

JUDICIAL CONFERENCE
OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CIRCUIT

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For Immediate Release

**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. – March 27, 2019: In a ceremony to be held at the federal courthouse on Thursday, April 4, 2019, 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 33 law firms being recognized will join Chief Judge Merrick Garland, Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell, and other District of Columbia federal judges for the sixteenth annual 40 at 50 Judicial Pro Bono Recognition Breakfast. As Chief Judge Merrick Garland remarked:

By emphasizing pro bono service, these firms are upholding the most important values of the legal profession. Cumulatively, the lawyers at these firms have devoted thousands of hours in 2018 to ensuring that persons living in poverty in D.C. have equal access to justice under law.

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

The firms being honored here today recognize the need to perform pro bono locally, to ensure that the civil legal needs of DC residents are met. Those needs are real and we commend these firms for helping our neighbors protect their rights in housing, employment and family matters, including helping survivors of domestic violence get to safety and obtain custody of their children.

The “40 at 50” Breakfast honors law firms at which at least 40% of all attorneys dedicated 50 or more hours in 2018 to providing free legal representation to individuals with limited financial resources or to charitable organizations. Thirty-three firms is the second highest total in history (and, interestingly, six additional firms missed qualifying by just one lawyer per firm). Eight of the firms listed below (designated in bold) – Akin Gump, Arnold & Porter, Covington & Burling, Foley Hoag, Jenner & Block, Miller & Chevalier, Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe, and Perkins Coie –

had 40% or more of their partners hit the 50-hour mark. In addition, more than 40% of Davis Wright & Tremaine's partners dedicated 50 or more hours to pro bono in 2018.

The 33 "40 at 50" law firms are listed below. The 17 firms where 50% or more of attorneys contributed at least 50 hours in 2018 (designated below with a "**") will receive special recognition at the breakfast. Five of these 17 (designated below with a "+") had 60% or more of their attorneys contributing 50 or more hours of pro bono service in 2018 – Jenner & Block, Miller & Chevalier, Perkins Coie, Ropes & Gray, and Skadden Arps.

In alphabetical order, the law firm honorees are:

* Akin Gump	Gibson Dunn	Paul Weiss
Alston & Bird	Hogan Lovells	*+ Perkins Coie
* Arnold & Porter	Hughes Hubbard & Reed	*+ Ropes & Gray
Buckley LLP	*+ Jenner & Block	* Shearman & Sterling
* Covington & Burling	* Jones Day	Sidley Austin
* Crowell & Moring	Kirkland & Ellis	*+ Skadden Arps
* Debevoise & Plimpton	McDermott Will & Emery	Steptoe & Johnson
DLA Piper	*+ Miller & Chevalier	Sullivan & Cromwell
* Foley & Lardner	* O'Melveny & Myers	Williams & Connolly
* Foley Hoag	Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe	* Wilmer Hale
Fried Frank	Paul Hastings	* 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 Conference 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.

In addition, in response to Congress' recent call to "promot[e] pro bono legal services as a critical way in which to empower survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking, and engage citizens in assisting those survivors," in the Pro Bono Work to Empower and Represent Act of 2018 (POWER Act), P.L. 115-237, this year's event will 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 breakfast begins at 8:30 a.m. in the William B. Bryant Annex Atrium of the E. Barrett Prettyman Courthouse.

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