

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
E. Barrett Prettyman United States Courthouse  
333 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20001**

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***Media Advisory***

**FEDERAL JUDGES HONOR RECORD NUMBER OF FIRMS FOR OUTSTANDING  
PRO BONO SERVICE  
26 Firms Honored for “40 at 50” Benchmark**

Washington D.C. – March 25, 2009: A record number of law firms in Washington, D.C., 26 firms, will be honored by the Chief Judges of the District of Columbia Circuit federal courts for their commitment to pro bono work. Each firm will be honored for meeting the benchmark of having at least 40 percent of their attorneys individually provide 50 or more hours of pro bono service in 2008. The number of firms meeting the standard has increased dramatically, from 7 firms in 2003, to 26 firms in 2008. The sixth annual ‘40 at 50’: *Judicial Pro Bono Recognition Breakfast* will be held Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. at the E. Barrett Prettyman United States Courthouse, and is sponsored by the D.C. Circuit Judicial Conference Standing Committee on Pro Bono Legal Services.

First held in 2004, the three aims of the ‘40 at 50’: *Judicial Pro Bono Recognition Breakfast* are to encourage increased pro bono activity by attorneys working in the District of Columbia Circuit; recognize firms that have effectively encouraged and supported pro bono work at all levels of the firm; and to publicize the Circuit’s goal of 50 pro bono hours per attorney per year. For the first time this year, the Judges will also recognize five firms with at least 40 percent of its partners contributing 50 or more pro bono hours in 2008: DLA Piper, LLP; Gilbert Oshinsky, LLP; Jenner & Block, LLP; Sonnenschein, Nath & Rosenthal, LLP and WilmerHale.

Only Washington, D.C. law offices with at least 25 attorneys were eligible. Twenty-six of the 109 law firms with offices in Washington D.C. surveyed qualified for the honor. Listed in alphabetical order, this year’s honorees are:

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, LLP  
Arnold & Porter, LLP  
Covington & Burling, LLP  
Dechert LLP

Dewey & LaBoeuf, LLP  
Dickstein Shapiro, LLP  
DLA Piper, LLP  
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, LLP  
Gilbert Oshinsky, LLP  
Goodwin Procter, LLP  
Hogan & Hartson, LLP  
Jenner & Block, LLP  
Jones Day  
Manatt, Phelps, Phillips, LLP  
McDermott Will & Emery, LLP  
Miller & Chevalier, LLP  
Morrison & Forrester, LLP  
O'Melveny & Meyers, LLP  
Patton Boggs, LLP  
Reed Smith, LLP  
Shearman & Sterling, LLP  
Sidley Austin, LLP  
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, LLP  
Sonnenschein, Nath & Rosenthal, LLP  
Steptoe & Johnson, LLP  
WilmerHale

Chief Judge David B. Sentelle of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, and Chief Judge Royce C. Lamberth of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia will host the event, and will be joined by other judges from the Circuit and District courts. This is an invitation-only event. Members of the media must R.S.V.P. by contacting (202) 354-3320.

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