BENDING TOWARDS JUSTICE

Voting Rights Act Turns 50
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Voting Rights Act Turns 50
AGENDA

BLACK NATIONAL ANTHEM
One Voice Ensemble, Oakland School For The Arts
Director: Sólás B. Lalgee

INVOCATION
Sheila Thomas, Esq., RScP.

WELCOME
Belva Davis, Emcee

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMARKS
Daniel M. Hutchinson (Board Chair)
Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein, LLP

LEGAL DIRECTOR REMARKS
Oren Sellstrom

BOARD CO-CHAIR REMARKS
Shauna Marshall (Chair-Elect)
U.C. Hastings College of the Law

KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Bryan Stevenson, Founder and Executive Director, Equal Justice Initiative

CORPORATE COURAGE RECOGNITION
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP, Derek Barrett, Mike Hannigan

THURGOOD MARSHALL FELLOWSHIP

PRO BONO AWARDS PRESENTATION – BELVA DAVIS
James T. Caleshu Award – Krista Kim
Keta Taylor Colby Award – Suzette Pringle
Anthony F. Logan Award – Roseann Cirelli
Father Cuchulain Moriarty Award – Annie Esser, Paul Jay Cohen,
Idin Kashefiipour, Rocky Tsai
Robert G. Sproul, Jr. Award – Neil A. F. Popović

CLOSING
Belva Davis
LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING

Music by J. Rosamond Johnson
Lyrics by James Weldon Johnson

Lift every voice and sing, till earth and Heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet,
Come to the place for which our fathers died?

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered;
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
Thou Who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou Who hast by Thy might, led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee.
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee.
Shadowed beneath Thy hand, may we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.
MESSAGE FROM THE LEGAL DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

One of Dr. King’s most famous quotes is that “the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.” We have chosen that quote as the theme of this year’s Luncheon in his honor, because it so eloquently sums up the civil rights struggle.

It tells us that the fight for civil rights is a long and difficult one, with many setbacks along the way. But it also reminds us that we are making progress towards that elusive goal of “justice for all.”

The Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights exists to make real that promise of justice. In partnership with hundreds of pro bono attorneys and other volunteers, we work for racial justice, immigrant justice, and economic empowerment on behalf of our client communities.

And with your support, we are making a difference. Just this last year, you helped us protect the voting rights of communities of color through litigation and administrative advocacy. You helped us ensure that refugees from across the globe—including an increasing number of unaccompanied minors—have access to pro bono legal counsel to establish claims for asylum. You helped our Economic Empowerment program grow in all directions, with expanded legal assistance to low-income entrepreneurs and legislation to help provide equal opportunity to minority- and women-owned businesses. For this and so much more good work, we thank you for your dedication to justice and your perseverance for equal treatment under the law.

With your support, 2015 promises to carry forward our successful momentum advancing and protecting civil rights. On behalf of our Executive Director, Kimberly Thomas Rapp, and the rest of our staff and Board, welcome to our 28th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Luncheon!

In solidarity and with deep appreciation,

Oren Sellstrom
Legal Director
proudly supports the

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KEYNOTE SPEAKER

BRYAN STEVENSON

Bryan Stevenson is the founder and Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Alabama. Mr. Stevenson is a widely acclaimed public interest lawyer who has dedicated his career to helping the poor, the incarcerated and the condemned. Under his leadership, EJI has won major legal challenges eliminating excessive and unfair sentencing, exonerating innocent death row prisoners, confronting abuse of the incarcerated and the mentally ill and aiding children prosecuted as adults. Mr. Stevenson has successfully argued several cases in the United States Supreme Court and recently won an historic ruling in the U.S. Supreme Court holding that mandatory life-without-parole sentences for all children 17 or younger are unconstitutional. EJI has also initiated major new anti-poverty and anti-discrimination efforts.

Mr. Stevenson’s work fighting poverty and challenging racial discrimination in the criminal justice system has won him numerous awards including the ABA Wisdom Award for Public Service, the MacArthur Foundation Fellowship Award Prize, the Olaf Palme International Prize, the ACLU National Medal Of Liberty, the National Public Interest Lawyer of the Year Award, the NAACP Ming Award for Advocacy, the Gruber Prize for International Justice and the Ford Foundation Visionaries Award.

He is a graduate of the Harvard Law School and the Harvard School of Government, has been awarded 15 honorary doctorate degrees and is also a Professor of Law at the New York University School of Law. His book, Just Mercy, was released by Random House in October of 2014.
Latham & Watkins is proud to sponsor the

Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights

and its

28th Annual
Martin Luther King, Jr. Awards Luncheon

* In association with the Law Office of Salman M. Al Sultan

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and the organization's mission to protect
and promote equal access to justice.
Daniel M. Hutchinson is a partner in the San Francisco office of Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein, LLP. Daniel's practice has been focused on complex class and collective actions that have advanced the public interest. He is an advocate for under-represented and disadvantaged communities, and has litigated cases involving unfair employment practices against immigrants.

Daniel has pursued a series of consumer protection cases against major banks and financial services providers. Daniel's efforts helped result in the largest monetary settlements in the history of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act and ended harassing automated calls to millions of consumers.

Daniel was a key player in the firm's case against Tata, which represented a certified class of over 13,000 Indian nationals claiming that Tata unjustly enriched itself by requiring them to endorse and sign over their federal and state tax refund checks.

In one case, Daniel worked closely with a small team of plaintiffs’ counsel on behalf of Mexican workers and laborers, known as Braceros ("strong arms"), who were denied part of their wages after coming to the U.S. during World War II to fill jobs hurt by labor shortages in the agricultural, railroad and other industries.

Daniel has spoken and presented papers on civil rights claims at national employment law conferences, including events sponsored by the American Bar Association's Section of Labor and Employment Law, the Impact Fund, the UCLA School of Law, the National Employment Lawyers Association, and the Consumer Attorneys of California.
The Lawyers’ Committee is proud to be a recipient of *cy pres* funds in each of the following cases.

Thank you!

Congratulations to **Seeger Salvas LLP** for your successful settlements in *Kim v. Trophy Properties* and *Burton v. Trophy Properties*.

Congratulations to **Gutride Safier LLP** for your successful settlement in *Rainbow Business Solutions et al. v Merchant Services Inc., et al.*

Congratulations to **Minami Tamaki LLP** and **Lewis, Feinberg, Lee, Renaker & Jackson P.C.** for your successful settlement in *Akasougi et al v Benihana National Corp.*
Shauna Marshall joined the Hastings faculty in 1994 as a Clinical Law Professor. Prior to joining the faculty, she spent 15 years working on behalf of the public interest. She began her career as a trial attorney for the US Department of Justice, Antitrust Division. Five years later, she joined Equal Rights Advocates as a staff attorney working on impact cases, policy initiatives and mobilizing campaigns on behalf of low income women and women of color. She then spent four years in the Stanford and East Palo Alto community, lecturing in the areas of civil rights and community law practice at Stanford Law School and directing the East Palo Alto Community Law Project. She served as Hastings Associate Academic Dean from 2000–2002 and Academic Dean from 2005–2013. She stepped down as Academic Dean in 2013 and joined the emeritus faculty in 2014. Professor Marshall writes in the area of community law practice and social justice. Professor Marshall’s greatest joy is mentoring future social justice advocates. In her new semi-retired role, she is able to meet former students for lunch, a drink or a cup of coffee and learn about the amazing work they do with their UC Hastings degree.
When communities succeed, we all succeed

WilmerHale is proud to support the 28th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Awards Luncheon commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.
CORPORATE COURAGE RECOGNITION

This year’s Corporate Courage Recognition honors corporate partners who, through the training they are offering employers, or their business plan and fair chance employment practices, are demonstrating the importance of removing barriers that prevent those with arrest/conviction records from attaining meaningful employment once they have paid their debt to society. These awardees recognize that communities and families are strengthened when untapped talent is utilized in positive ways that contribute to the overall well-being of society.

FAIR CHANCE EMPLOYMENT TEAM
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

About the Recipients

Eric Meckley is a partner in Morgan Lewis’s Labor and Employment Practice. Mr. Meckley focuses his practice on employment litigation in federal and state courts, in arbitration, and before various state and federal administrative agencies. Mr. Meckley represents employers in a broad range of employment matters, including California and FLSA wage-and-hour class and collective actions; discrimination, harassment, retaliation, failure to provide reasonable accommodation and other employment-related claims; and non-competition/employee raiding/trade secret issues.

Erin Bieber is an associate in Morgan Lewis’s Labor and Employment Practice. Ms. Bieber’s practice includes a broad variety of employment matters, including the representation of employers in employment discrimination class actions and multiplaintiff litigation; occupational safety and health matters; disability, sex, age, and race single-plaintiff discrimination claims; wrongful discharge claims; noncompete matters; and various other labor-related matters.

Sacha M. Steenhoek is an associate in Morgan Lewis’s Labor and Employment Practice. Ms. Steenhoek represents private and public employers in all aspects of employment law, including wrongful termination, discrimination, and harassment litigation.

The Fair Chance Employment Team at Morgan Lewis has done tremendous work to ensure that people with arrest/conviction records are able to successfully reenter the workforce. The team launched an informative training program for businesses on legal aspects of hiring people with arrest/conviction records, and is planning to continue the trainings throughout the spring of 2015. By providing opportunities for people who have barriers to employment and encouraging employers to follow the law in hiring practices, Morgan Lewis’ Fair Chance Employment Team is directly addressing the inequities of the criminal justice system and helping protect, promote, and advance civil rights for all.
About the Recipient

Derek Barrett is founder & president of D & B Painting Company, Inc., a premiere commercial union painting contractor in Northern California. After working his way from an apprenticeship with a Bay Area general construction firm to VP of Operations, Derek founded D & B Painting Company in 1994 with his brother. Since then, he has grown the company to approximately 40 employees through his passion and dedication for helping address the concerns of the underutilized business and workforce community.

As a self-made entrepreneur and a person always looking to give back to the community, Derek has provided valuable insight and advice on issues of fair chance hiring. He has served as a consultant on Fair Chance Employment work and recently participated in a Business Leaders Re-Entry summit hosted by the Lawyers’ Committee, which focused on the challenges, complications and solutions for employing formerly incarcerated individuals. For Derek, making sure everyone has a fair chance is central to how he does business, and the results of his work are demonstrated by the many people he has helped obtain secure employment.

About the Recipient

Michael Hannigan is President and Co-Founder of Give Something Back Office Supplies, California’s largest independent business-to-business office supply company. After a successful career in the office equipment industry, he co-founded Give Something Back in 1991. Modeled on Newman’s Own food company, GSB’s profits are donated to non-profit groups selected by its customers and employees. The company is a Certified and Founding B-Corporation, an Alameda County Certified Green Business, and converted to a Benefit Corporation under California’s new corporate legal framework. GSB has garnered dozens of awards including Corporate Grant maker of the Year, U.S. Small Business Administration Business of the Year, one of the 10 most generous companies in America.
**JAMES T. CALESHU AWARD**

*About the Award*

*James T. Caleshu Award* recognizes an attorney who has made an extraordinary pro bono contribution to the Lawyers’ Committee Legal Services for Entrepreneurs Program.

**Krista Kim**  
*Valence Law Group, PC*

*About the Recipient*

**Krista Kim** is the founding attorney of Valence Law Group, PC, a boutique transactional real estate law firm. Krista’s practice encompasses a broad range of sophisticated real estate and commercial lending transactions. Krista serves on the Advisory Board for Berkeley Food and Housing Project (BFHP), which provides emergency food and shelter, transitional and permanent housing and support services to homeless individuals and families. Before starting Valence, Krista practiced transactional real estate law at a global law firm in San Francisco.

*About her work with LCCR*

Krista Kim’s legal counsel has been instrumental in preventing displacement of low-income communities in the Bay Area. Many of Krista’s *pro bono* clients are mom and pop shops, often immigrants and people of color, who were facing rent increases or did not understand their rights. Krista has selflessly dedicated her time to clients in dire need, contributing immensely to the goals of equal opportunity and equal justice that are central to LCCR’s work. As such, the Lawyers’ Committee is proud to have Ms. Kim as a member of the Community Business Resiliency Project Advisory Committee.
KETA TAYLOR COLBY AWARD

About the Award

*Keta Taylor Colby Award* is presented to an attorney who provides outstanding representation to the poor and under-represented through his/her involvement in the Second Chance Legal Clinic, which addresses the civil consequences of the disproportionate representation of people of color and low-income affected by the criminal justice system.

Suzette Pringle
Orrick, Herrington, and Sutcliffe LLP

About the Recipient

*Suzette Pringle* is an associate in Orrick, Herrington, and Sutcliffe LLP’s San Francisco office, and is a member of Orrick’s Securities Litigation and Regulatory Enforcement Group. Suzette’s practice focuses on the representation of investment banks, corporations, directors, and offices in securities and complex commercial actions, and internal investigations. Prior to joining Orrick, Suzette was a litigation fellow for the Office of General Counsel for The Regents of the University of California, where she practiced general, commercial, and probate litigation, and handled mandamus actions.

About her work with LCCR

Suzette began working with the Second Chance Legal Clinic in 2012, and from the start has been undaunted by the wide variety of issues she has confronted. Her diligence has delivered fast results for clients facing severe employment barriers—in particular, Suzette has helped two clients successfully clean their records and re-enter the work force with a renewed sense of purpose and confidence.

In addition to her work with the LCCR, Suzette’s *pro bono* practice involves working with law students to provide legal services to San Francisco’s homeless population and working with local organizations to provide legal services to veterans seeking VA benefits.
ANTHONY F. LOGAN AWARD

About the Award

**Anthony F. Logan Award** recognizes the efforts of a legal assistant, secretary, or other non-attorney volunteer who has made an outstanding contribution to public interest law.

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**ROSEANN C. CIRELLI**
*Keker & Van Nest LLP*

About the Recipient

**Roseann Cirelli** has worked as a legal secretary for various litigation firms for more than 30 years. Since 2007, she has been at Keker & Van Nest (KVN), where she assists litigators with their day-to-day needs. Immigration issues are close to Roseann’s heart, as she is the daughter of Italian immigrants and has learned first-hand the challenges that new immigrants face. She looks forward to continuing her assistance of unaccompanied minors, and inspiring her two daughters, friends and co-workers to embrace this or other opportunities for public service.

About her work with LCCR

Roseann has been instrumental in KVN’s efforts to assist LCCR, the SF Bar Association’s Attorney of the Day Program, and other local direct legal-services providers in processing, organizing, and making accessible the large quantity intake information received from volunteer attorneys handling hearings for the unaccompanied-minors rocket dockets in San Francisco. Each court day brings in dozens of children and families, each with individual stories to tell about the often horrific conditions that brought them to the United States—and each with individual forms of potential legal relief, outlined in stacks of paperwork and handwritten notes. Roseann has worked tirelessly to track and organize intake information on behalf of hundreds of needy minors and their families, working closely with KVN attorneys and paralegals to develop and implement a system that digitizes and tracks each intake, making sure nothing is lost. In addition to designing the tracking system, she has dedicated dozens of hours of her own time to personally entering all the data from hundreds of intake forms.
The Father Cuchulain Moriarty Award is presented recognition of an extraordinary pro bono contribution to the Lawyers’ Committee Asylum Project.

L.L. FAMILY ASYLUM TEAM  
Ropes & Gray LLP

Paul Jay Cohen is an associate in Ropes & Gray’s litigation department who practices primarily in the firm’s government enforcement group. Paul’s practice focuses on investigations by state and federal agencies and related civil and criminal litigation.

Annie Esser is counsel in the Cloud Computing and Open Source group at Hewlett-Packard. Previously, she was a corporate associate at Ropes & Gray LLP.

Idin Kashefiipour is an attorney with the Hooshmand Law Group representing tenants and consumers in all aspects of civil litigation and class action cases. Idin’s prior experience includes representing injured individuals and workers at a boutique litigation firm and working as an associate in the San Francisco office of Ropes & Gray, LLP.

Rocky Tsai is a litigation partner in the San Francisco office Ropes & Gray, LLP. Rocky represents a broad range of financial, technology and life sciences clients in securities and commercial disputes, with a particular emphasis on the defense and resolution of complex class action litigation.
ROBERT G. SPROUL, JR. AWARD

About the Award

The Robert G. Sproul, Jr. Award honors an attorney who has provided pro bono legal services and who has influenced his/her firm to provide significant pro bono representation of under-represented groups.

Neil A.F. Popović
Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP

About the Recipient

Neil A. F. Popović is a partner in the Business Trial Practice Group in the Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP San Francisco office and is Chair of the International Arbitration Practice. Neil’s litigation experience includes a wide range of commercial disputes, including consumer class actions, white collar criminal matters (including internal investigations) and international litigation (including international arbitration) and counseling. Neil also practices international environmental law, including representing clients in international negotiations. He teaches courses in International Litigation and Arbitration and International Environmental Law at Berkeley Law (Boalt Hall).

About his work with LCCR

Neil has maintained an active pro bono docket with LCCR since 1988, and has been instrumental in helping Sheppard Mullin strengthen its pro bono practice. As such, his expertise has been applied widely—in asylum cases, matters concerning voting rights, and other civil rights litigation. Neil is truly an unsung hero, one who consistently and constantly works to increase pro bono representation. The Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights is honored to recognize Neil’s tireless efforts in helping those who need it most, and influencing his colleagues to render service to the underserved.
BELVA DAVIS

As the first black female TV journalist in the West, Belva Davis helped change the face and focus of TV news. Now she is sharing the story of her extraordinary life in her spellbinding memoir, *Never in My Wildest Dreams*. As literary luminary Maya Angelou observed, “No people can say they understand the times in which they have lived unless they have read this book.”

It offers an unflinching account of Davis’ struggle to break into broadcast journalism at a time when stories of particular importance to African Americans and women rarely made mainstream newscasts.

But Davis, a young single mother struggling to raise two small children, refused to be deterred—the fact that a racist mob pummeled her with insults and trash at the 1964 GOP convention only made her more determined to persevere. And ultimately she did, rising to become one of the most respected and trusted local journalists in the country.

In a career spanning half a century, Davis has reported many of the most explosive stories of the era, including the Berkeley student protests, the birth of the Black Panthers, the Peoples Temple cult that ended in the mass suicides at Jonestown, the assassinations of San Francisco Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk, the onset of the AIDS epidemic—and from Africa, the terrorist attacks that first put Osama bin Laden on the FBI’s Most Wanted List.

It has been an amazing odyssey for Davis, who was born to a 15-year-old Louisiana laundress during the Great Depression. She has won eight local Emmys and a number of Lifetime Achievement awards—including honors from the International Women’s Media Foundation, the National Association of Black Journalists’, and the Northern California chapter of the National Association of Television Arts and Sciences. She is profiled in the Newseum, the world’s first interactive museum of news.

“Belva Davis has lived this country’s history as only a brave black woman could and has witnessed it as a journalist with a world-class head and heart,” noted feminist leader Gloria Steinem. “I don’t think it’s possible for anyone to read her words in *Never in My Wildest Dreams* without becoming a better and braver person.” Her memoir, written with award-winning journalist Vicki Haddock and published by PoliPoint Press, reminds us all never to fear the space between reality and our dreams.
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