

JUDICIAL CONFERENCE
OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CIRCUIT

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For Immediate Release

**Chief Judges Hold First Ever Virtual “40 at 50” Pro Bono Event
to Recognize Pro Bono Leaders and Encourage Members of the Bar
to Provide Pro Bono Legal Services to Those in Need**

Washington, D.C. – March 31, 2021: In a virtual ceremony to be held on Wednesday, April 7, 2021, the Chief Judges of the District of Columbia federal courts will honor local law firms for outstanding leadership in pro bono service and encourage members of the Bar to provide pro bono legal services to persons living in poverty in the District.

Representatives of the 39 law firms being recognized will join Chief Judge Sri Srinivasan, Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell, and other District of Columbia federal judges at the first virtual 40 at 50 Judicial Pro Bono Recognition Event. Until 2019, the event was an in-person breakfast. The 2020 event was cancelled due to the pandemic.

Chief Judge Sri Srinivasan remarked on the importance of these firms’ efforts, stating:

By emphasizing pro bono service, these firms are upholding the most important values of the legal profession. As low-income D.C. residents are hit particularly hard by the pandemic, the pro bono work of these firms is especially important in this time. Together, the lawyers at these firms devoted hundreds of thousands of hours to help ensure that persons living in poverty in D.C. have equal access to justice under law.

Chief Judge Beryl Howell focused on the particular need for pro bono services to help survivors of domestic violence, commenting, “pro bono service by lawyers to help survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault can truly have a lifechanging impact.”

The “40 at 50” Breakfast honors law firms at which at least 40% of all attorneys dedicated 50 or more hours in 2019 and/or 2020 to providing free legal representation to individuals with limited financial resources or to charitable organizations. Twelve firms (designated in bold below) had 40% or more of their partners hit the 50-hour mark in at least one year. Seven firms (bold italics) met this mark in both years: Arnold & Porter; Covington & Burling; Fish & Richardson; Jenner & Block; Miller & Chevalier; Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe; and Steptoe & Johnson.

The 39 “40 at 50” law firms are listed below. The 25 firms where 50% or more of attorneys contributed at least 50 hours in 2019 or 2020 will receive special recognition (firms that met this mark in one year are designated below with a “*”; firms that did so in both years have a “**”). Ten firms had 60% or more of their attorneys contributing 50 or more hours of pro bono service in 2018. Eight firms (designated with a “+”) reached the “60 at 50” mark in one year: Arnold & Porter; Hughes Hubbard & Reed; O’Melveny & Myers; Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe; Paul Hastings; Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison; Ropes & Gray; and Seyfarth Shaw. Two firms (designated with a “++”) met this mark in both years: Jenner & Block and Miller & Chevalier.

In alphabetical order, the law firm honorees are:

Alston & Bird	Morgan Lewis & Bockius
+**Arnold & Porter	*Morrison & Foerster
*Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner	+**O’Melveny & Myers
Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton	+**Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe
Cooley	+*Paul Hastings
Covington & Burling	+Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison
*Crowell & Moring	+**Ropes & Gray
*Debevoise & Plimpton	+*Seyfarth Shaw
*Dechert	*Shearman & Sterling
*DLA Piper	Sidley Austin
Duane Morris	**Skadden
**Fish & Richardson	**Steptoe & Johnson
*Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher	Sullivan & Cromwell
*Hogan Lovells	Vinson & Elkins
+*Hughes Hubbard & Reed	Williams & Connolly
++**Jenner & Block	Willkie Farr & Gallagher
*Jones Day	WilmerHale
Kirkland & Ellis	*Winston & Strawn
McDermott Will & Emery	Zuckerman Spaeder
++**Miller & Chevalier	

Bold indicates 40% of partners at 50

Bold italics indicates 40% of partners at 50 in both years

* indicates 50% of attorneys at 50

** indicates 50% of attorneys at 50 in both years

+ indicates 60% of attorneys at 50

++ indicates 60% of attorneys at 50 in both years

The D.C. Circuit Judicial Conference Standing Committee on Pro Bono Legal Services sponsors this annual event to promote the Resolutions on Pro Bono Services passed by the Judicial Conferences of the District of Columbia that call upon members of the D.C. Bar each year, at a minimum, to: “(1) accept one court appointment, (2) provide 50 hours of *pro bono* legal service, or (3) when personal representation is not feasible, contribute the lesser of \$750 or 1 percent of earned income to a legal assistance organization that services the community’s economically disadvantaged, including *pro bono* referral and appointment offices sponsored by the Bar and the courts.” D.C. R. Prof. Conduct 6.1, cmt. 5. Law firms with 25 or more attorneys in the District are eligible for recognition.

This year’s event will also feature a call to D.C. firms to provide pro bono legal services to all those in need, including survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

The virtual breakfast begins at 8:30 a.m. and will be livestreamed.

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