JUDICIAL CONFERENCE
OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CIRCUIT

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CHIEF JUDGES ANNOUNCE PRO BONO LEADERS AMONG D.C. FIRMS AND ENCOURAGE MEMBERS OF THE BAR TO PROVIDE PRO BONO LEGAL SERVICES

Washington, D.C. – October 28, 2026: In a ceremony held at the federal courthouse on Wednesday, September 30, 2026, the Chief Judges of the District of Columbia federal courts honored local law firms for outstanding leadership in pro bono service and encouraged members of the Bar to provide pro bono legal services to persons living in poverty in the District.

Representatives of the 28 law firms who were recognized joined Chief Judge Sri Srinivasan of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, Chief Judge James E. Boasberg of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, and other District of Columbia federal judges for the annual 40 at 50 Judicial Pro Bono Recognition Breakfast. As Chief Judge Srinivasan remarked:

> The D.C. legal community has a long and proud tradition of pro bono work – a tradition to which all of you here this morning have contributed and continue to advance. Collectively, the law firms being honored here, among many others, have provided thousands of hours to the people in the District who are most in need.

Chief Judge Boasberg emphasized the need for the provision of pro bono legal services to local D.C. residents, noting that:

> This year, many of our legal services organizations have done more with less. Many organizations have faced budget cuts while continuing to provide exceptional service to low-income and indigent residents. Pro bono contributions go a long way toward bridging the gap.

The "40 at 50" Breakfast honors law firms at which at least 40% of all attorneys dedicated 50 or more hours in 2025 to providing free legal representation to individuals with limited financial resources or to charitable organizations. The 28 "40 at 50" law firms are listed below. The 15 firms where 50% or more of attorneys contributed at least 50 hours in 2025 (designated below with a *) received special recognition at the breakfast. Three of these 15 (designated below with a +) had 60% or more of their attorneys contributing 50 or more hours of pro bono service in 2025 – Allen Overy Shearman Sterling, Jenner & Block, and Morrison Foerster. Jenner & Block had a remarkable 94.4% of their lawyers perform 50 or more pro bono hours last year.

In alphabetical order, the law firm honorees are:

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld
* + Allen Overy Shearman Sterling
* Arnold & Porter
Blank Rome
Cooley
* Covington & Burling
Crowell & Moring
* Debevoise & Plimpton
DLA Piper
Fish & Richardson
Foley & Lardner
Foley Hoag
* Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher
Hogan Lovells
* + Jenner & Block
* McDermott Will & Schulte
* Miller & Chevalier
* + Morrison Foerster
* O'Melveny & Myers
Paul, Weiss
* Perkins Coie
* Ropes & Gray
* Sidley Austin
Steptoe
Sullivan & Cromwell
Willkie Farr & Gallagher
* Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr
* Zuckerman Spaeder

* indicates 50% of attorneys at 50
+ indicates 60% of attorneys at 50

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 Conference, first adopted in 1998 and reaffirmed in 2010, 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 comes at a time when many of the District's legal services organizations have faced budget cuts while continuing to serve low-income and indigent residents. The Breakfast accordingly featured a call to all D.C. firms to expand their pro bono commitments—and encouraged colleagues at peer firms to do the same—so that the celebration of firms meeting or exceeding the "40 at 50" standard continues to grow in the years to come.

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