your Passion! Start by figuring out what interests you. There are dozens of legal services organizations in the DC metropolitan area, and at least one of them has an opportunity that is right for you. Some work with specific populations like immigrants, senior citizens, or people living with HIV/AIDS. Others focus on subject areas like landlord and tenant, domestic violence, or civil rights. And many provide non-litigation pro bono opportunities such as transactional work, public policy advocacy, and legal rights education and outreach, to name only a few.

For a listing of legal services organizations and pro bono opportunities:

www.dcbbar.org/for_lawyers/resources/providers.cfm

Talk to Your Firm's Pro Bono Coordinator. Your law firm's pro bono coordinator can help you identify opportunities that match your interest. If there isn't a pro bono coordinator where you work, reach out to another colleague who has done pro bono work and can share their experience with you.

Team Up! Team up with one or more colleagues to work on a pro bono case or project. Share the work, the anxiety, and the reward. Also, talk to your firm's pro bono coordinator or others to ensure that your firm will provide appropriate resources and support.

Take Advantage of Training Opportunities. The DC Bar Pro Bono Program and several other organizations provide training in relevant areas of the law. Many organizations also provide written training materials and other resources. Go to www.dcbbar.org/for_lawyers/pro_bono/training/index.cfm to see the DC Bar Pro Bono Program training schedule. Probono.net/dc is also a great online resource.

Make Pro Bono Part of Your Regular Practice. Whether you are just beginning your legal career or are several years in, try to make pro bono work part of your regular practice. Waiting for the right time when things are quiet at work often means that the time never arrives. Don't miss out on the professional and personal rewards that pro bono work offers!

This Year's WCL Calendar

Event Schedule – 2008/2009

2008	SEPTEMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WCL Social (Wed. Sept. 10) • Board Meeting (Wed. Sept. 17)
	OCTOBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presidential Surrogates Debate • Mentoring Program Kick-Off (Tues. Oct. 7)
	NOVEMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Awards Reception • Fundraising Raffle • Advice and Referral Clinic (Sat. Nov. 8) • Board Meeting (Wed. Nov. 19)
	DECEMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentoring Program Meets (Wed. Dec. 10) • “Spot” Skills Training
2009	JANUARY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pro Bono Fair • Board Meeting (Wed. Jan. 14)
	FEBRUARY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Going Public • Mentoring Program Meets (Tues. Feb. 3)
	MARCH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staying Public • Board Meeting (Wed. Mar. 18) • Mock Trial
	APRIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Litigation Skills Training • WCL Nominations Process Begins • DC Bar Officer and Board Endorsement Process Begins • Mentoring Program Meets
	MAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board Meeting (Wed. Mar. 20) • Mentoring Program Finale
	JUNE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer Pro Bono Forum

It's an ambitious calendar, to be sure, but it's not set in stone. We are open to suggestions, and we invite WCL members to participate in full at our events.

— *Gina Malloy*



Fundraising for the Future:

This year, WCL is expanding its fundraising efforts to support an enhanced programming schedule. Historically, the Council's events and trainings have been organized by its hard-working board of directors and one staff member. As part of an effort to expand the programming calendar, we are planning to hire an Assistant Executive Director and develop an internship program. The additional funds raised will also allow us to keep our new programming at minimal or no cost to the public interest community.

One of our new efforts is a raffle that we will be organizing in conjunction with the Annual Awards Reception in November. As you register to attend the reception, you will also have the opportunity to enter a raffle to win one of several attractive prize packages. We won't give them all away here, but to whet your appetite, we will say that one prize available is a weekend for two at the Four Seasons Hotel, including dinner in the hotel restaurant, an overnight stay, and breakfast in bed for a total value of \$750. Stay tuned! ■

Meet Our New Executive Director!

Gina Malloy, the Council's new Executive Director, joined WCL in November of 2007. With an extensive background in non-profit leadership and support of pro bono service, the Council is excited to have Gina leading the charge into the 2008-09 program year.



Gina Malloy, Executive Director

In the Works...

Upcoming WCL Events

37th Annual Awards Reception – November 2008

Each year, WCL hosts an awards reception at which are presented three awards for outstanding pro bono and public interest service—the President’s Award, the Government Pro Bono Award, and the Law Firm Award. Over cocktails and a light repast, attendees are addressed by a prominent figure in the DC legal community. This year, we are pleased to have Elissa Massimino, CEO and Executive Director for Human Rights First, as keynote speaker. Afterward, we honor our award recipients for their commitment, dedication, and service. This year, we have added a fundraising raffle that will be drawn at the conclusion of the reception. *See page 11 for details.*



Mock Trial

This year, we are reviving our past tradition of organizing a mock trial for the 5th and 6th grade students at Garrison Elementary School. The trials often involve resolving such noteworthy cases as Goldilocks and the Three Bears. WCL sends volunteer attorneys and law students to partner with students in all aspects of trial. The event is fun for all and opens up the world of litigation to the students in an easy and engaging format. WCL board member, Catherine Bendor, will be organizing this year’s mock trial. If you’d like to participate, email Catherine at cbendor@hotmail.com.



Pro Bono Fair – January 2009

Start the new year off right with a commitment to pro bono service. Each year, the Council hosts a Pro Bono Fair for law firm associates to learn about pro bono opportunities in the District. Public interest and legal

In the Works continued on page 9

The Washington Council of Lawyers is a non-profit organization of lawyers committed to *pro bono* service and public interest practice of law. Through regular and annual events, training programs, dissemination of information and special projects, the Council seeks to stimulate the interest and involvement of all segments of the bar in matters that affect the public interest.

WCL BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2008 – 2009

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Marsha Tucker	Arnold & Porter LLP
LaShawn Warren	American Civil Liberties Union
Carolyn Weiss	U.S. Department of Labor
Ryan Shadrack Wilson	Hogan & Hartson LLP

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Gina Malloy Washington Council of Lawyers

News Forum is designed and produced by Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP. The Council is grateful for their talent and generosity.

Glenda Adams, Harvey Duze, Twana Dickinson, Samantha Gordon, Debra Kushner, Anthony Lloyd, Jose Garriga, Barbara Higgins, Katherine Koppelman.

President's Page

by Joy Moses



Looking Back and Moving Forward

It has indeed been a pleasure to serve as the president of the Washington Council of Lawyers over the past year. It has provided me with the opportunity to meet and work more closely with members of our staff, Board of Directors, general membership, and others from DC's legal community. Together, we have navigated the organization through an important time of transition and growth.

We hired two new staff members—Gina Malloy and Nadine Daniel, who quickly jumped into the fray by helping us to plan our many events and activities. A definite highlight was our September happy hour that was graciously hosted by the law firm of Goodwin Procter. Despite a nearby outdoor speech by presidential hopeful Barack Obama, many of you stopped by, shared a drink, networked, and made new friends.

Throughout the year we sought to provide a forum for important and timely legal issues. WCL hosted a book signing for Professor Angela Davis, who authored *Arbitrary Justice: The Power of the American Prosecutor*. This event was followed by a keynote speech by Professor David Cole, author of *Terrorism and the Constitution: Sacrificing*

Civil Liberties In the Name of National Security, at our annual awards event. Representatives from the Brady Center and the National Rifle Association joined us for a lively lunch discussion about the gun control case of *District of Columbia v. Heller* while it was still pending before the Supreme Court. Finally, Barry Lynn, the executive director of Americans United for the Separation of Church and State, offered his insights about religion and public life as well as careers in public interest to a packed room full of summer interns at our annual Summer Forum.

Our WCL team further worked to support the career development of those in our network. For public interest attorneys, we offered a two-part series on how to maintain a public interest career, addressing concerns about such topics as paying off student loans and working within organizations with limited resources. We also offered a separate program for law firm attorneys seeking advice about how to transition into public interest and government careers. The spring featured an advanced litigation skills training for young lawyers that supplemented the work of our growing mentorship program for new members of our public interest community.

Countless volunteer hours went into these efforts for which I am grateful to members of our Board, general membership, and friends of the Council. Not only did you come through for the WCL, but you were a pleasure and a joy to work with.

I trust that these networks and the strength of our programming will continue to grow under the leadership of my successor, Steve Grumm. Steve has been a dedicated volunteer and advocate for the Washington Council of Lawyers throughout the time in which he has served as a board member and vice-president of the organization. I wish him well as he embarks on the venture of leading WCL.

A final thanks to our board for entrusting me with the responsibility to lead and represent this great organization for which I have unending respect and admiration as well as to our members whose enthusiasm about pro bono and public interest is truly inspiring. I look forward to seeing you all at future Council events and activities!

See you soon! ■

In The Works *continued from page 8*

services organizations in the area come with representatives and materials to provide associates with the information and resources they need to begin incorporating pro bono service into their careers.

Litigation Skills Training – April 2009

Back to basics in 2009. The Council provides a basic skills training for new attorneys in alternate years with the more

advanced course. Litigation Skills Training will offer instruction in the fundamental aspects of litigation, including witness examination, evidence, impeachment, and building the case. The course provides participants with the opportunity to practice those skills in role play with the assistance of experienced DC litigators. The course is modestly priced and very effective, perfect for new public interest attorneys. ■

Get Involved – Work with the Council!

We welcome and encourage our members to help us plan and strategize for all of our programs and events. The board of directors works through committees, which are responsible for specific programming and Council governance. You are more than welcome to join a committee or just sign on to help with a specific program or event. The standing committees are described below. You can send an email to Executive Director, Gina Malloy, or sign up online through our Website, www.wclawyers.org, to participate in the inner workings and operation of the Council.

DC Bar Affairs Committee annually endorses candidates for D.C. Bar leadership positions. Members actively seek and solicit public service attorney candidates from among WCL's membership and beyond.

Issues Committee authors and/or joins amicus briefs when relevant issues are being considered by state and federal courts in the District. Members periodically author reports on issues related to access to justice or social justice. Members monitor local and national politics and periodically issue position statements or sign on to letters that focus on issues related to access to justice or social justice. In presidential election years, Members organize a proxy debate. Periodically, Members organize special events around relevant issues, e.g., the WCL Gun Control Debate of 2008.

Membership Committee seeks to expand and enhance WCL membership by encouraging members to become involved in planning WCL events, promoting WCL membership at WCL events and other venues, solicit member feedback, and expand member services. Members organize an annual social networking event, e.g., Up on the Roof Social, to provide an opportunity for members to meet each other and the board of directors in a social atmosphere. Members organize, sometimes in cooperation with other committees, periodic, small events to serve the ongoing needs of WCL members, e.g., Going Public and Staying Public.

Personnel Committee interviews personnel candidates and provides hiring recommendations to the board. Members monitor the performance of staff and suggest periodic increases to salaries and benefits.

Pro Bono/Public Interest Promotion Committee organizes events to advance and promote public interest careers and pro bono service. Members organize annual and bi-annual litigation skills trainings, e.g., Litigation Skills Training and Advanced Litigation Skills Training. Members organize, in concert with the Special Events Committee, the annual Pro Bono Fair, at which law firm attorneys learn about pro bono opportunities in the District. Members assist other committees in planning public interest and pro bono related events, e.g., Going Public, Staying Public, and Summer Pro Bono Forum.

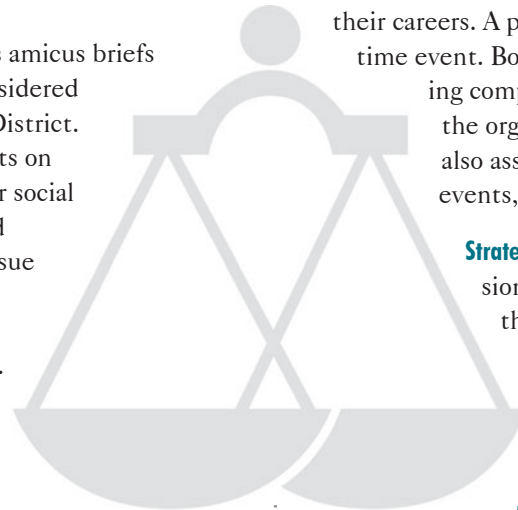
Special Events Committee organizes the annual Awards Reception in November and the Summer Pro Bono Forum in June. The Awards Reception honors individuals and law firms for outstanding public interest and pro bono service. A prominent speaker also addresses the audience of approximately 60 attendees. The Summer Pro Bono Forum provides an opportunity for summer law firm associates to learn about integrating pro bono service into their careers. A prominent speaker opens the lunch-time event. Both events have a significant fundraising component and together raise the bulk of the organization's operating funds. Members also assist in planning other prominent WCL events, e.g. Pro Bono Fair.

Strategic Planning Committee guides discussion regarding the long-term goals of the Council. Members open strategic discussion, set agendas, and write the planning documents that serve as the foundation for the Council's operation.

Fundraising/Development Committee guides and monitors the Council's fundraising strategy and execution. Members plan and supervise the fundraising efforts and assist in their execution. In 2008/2009, members will organize an annual appeal and a raffle that will occur as part of the Awards Reception. Members plan and supervise the submission of grant proposals. Members assist the Special Events Committee with the fundraising aspects of the Awards Reception and the Summer Pro Bono Forum.

Mentorship Program Committee manages the Mentorship Program by planning the associated lunches and panel discussions and facilitating the mentor/mentee relationships.

Publications/Events Committee manages the Council's publications and public relations events, including the News Forum newsletter, monthly Public Interest Jobs Clearinghouse, and the Mock Trial held at a local elementary school. ■



Many Thanks to Our 2007-08 Supporters!

Your generosity helps us promote public interest and pro bono service through trainings, panels, discussions, and mentoring.

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Washington Council of Lawyers

Invites You to Attend the

37th Annual Awards Reception

November 13, 2008
6:00 pm

Garden Room,
Arnold & Porter LLP
555 12th Street NW

Keynote Speaker

Elisa Massimino
*CEO and Executive Director,
Human Rights First*

2008 Award Recipients

President's Award

Katia Garrett
Executive Director, DC Bar Foundation

Gov. Pro Bono Award

Paul Kendall
*Senior Counsel,
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Law Firm Award

Hunton & Williams LLP

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FROM THE EDITOR:

WCL wants to hear from you. Please send your letter to the President, letter to the Editor, news release, announcement, or article to:

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Please send submissions on a disk or by email.