

(LEAP) Program were recognized for their financial support and pro bono legal services at a reception hosted by Sidley Austin LLP. LEAP was initiated by the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty (NLCHP) to help the program with its daunting mission—eradicating homelessness in America.

The reception featured Georgetown University Law Center Professor and D.C. Access to Justice Commission Chair Peter Edelman speaking about the important role lawyers play in addressing the needs of low-income residents and the commission's success in securing city funding for civil legal services.

"One of the things that's very clear is that if we are going to build a system of legal services as good as it should be, we need two components: we need full-time lawyers [working for legal services providers] and we need pro bono lawyers," Edelman said.

Edelman said the District of Columbia will soon see more full-time public service lawyers thanks to the work of the D.C. Access to Justice Commission, which successfully persuaded the Council of the District of Columbia to appropriate \$3.2 million to fund civil legal services for fiscal year 2007 and the same amount for 2008. A portion of both allocations will allow for the hiring of an additional 31 lawyers in the legal services network.

As for the other component, Edelman said the city should be proud of the significant pro bono work done by Washington lawyers.

Following Edelman, NLCHP board member Jeffrey Simes, a partner at the New York office of Goodwin Procter LLP, related his experience working with homeless children in Long Island, New York, through a partnership between his firm and NLCHP.

"The lessons were many," he said. "This project opened my eyes [to the fact] that you can unify your firm around such projects."

Pro bono opportunities for LEAP members include work concerning children and youth, civil rights, domestic violence, housing, human rights, and income.

Lawyers or law firms interested in becoming a member of LEAP should contact Amy Warnick at 202-638-2535, ext. 206, or awarnick@nlchp.org. For more information on NLCHP, visit www.nlchp.org.—K.A.



The recipients of the 2007 Frederick B. Abramson Memorial Foundation scholarships were honored at the foundation's annual scholarship awards luncheon on June 21.

D.C. Council Allocates \$3.2 Million for Legal Services in 2008

For the second consecutive year the Council of the District of Columbia will allocate \$3.2 million in its budget for civil legal services.

In June the council finalized legislation that will provide funding for fiscal year 2008 (beginning in October 2007);

D.C. BAR 2007 ELECTION RESULTS

(Winners in bold) **President-Elect:** Devarieste Curry, 3,269; **Robert J. Spagnoletti**, 3,774. **Secretary:** **Rebecca M. McNeill**, 3,335; Cynthia G. Wright, 3,100. **Treasurer:** Thomas Mugavero, 2,778; **Don A. Resnikoff**, 3,433. **Board of Governors:** Anthony P. Bisceglie, 1,618; **Judy Conti**, 3,269; David Florin, 2,402; **Nathalie Gilfoyle**, 3,699; Theodore Charles Hirt, 2,334; **Ellen M. Jakovic**, 3,748; **Charles R. Lowery Jr.**, 3,659; Stephen J. Price, 2,258; **Christina Guerola Sarchio**, 3,309; Anthony Tu-Sekine, 2,305. **ABA House of Delegates:** Barbara Berish Brown, 2,799; Tracy-Gene G. Durkin, 2,255; **John Payton**, 4,177; **Mark H. Tuohey III**, 3,366. **ABA House of Delegates Under-35 Seat:** Ryan P. Phair, 1,653; **Elizabeth A. Scully**, 4,458.

the council also allocated \$3.2 million for civil legal services in fiscal year 2007 in response to a recommendation of the D.C. Access to Justice Commission.

The commission was created by the D.C. Court of Appeals in 2005 to address the lack of civil legal services for low-income District residents.

"By continuing public funding for civil legal services in fiscal year 2008, the District government has renewed its commitment to help those most in need. The funding will support about 30 lawyers in the legal services network, which translates into significantly more assistance for our city's most vulnerable residents," said Peter Edelman, who chairs the 17-member committee.

The funds will be distributed as grants by the D.C. Bar Foundation, as it was for fiscal year 2007 when it supported the creation of a shared legal interpreter bank, the hiring of additional legal services lawyers working in housing matters and in underserved communities, and the District of Columbia Poverty Lawyer Loan Assistance Repayment Program Act of 2006.

For more information on the D.C. Access to Justice Commission, visit www.dcccesstojustice.org or contact Executive Director Sunil Mansukhani at 202-344-4441 or info@dcccesstojustice.org. To find out more about the 2007 grants made by the Bar Foundation, visit www.dccbarfoundation.org.—K.A.