

JUDICIAL CONFERENCE  
OF THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CIRCUIT

Room 4726  
202.216.7340

E. Barrett Prettyman U.S. Courthouse  
333 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20001

**Chief Judges Hold 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.**

Washington, D.C. -- June 13, 2022: In a virtual ceremony to be held on Wednesday, June 22, 2022, 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 25 law firms being recognized will join Chief Judge Sri Srinivasan, Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell, and other District of Columbia federal judges at the second 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 but resumed in virtual format last year.

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

By focusing on pro bono service, these firms are upholding the most important values of the legal profession. Since low-income D.C. residents have been hit particularly hard by the pandemic and its aftermath, the pro bono work of these firms is especially critical in this time. Together, the attorneys 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 need for pro bono services to help survivors of sexual and domestic violence, noting that, “pro bono representation of survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault can be life changing.”

The “40 at 50” ceremony honors law firms at which at least 40% of all attorneys dedicated 50 or more hours in 2021 to providing free legal representation to individuals with limited financial resources or to charitable organizations.

Six firms (designated in bold below) had 40% or more of their partners hit the 50-hour mark.

Seven firms (designated with an \* below) had at least 50% of attorneys dedicate 50 or more hours.

And three firms (designated with a +) had at least 60% of attorneys dedicate 50 or more hours to pro bono service.

In alphabetical order, the law firm honorees are:

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP

**\*Arnold & Porter**

**Barnes & Thornburg LLP**

**Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner**

Cooley

\*+Covington & Burling LLP

Crowell & Moring LLP

Dechert LLP

Fish & Richardson

Gibson Dunn & Crutcher

\*Hogan Lovells US LLP

Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP

**\*+Jenner & Block LLP**

Miller & Chevalier Chartered

Morrison & Foerster

**Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP**

Paul Hastings LLP

Perkins Coie LLP

\*Ropes & Gray LLP

Sidley & Austin LLP

\*Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, LLP

Stephens

Sullivan & Crowell LLP

Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP

**\*+Winston & Strawn**

**Bold indicates 40% of partners at 50**

\* 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 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 40 at 50 Pro Bono Event will include a new portion this year. Chief Judge Howell will present the Daniel M. Gribbon Pro Bono Advocacy Award. This year, Covington & Burling LLP will receive the Gribbon Award for the firm's extraordinary pro bono service in *Vote Forward v. DeJoy*, a voting rights suit that challenged the implementation of United States Postal Service (USPS) policies that resulted in widespread mail delivery delays leading up to the 2020 general election. Covington obtained a preliminary injunction and a series of emergency orders that required USPS to take extraordinary measures to ensure delivery of mail-in ballots, including use of express mail and sending inspectors to processing locations in several states to monitor delivery. After the 2020 general election, Covington negotiated an agreement with USPS to use similar measures for the Georgia Senate runoff elections in January 2021. USPS also agreed to take similar measures for the 2022 mid-term congressional election and to post guidance that publicly reflects its efforts to prioritize election mail for all elections through 2028.

The Gribbon Award recognizes an individual or law firm that has demonstrated distinguished advocacy before the United States District Court for the District of Columbia in a pro bono matter that concluded during the designated time period. Covington's exceptional pro bono advocacy in service of preserving access to voting is most deserving of this recognition.

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

<https://dcbar.zoom.us/j/84743276764>.

# # #