

RISING **50** YEARS
FOR JUSTICE 1969–2019
Formerly Law Students in Court

**2019
Celebration
of Service**



2019 Celebration of Service

September 24, 2019

Welcome	Donald J. Ridings, Jr. , Partner, Covington & Burling LLC and President, Rising for Justice Board of Directors
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Recognition of Executive Director Moses Cook	Kirra L. Jarratt , Chief Executive Officer, DC Bar Foundation
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Video Presentation	Candace Lewis , Rising for Justice Client
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Safe Haven Fund	Wanji Walcott , Chief Legal Officer and General Counsel, Discover Financial Services
------------------------	--

Dinner Service

Video Presentation	Moses Cook , Executive Director, Rising for Justice
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Introduction of Attorney General	
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Remarks	The Honorable Karl A. Racine , Attorney General for the District of Columbia
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Presentation of 2019 Celebration of Service Award	F. Joseph Warin , Partner, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP Brian Ellis , Senior Vice President and General Counsel, Danaher
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Closing Remarks	Donald J. Ridings, Jr.
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About Celebration of Service

Celebration of Service is an annual fundraising dinner to honor individuals and organizations that most embody Rising for Justice's commitment to protecting the rights and dignity of people. The 2019 Celebration of Service commemorates Rising for Justice's 50th Anniversary.

Previous Recipients of the Rising for Justice Celebration of Service Award

- 2011** - James J. Sandman
- 2012** - David W. DeBruin
- 2013** - Susan M. Hoffman
- 2014** - Thomas S. Williamson, Jr.
- 2015** - Roderic V.O. Boggs
- 2016** - Michele A. Roberts
- 2017** - Jack Olender
- 2018** - Avis E. Buchanan

The Celebration of Service Award Recipient



Brian Ellis, recipient of the 2019 Celebration of Service Award

Brian Ellis is the Senior Vice President and General Counsel of Danaher. Throughout his career, Brian Ellis has exhibited the values of Rising for Justice.

In his current role at Danaher, Brian Ellis brings a wealth of experience leading and developing global legal teams and supporting business growth. Brian leads Danaher's global legal organization and ensures a strong culture of integrity and compliance. His areas of responsibility include corporate governance, quality assurance and regulatory affairs, intellectual property and risk management, as well as the company's environment, health and safety group. As a leader in public interest and diversity initiatives, Brian is the executive sponsor for Danaher's African Descent Network affinity group and convened the first meeting among African-American Male General Counsels to tackle diversity and social justice issues. Brian's global legal teams support pro-bono initiatives across the United States and have been recognized for their time and financial support to many worthy causes.

Brian was most recently General Counsel at Medtronic's Restorative Therapies Group where he was an active participant in Medtronic's pro bono program. His team created partnerships with the Shelby County hospital system to provide legal services to patients whose long-term care and recovery were directly impacted by their ability to address various legal challenges. At Medtronic, he also created and led Medtronic's African Descent Network which supported many community organizations across the United States to address disparity in access to appropriate healthcare and bringing Medtronic's solutions to underserved communities.

In previous roles, he served as Chief Compliance Officer, and later General Counsel for Monitoring Solutions and Services at GE Healthcare. Prior to his work at GE Healthcare, he was a partner in private law firms and an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois.

Brian received his undergraduate degree from Lake Forest College and his J.D. from the University of Illinois College of Law. He lives in Bethesda, Maryland with his wife Jeanette, and three children.

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Overview of Rising for Justice

Rising for Justice leverages the collective force of students and experienced advocates to achieve justice for all people in the District of Columbia.

At Rising For Justice, we believe everyone deserves justice - today, tomorrow and always.

But we recognize the justice system is broken - overburdened, underfunded, and simply inaccessible for too many.

We believe together we can do better.

- To prevent injustices today, we represent individuals who are in grave legal jeopardy.
- To build a better tomorrow, we teach law students to be life-long advocates for justice.
- To ensure justice always, we innovate sustainable solutions to problems of justice and equity.

Our compendium of programs are designed to create economic stability, keep families in homes, improve health outcomes and employment rates, and ensure that equal justice applies to all, regardless of income. Our steady presence in the courts and in the community serves as a vital check on a system that favors people with counsel and resources over people without. Since our founding, we have protected the rights of more than 250,000 District of Columbia residents and trained almost 4,000 social justice advocates.



Program Areas

Clinical Education
Housing
Civil Protection Orders
Social Work
Expungement
Immigration

Rising for Justice Staff

Moses Cook, Executive Director

David Simmons,
Chief Operating Officer

Celina Aldape, Staff Attorney

David Blum, Senior Staff Attorney

Daniel Clark, Co-Director of
Eviction Defense Services

Katrina Cohen, Staff Attorney

Melinda Cooperman,
Supervising Attorney

Jessica DeStefano,
Supervising Attorney

Paul Di Blasi, Director of
the Housing Advocacy and
Litigation Clinic

Ruth El, Law Clerk

Jenifer Foster, Director of Social
Work & Supervising Attorney

Ariana Gibbs, Communications
and Development Associate

Sterling Howard, Director of
Development and Communications

Larry Kupers, Director of
Criminal Defense Clinic

Hope Kwiatkowski, Staff Attorney

Kathryn Lash, Staff Attorney

Adrian Madsen, Supervising Attorney

Lucy Newton, Co-Director of Eviction
Defense Services

Tegan Peterson, Office Manager

Peter Posada, Staff Attorney

Paul Raymond, Communications
and Development Associate

Gwen Washington, Director of
Pro Bono

Milford Washington, Paralegal

Lauren Whelan, Administrative
Assistant & Intern Supervisor

Jaynell White, Staff Attorney

Ariel Woodard-Stephens,
Staff Attorney

Pamela Yee, Director of
Immigrant Defense Program

David Yellin, Senior Staff Attorney

Historical Timeline of Rising for Justice

- 
- 1967** Judge Tim Murphy publishes an article for the D.C. Bar Journal, describing the D.C. Small Claims Court as “the forgotten court” where justice was rare and uneven.

Judge Peter Wolf organized the legal community to consider using third year law students to expand representation, a well-established practice in other cities.
 - 1968** Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is assassinated; D.C. erupts into four days of riots, which further energizes efforts to organize law students on behalf of marginalized D.C. residents.

Judge James Belson of the Superior Court convinces the full Board of Justices to allow third year law students to represent clients.
 - 1969** D.C. Law Students in Court accepts its first class of law students to represent clients in housing and small claims matters.
 - 1970** First full-time Executive Director is hired - Joseph McCormack.
 - 1972** A criminal defense clinic is added to represent D.C. residents with misdemeanor criminal charges.
 - 1980** D.C. Law Students in Court is incorporated as a stand-alone non-profit.
 - 1990s** Sustained growth and evolution of the clinical programs.
 - 2005** Moses Cook joins the organization as a Supervising Attorney.
 - 2013** Moses Cook appointed Executive Director.
 - 2015** Launch of the Expungement Clinic.
 - 2016-2017** Sustained growth in the number of staff attorneys providing direct representation in housing matters alongside our Housing Clinic.
 - 2018** Launch of the Immigrant Defense Project, Civil Protection Order Project, and Social Work Program.

Official launch of Eviction Defense Services in partnership with the D.C. Bar Foundation, a critical expansion of staff attorneys available every hour the court is open to defend against evictions.
 - 2019** D.C. Law Students in Court celebrates 50 years, and rebrands as Rising for Justice.

Dear Friends

For the past 14 years, I've been honored to call Rising for Justice my professional home and lucky to have all of you as my colleagues and partners.

Launched in 1969 by D.C. area law schools, Rising for Justice is today a nationally recognized leader at training social justice advocates and representing clients in grave legal jeopardy in the District of Columbia. Our reputation rests on three pillars:

- **Excellence in Teaching** - Our staff of full-time Supervising Attorneys teach, supervise and lead law students in a clinical program designed to meet ABA standards for clinical training. While originally launched to represent clients in civil matters, Rising for Justice expanded to represent clients in criminal defense, offering students a broader array of opportunities for real world legal training.
- **Expanded Client Representation** - Physically located in D.C. Superior Court, Rising for Justice's Eviction Defense Services (EDS) is the only legal provider that is open every hour the Court is open, and guarantees advice and counsel to every qualifying tenant. Throughout all of our programs, law students, supervising attorneys, and staff attorneys provide representation to more than 4,000 clients each year.
- **Innovations in Justice and Equity** - Rising for Justice has a legacy of innovation, developing groundbreaking programs around expungement and immigration, launching a Civil Protection Order Project to represent respondents in civil protection order cases, and pioneering the integration of social work students with clinical legal education.

As my family begins a new adventure abroad, I leave confident that our team of passionate teachers and advocates will sustain the progress towards justice for all in the District of Columbia and beyond.

With Gratitude,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Moses Cook".

Moses Cook
Executive Director, Rising for Justice

Safe Haven Fund

Our homes are more than just places to live, they're our safe havens.

Rising for Justice is the only organization with a dedicated team of students and attorneys on site at D.C. Superior Court's Landlord and Tenant Branch to assist tenants in defending against evictions every hour the court is open.

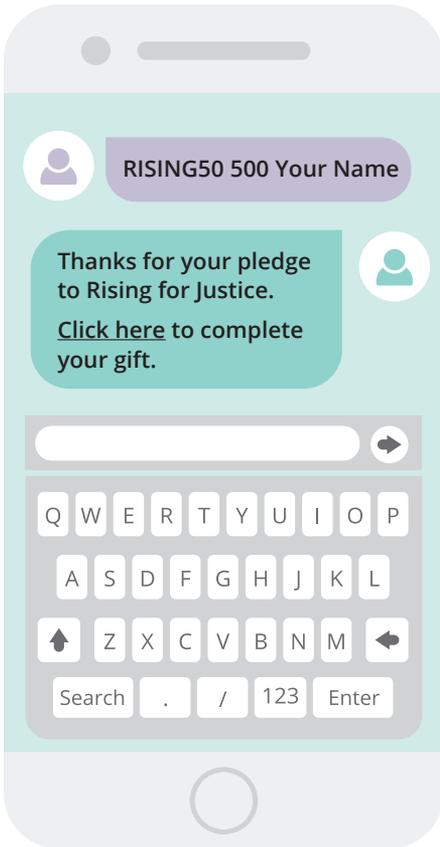
But for many of our clients, circumstances become overwhelming, and they need more than just legal help. So that we can pursue holistic solutions for our clients, Rising for Justice has integrated social work into all of our programs.

And that's why we've launched the Safe Haven Fund - a client emergency fund that our staff will be able to access to stabilize our clients when other sources aren't available, or aren't available in time.



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Send a new text message to **41444**

STEP 2

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Brian Ellis,
SVP & General Counsel
Danaher

Congratulations to Danaher's General Counsel, **Brian Ellis**, the 2019 recipient of the Rising for Justice Celebration of Service Award.

We salute the *Rising for Justice* program for 50 years of dedication to safeguarding the rights of Washington, D.C.'s most vulnerable residents.



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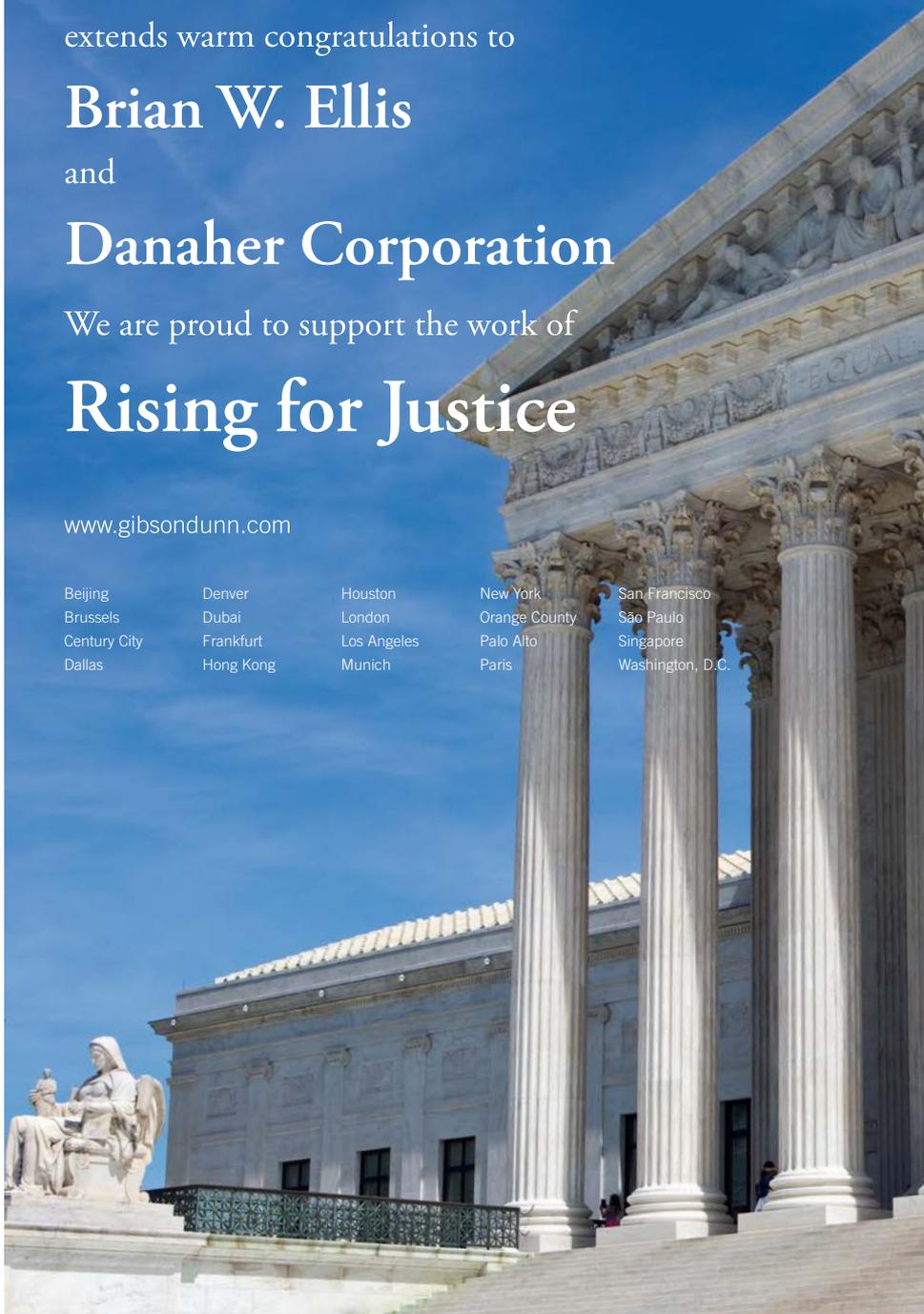
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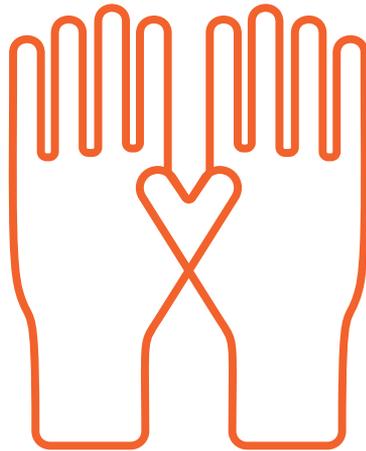
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We congratulate Rising for Justice
on 50 years of service to the
community, and applaud
honoree Brian Ellis.

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Our commitment to the community

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RISING **50** YEARS
FOR JUSTICE 1969-2019

Formerly Law Students in Court

The background is a gradient of purple shades, from a darker purple on the left to a lighter purple on the right. On the right side, there are several thin, white, curved lines that sweep upwards and to the right, creating a sense of movement and depth.

RISING

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risingforjustice.org