



August 2, 2022

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**Access to Justice Commission Honors Firms that Qualified for the 2021 Raising the Bar in D.C. Leadership Circle**

*Participating firms donated a record-breaking \$7.2 million to local legal services providers to meet critical legal needs that have only been heightened by the pandemic. The need to provide financial support for civil legal aid remains critical as District residents continue to face life-altering, years-long consequences of the pandemic.*

Washington, D.C. – The D.C. Access to Justice Commission is pleased to honor the thirty-four firms that qualified for the Raising the Bar in D.C. Campaign in 2021. Honorees each donated a benchmark percentage of revenue to local legal services providers in 2021.

Together the honored firms donated \$7.2 million (an all-time record for the Campaign) to organizations that serve low-income District residents with legal issues that were made broader and more urgent by the continued upheaval and uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic and struggles of recovery.

“The leadership of these firms is an essential element of access to justice in the District,” said Peter B. Edelman, Chair of the D.C. Access to Justice Commission. “These funds provide essential support to our legal services providers who in turn ensure that thousands of District residents have access to legal help in critical areas such as housing, domestic violence, family law, addressing fraud, and more. These needs were made worse by the COVID-19 pandemic, which disproportionately impacts low-income District residents of color, and these needs will be long-lasting and continue even as we move towards recovery.”

Giving by the private bar through the Campaign complements the D.C. government’s public appropriation for legal services through the Access to Justice Initiative and reflects the private bar’s confidence in the strength of the work of the local legal services community. “We are pleased to see such a robust public-private partnership in support of our civil justice system. We will

continue to work together toward seeing that all D.C. residents, regardless of income, have access to justice,” said Chair Edelman.

The Campaign, which is led by the D.C. Access to Justice Commission, recognizes firms at three levels – Platinum, Gold and Silver – for donating .11%, .09%, or .075% of D.C. office revenue, respectively. Because of the structure of the Campaign, firms of all sizes have the opportunity to participate, and firms must increase their giving when their revenues increase to qualify for each level of giving. Since the Campaign began in 2011 the number of participating firms has grown substantially from the initial twenty-three, and aggregate giving has increased more than \$4.38 million.

The Commission is especially pleased that most firms renew their commitment each year. Given the unprecedented challenges and disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Commission especially thanks the 21 firms who were able to sustain their level of giving from the previous year – and the seven firms (Arnold & Porter; Beveridge & Diamond PC; Covington & Burling LLP; Latham & Watkins LLP; Paul Weiss, Rifkin, Wharton & Garrison LLP; and The Piorkowski Law Firm) that increased a level in 2021.

In its letter congratulating Leadership Circle firms, the Commission challenged each firm to re-double its efforts to provide leadership and financial support during this difficult time:

*The impact of the pandemic on the least fortunate in our community continues to be nothing short of devastating. The legal needs of our fellow citizens in dealing with their most basic needs, such as housing and public benefits, as well as with domestic violence, consumer fraud, and so many other issues, have been magnified by the public health emergency and the related economic fallout. The resulting legal needs will last for years for some of our most vulnerable District residents. ... We are optimistic that we can emerge from the pandemic with a stronger ability to meet the legal needs of our District neighbors. However, your continued and increased support in 2022 is critical to that mission. Your leadership is now more important than ever and serves as a model for your peers.*

The list of firms and their levels follows.

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**RAISING THE BAR IN D.C.  
A FUNDING CAMPAIGN FOR LEGAL SERVICES**

**SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION**

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**LEADERSHIP CIRCLE 2021**

**PLATINUM LEVEL DONORS**



ArentFox Schiff LLP  
Arnold & Porter  
Beveridge & Diamond PC  
Covington & Burling LLP  
DLA Piper LLP (US)  
Henrikson Law PLLC  
Jones Day  
Katz, Marshall & Banks LLP  
Kirkland & Ellis LLP  
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Steptoe & Johnson LLP  
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The Piorkowski Law Firm, PC  
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## **GOLD LEVEL DONORS**



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Buckley LLP  
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