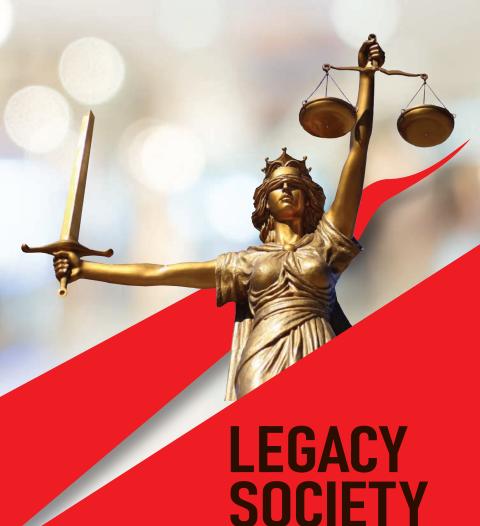


# CIVIL RIGHTS UNDERLAW

# A LEON HIGGINGBOTHAM VIRTUAL AWARDS PRESENTATION

SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

3:00 PM



During the height of the civil rights crisis President John F. Kennedy summoned nearly 250 of the most prominent attorneys in our nation to the East Room of the White House. The legacy of this historic meeting was the genesis of the Lawyers' Committee for

Our mission to secure equal justice under law "through the rule of law" has never been more important. Your generous support through our Legacy Society will help ensure that we have the vital resources necessary to move America toward justice. To learn more about our Legacy Society, please contact Bethany Criss at 202-662-8372.

Civil Rights Under Law.





# A. LEON HIGGINBOTHAM VIRTUAL AWARDS PRESENTATION

Honoring:



DAVID P. ABNEY
Executive Chairman, UPS
Higginbotham Award



HON. KAREN BASS Congresswoman Legacy of Justice Award



HON. KEISHA L. BOTTOMS

Mayor, City of Atlanta

Distinquished Civil Rights

Advocate Award



BENJAMIN L. CRUMP Attorney TrailBlazer Award



NIKOLE HANNAH-JONES
Pulitzer Prize-winning Reporter
Beacon of Justice Award



ROBERT F. SMITH
Founder, Chairman and CEO
Vista Equity Partners
Robert F. Kennedy Justice Prize

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

3	Hon. A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr.
4	David Abney
5	Hon. Karen Bass
6	Hon. Keisha Lance Bottoms
7	Benjamin Crump
8	Nikole Hannah-Jones
9	Robert F. Smith
10	Ernest Lamont Greer
11	Sally Q. Yates
12	Soledad O'Brien
13	Hill Harper
14	F. Michael Higginbotham
15	Order of Program
16	Leading Sponsors
17	Dinner Sponsors
18	Kristen Clarke
19	Tom Sager
20	Hon. Shira Scheindlin
21	Board of Directors
26	Honorary Lifetime Trustees
28	Lawyers' Committee Staff



# HON. A. LEON HIGGINBOTHAM JR., CIVIL RIGHTS CHAMPION, AUTHOR AND FEDERAL APPEALS COURT JUDGE

The A. Leon Higginbotham Corporate Leadership Award is named in honor of Judge A. Leon Higginbotham Jr., a celebrated statesman, civil rights champion, author, professor, historian and federal appeals court judge.

The Honorable Judge Higginbotham served as a special deputy state attorney general, a special hearing officer for the conscientious objections for the United States Department of Justice, and a commissioner on the Pennsylvania Human Rights Commission. He was appointed a commissioner on the Federal Trade Commission by President Kennedy, the first African American so appointed on a regulatory commission.

In 2000, the Lawyers' Committee established the Higginbotham Award to recognize exemplary corporate leadership with respect to advancing diversity and equal opportunity – particularly leadership in recruiting, retaining, and promoting minorities in the workplace. The annual presentation of the Higginbotham Award encourages corporations to reflect the spirit of equal opportunity in their business and charitable practices.



# DAVID P. ABNEY Executive Chairman, UPS Higginbotham Award

HONOREE

David Abney's 46-year career with UPS began as a part-time package loader while attending college in his native Mississippi.

David has held critical roles within the company, including Chief Operating Officer, President of UPS International, and President of Sonic Air. In 2014, he was appointed CEO and two years later assumed additional responsibilities as Chairman of the Board.

On June 1, 2020, he stepped down as CEO and will remain Executive Chairman of the Board.

During his tenure as Chairman and CEO, David has overseen the company's efforts to expand aggressively into the electronic commerce, supply chain management, and digitally enabled last-mile delivery spaces. Under his leadership, UPS has also grown its global footprint and has become the largest data-driven transportation company in the world.

In 2018, David was inducted into the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans, and the Atlanta Business Chronicle named him one of Atlanta's Most Admired CEOs. In 2019 he was awarded the Deming Cup for Operational Excellence from Columbia University.

A native of Greenwood, Mississippi, David earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Delta State University, where he and his wife, Sherry, sponsor the school's annual symposium on international business.



# HON. KAREN BASS Congresswoman

#### **Legacy of Justice Award**

#### HONOREE

Congressmember Karen Bass was re-elected to her fifth term representing the 37th Congressional District in November 2018. Congressmember Bass serves on the House Committee on Foreign Affairs as Chair of the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations and the House Judiciary Committee as Chair of the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security. Congressmember Bass also serves as the Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Prior to serving in Congress, Congressmember Bass made history when the California Assembly elected her to be its 67th Speaker. The first African American woman in U.S. history to serve in this role. Congressmember Bass served as Speaker during California's greatest economic crisis since the Great Depression. She helped navigate the state through a difficult time, while championing efforts to improve foster care and healthcare for Californians. In honor of her leadership Congresswoman Bass with three colleagues were awarded the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award in 2010.

Before serving as an elected official, she worked as a Physician Assistant and clinical instructor at the USC Keck School of Medicine Physician Assistant Program. She also founded Community Coalition (CoCo), an organization with a mission to help transform the social and economic conditions in South LA that foster addiction, crime, violence and poverty by building a community institution that involves thousands in creating, influencing and changing public policy.

Congressmember Bass graduated from Hamilton High School, Cal State Dominguez Hills, and the University of Southern California's School of Medicine Physician Assistant Program.



#### HON, KEISHA LANCE BOTTOMS

Mayor, City of Atlanta **Distinquished Civil Rights Advocate Award** 

HONOREE

Keisha Lance Bottoms is the 60thMayor of Atlanta.

A daughter of Atlanta, Mayor Bottoms is committed to realizing her vision of One Atlanta – an affordable, resilient and equitable Atlanta – which stands as a model city for both commerce and compassion.

A lifelong public servant, Mayor Bottoms is the only Mayor in Atlanta's history to have served in all three branches of government, serving as a judge and City Councilmember before being sworn in as Mayor.

Leading with a progressive agenda focused on equity and affordable housing, Mayor Bottoms serves as Chair of the Community Development and Housing Committee and the Census Task Force for the United States Conference of Mayors.

Georgia Trend magazine named Mayor Bottoms the 2020 Georgian of the Year. Among Mayor Bottoms' notable accomplishments to date include the establishment of the City's first fully-staffed Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, the appointments of a LGBTQ Affairs Coordinator and a Human Trafficking Fellow, the citywide elimination of cash bail bond, the closure of the Atlanta City Detention Center to ICE detainees, and the rollout of the most far-reaching financial transparency platform in the City's history – Atlanta's Open Checkbook.

A product of Atlanta Public Schools, Mayor Bottoms graduated from Frederick Douglass High School and received her undergraduate degree from Florida A&M University. She earned her Juris Doctorate from Georgia State University College of Law.



# Attorney TrailBlazer Award

HONOREE

Through a steadfast dedication to justice and service, renowned civil rights and personal injury attorney Benjamin Crump has established himself as one of the nation's foremost lawyers and advocates for social justice. He has worked on some of the most high-profile cases in the U.S., representing the families of George Floyd, Jacob Blake, Breonna Taylor, Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, Stephon Clark, as well as the residents of Flint, Michigan, who were affected by the poisoned water of the Flint River. He has been nationally recognized as the 2014 NNPA Newsmaker of the Year, The National Trial Lawyers Top 100 Lawyers, and Ebony Magazine Power 100 Most Influential African Americans. In 2016, he was designated as an Honorary Fellow by the University of Pennsylvania College of Law. His book, published in October 2019, Open Season: Legalized Genocide of Colored People, reflects on the landmark cases he has battled, and how discrimination in the courthouse devastates real families and communities. He is the founder and principal owner of Ben Crump Law.



#### **NIKOLE HANNAH-JONES**

Pulitzer Prize-winning Reporter **Beacon of Justice Award** 

#### HONOREE

Nikole Hannah-Jones is a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter covering racial injustice for The New York Times Magazine and creator of the landmark 1619 Project. In 2017, she received a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship, known as the Genius Grant, for her work on educational inequality. She has also won a Peabody Award, two George Polk Awards, three National Magazine Awards, and the 2018 John Chancellor distinguished journalism award from Columbia University.

In 2016, Nikole co-founded the Ida B. Wells Society for Investigative Reporting, a training and mentorship organization geared towards increasing the numbers of investigative reporters of color.



#### **ROBERT F. SMITH**

Founder, Chairman and CEO Vista Equity Partners

#### Robert F. Kennedy Justice Prize

HONOREE

Robert F. Smith is the Founder, Chairman, and CEO of Vista Equity Partners. Vista currently manages equity capital commitments of over \$58Bn and oversees a portfolio of over 60 enterprise software, data, and technology-enabled companies that have more than 200 million users and employ over 70,000 people worldwide. Since Vista's founding in 2000, Mr. Smith has overseen over 440 completed transactions by the firm representing over \$140Bn in transaction value.

Smith is the Chairman of Carnegie Hall and Chair of Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Business Roundtable (BRT), the Board of Overseers of Columbia Business School, as a Member of the Cornell Engineering College Council, and as a Trustee of the Boys and Girls Clubs of San Francisco

Smith is the founding director and President of the Fund II Foundation and has been a leading voice advocating for companies to take diverse internship candidates in STEM fields. Smith is a recipient of the Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy and has signed on to the Giving Pledge.

In 2019, Smith made headlines by announcing that he would cover the student loans of nearly 400 Morehouse College 2019 graduates in a commencement address.



**ERNEST GREER**Co-President, Greenberg & Traurig LLP

**Event Co-Chair** 

Ernest Greer is Co-President of Greenberg Traurig, an international law firm of over 2,200 attorneys and 40 locations. Ernest plays a key role in the strategic direction of the firm and firm wide operations. He is dedicated to continuing to shape the firm's brand as a collaborative law firm providing high-quality legal work and excellent service to our clients. His leadership, accomplishments, and legal practice have been recognized by many industry publications and organizations. Ernest is not just a highly-accomplished business attorney, but he is an outstanding leader and champion for his community. He uses his global position to reflect the firm's commitment to dedicating time and talents through active involvement in communities in which they live and work.



**SALLY Q. YATES**Partner, King & Spalding

**Event Co-Chair** 

Former Deputy Attorney General Sally Yates is a partner in King & Spalding's Special Matters & Government Investigations practice. Sally's deep experience, leadership and wide-ranging background provide clients with seasoned judgment in difficult times. Her practice focuses on counseling clients in complex and sensitive matters, including government enforcement and regulatory matters, congressional investigations, compliance, corporate governance and crisis management. Drawing upon her nearly three decades at the Department of Justice, she specializes in internal and independent investigations for public and private organizations and boards.

As the second-highest ranking official at the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and as Acting Attorney General, Sally was responsible for all of DOJ's 113,000 employees including all prosecutorial, litigating, and national security components. She also was responsible for all U.S. Attorney's offices and law enforcement agencies and the Bureau of Prisons. Sally oversaw DOJ's most significant matters and was instrumental in setting DOJ's enforcement priorities and initiatives.



**SOLEDAD O'BRIEN** 

Award-winning Journalist, Speaker, Author & Philanthropist

#### **Special Guest**

Soledad O'Brien is an award-winning journalist, speaker, author and philanthropist who anchors and produces the Hearst Television political magazine program "Matter of Fact with Soledad O'Brien." O'Brien, founder and CEO of Soledad O'Brien Productions, also reports for HBO Real Sports, the PBS NewsHour, WebMD and has authored two books. She has appeared on networks, Fox and Oxygen and anchored and reported for NBC, MSNBC and CNN. She has won numerous awards, including three Emmys, the George Peabody award, an Alfred I DuPont prize and the Gracie. Newsweek Magazine named her one of the "15 People Who Make America Great." With her husband, she is founder of the PowHERful Foundation that helps young women get to and through college.

Follow her on Twitter: @soledadobrien



HILL HARPER
Award-winning Actor, Author & Philanthropist

#### **Special Guest**

Hill Harper is an award-winning actor, best-selling author, entrepreneur, health and wellness ambassador/educator and philanthropist. Harper currently stars as Dr. Marcus Andrews on TV's #1 new drama *The Good Doctor* on ABC. Harper also headlines HLN's How It Really Happened with Hill Harper and stars in the just released podcast *Legal Wars*. Previously, Harper starred on *CSI: NY* and Showtime's award-winning series *Homeland*. Theatrically, he can be seen in the upcoming Warner Bros. Pictures film *The Sun Is Also A Star*, starring Yara Shahidi.

Harper has earned seven NAACP Image Awards for his writing and acting and is a 4-time New York Times best-selling author for his books: Letters to a Young Brother (named "Best Book for Young Adults" by the American Library Association), Letters to a Young Sister, The Conversation, and The Wealth Cure: Putting Money in its Place. Harper's most recent book is the groundbreaking Letters to an Incarcerated Brother which speaks to the current mass incarceration crisis. Harper founded The Manifest Your Destiny Foundation which is dedicated to empowering, encouraging, and inspiring underserved youth to succeed through education, mentorship, and grant programs.

Hill Harper graduated *magna cum laude* as valedictorian of his department with a Bachelor's Degree from Brown University and *cum laude* with a Juris Doctorate degree from Harvard Law School. He also holds a Master's Degree with honors from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and holds Honorary Doctoral Degrees from seven universities.

Harper served on the President's Cancer Panel having been appointed by President Obama in 2011. Harper travels worldwide as a motivational speaker, addressing current affairs and life-awakening topics to a wide array of audiences of youth, educators and business leaders. He also serves as a national spokesperson for the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.



#### F. MICHAEL HIGGINBOTHAM

Joseph Curtis Professor of Law and former Interim Dean University of Baltimore School of Law

Michael Higginbotham is a renowned law professor, author and international political consultant. A civil rights, human rights and constitutional legal expert, he has appeared in media worldwide.

Higginbotham is the author of the book Race Law: Cases, Commentary, and Questions (Durham: Carolina Academic Press, 2001). Now in its fifth edition, Race Law is widely used in colleges and law schools throughout the United States and in several foreign countries. His latest book, Ghosts of Jim Crow: Ending Racism in Post-Racial America, was published by NYU Press.

Before joining the University of Baltimore law faculty in 1988, Higginbotham was a Law Clerk to United States Court of Appeals Judge Cecil Poole, an Associate with Davis, Polk & Wardwell, and a Lecturer in Law at the University of Pennsylvania. He often collaborated with his uncle, the late Judge A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr.

Higginbotham graduated from Beverly Hills High School in 1975, received a Bachelor of Arts degree magna cum laude from Brown University in 1979, a Juris Doctor degree from Yale University in 1982, and a Master of Laws degree with honors from Cambridge University in 1985 where he was a Rotary Scholar.



#### ORDER OF PROGRAM



### Welcome, Acknowledgements & Remarks Kristen Clarke and Roland Martin

#### **Distinquished Civil Rights Advocate Award** Hon. Keisha Lance Bottoms Acceptance Remarks

## **20th Anniversary Higginbotham Award Reflections**F. Michael Higginbotham

#### Remarks Higginbotham Award Sally Q. Yates

## Remarks and Presentation of the Higginbotham Award Ernest Lamont Greer

## Acceptance Remarks David Abney

## Beacon of Justice Acceptance Remarks Nikole Hannah-Jones

#### **Fire-side Chat** Nikole Hannah-Jones facilitated by Soledad O'Brien

## Presentation Robert F. Kennedy Justice Prize Hill Harper

## Robert F. Kennedy Justice Prize Acceptance Remarks Robert F. Smith

## **TrailBlazer Award Acceptance Remarks**Benjamin L. Crump

## **Legacy of Justice Award Acceptance Remarks**Congresswoman Karen Bass

#### Remarks Hon. Shira A. Scheindlin

Closing Remarks
Kristen Clarke



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# KRISTEN CLARKE President and Executive Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law

Kristen Clarke, President & Executive Director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, leads one of the country's most important national civil rights organizations in the pursuit of equal justice for all. Under her leadership, the organization has been at the forefront of some of the nation's biggest racial justice problems today. The Lawyers' Committee seeks to promote fair housing and community development, economic justice, voting rights, equal educational opportunity, criminal justice, judicial diversity and more.

Throughout her career, Ms. Clarke has focused on work that seeks to strengthen our democracy by combating discrimination faced by African Americans and other marginalized communities. Clarke formerly served as the head of the Civil Rights Bureau for the New York State Attorney General's Office, where she led broad civil rights enforcement on matters including criminal justice issues, education and housing discrimination, fair lending, barriers to reentry, voting rights, immigrants' rights, gender inequality, disability rights, reproductive access and LGBT issues. Under her leadership, the Bureau secured landmark agreements with banks to address unlawful redlining, employers to address barriers to reentry for people with criminal backgrounds, police departments on reforms to policies and practices, major retailers on racial profiling of consumers, and one of the country's largest school districts concerning issues relating to the school-to-prison pipeline. Kristen received her A.B. from Harvard University and her J.D. from Columbia Law School.



TOM SAGER
Partner, Ballard Spahr, LLP

Tom Sager is the former General Counsel and Senior Vice President at the DuPont Company. In 2014, Tom joined Ballard Spahr as a partner, where he leverages his vast corporate experience to a broad portfolio of areas at the firm, including litigation and trial practice, internal investigations, environmental issues, and mergers and acquisitions. Tom is a strong advocate for pro bono legal services and is proud of Ballard's Spahr's numerous awards and honors in recognition of the firm's outstanding pro bono work, including the prestigious ABA Pro Bono Publico Award in 2018.

Tom began his career with the DuPont Company as an attorney in the Labor, Benefits & Corporate Security Group and spent more than a decade as chief litigation counsel before being named Senior Vice President and General Counsel in 2008. Tom was a strong and early proponent of diversity in the legal profession and helped pioneer the DuPont Company Convergence and Law Firm Partnering Program, or the DuPont Company Legal Model—an industry benchmark that has received national acclaim for its innovative approach to the business of practicing law. In naming him in 2013 as one of "The Top 50 Big Law Innovators," The American Lawyer wrote: "Thomas Sager and the DuPont Legal Model are to the legal industry what Derek Jeter is to the Yankees." Tom received The American Lawyer's prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award in 2014. In addition, the Minority Corporate Counsel Association's Thomas L. Sager Award is given annually to law firms that demonstrate a commitment to diversity and inclusion.

Tom is the recipient of the 2016 James H. Gilliam, Jr. Award, American Heart Association, the 2015 Lawyers of Color Legacy Award and the Louis L. Redding Lifetime Achievement Honorarium, Delaware Barristers Association. In 2015, Tom was named to the Lawdragon Hall of Fame as an Innovator.



#### HON. SHIRA A. SCHEINDLIN

Shira A. Scheindlin served 22 years as a U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of New York. During her tenure, she issued many important rulings in the areas of criminal justice and constitutional law. She is best known for her groundbreaking opinions in *Floyd v. City of New York*, in which she found that the New York City Police Department violated the U.S. Constitution based on racially biased "stop and frisk" policy. She ordered the <a href="NYPD">NYPD</a> to reform its policies regarding street stops and to require the use of body cameras.

She now serves as a mediator, arbitrator, special master and expert witness. She is currently the Co-Chair of the Board of the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, and also serves on the boards of the American Constitution Society, and the Bronx Defenders. Among other honors, she has received the Champion of Justice award from the Alliance for Justice

Judge Scheindlin was a member of the Advisory Committee on the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the ABA's Standing Committee on the American Judicial System, and the American Law Institute. She has also been an adjunct professor at NYU and Brooklyn law schools. She is the co-author of "If Not Now When?" and "The Time Is Now" which reported on the progress of women lawyers. Finally, Judge Scheindlin has written opinion pieces for leading media outlets and is a frequent lecturer on issues involving civil rights.



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We congratulate all honorees, including our friend **David Abney**, CEO of UPS.



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We congratulate David P. Abney, CEO of UPS, for receiving the 2020 A. Leon Higginbotham

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Davis Polk is proud to support the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law and joins in special recognition of David Abney and Nikole Hannah-Jones.



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Congratulations to this year's Higginbotham honorees for their remarkable accomplishments.

We commend the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law for its continuing commitment to fair elections and racial justice in these very challenging times.



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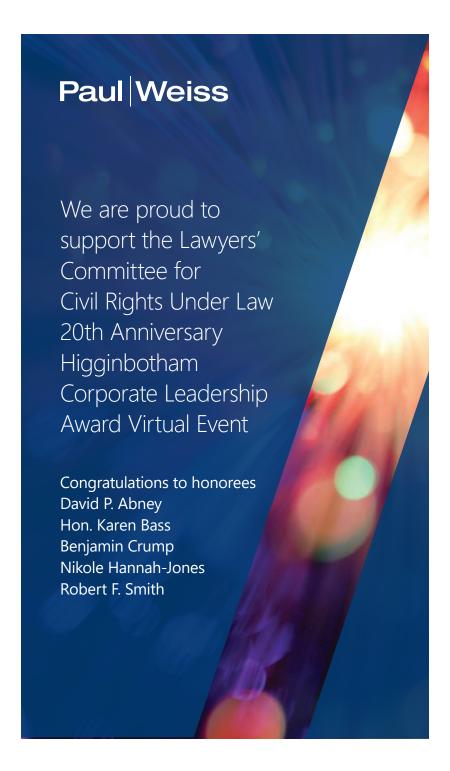
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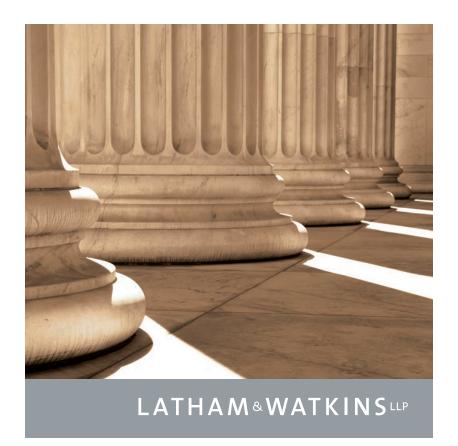


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We are delighted to salute honoree **David P. Abney, CEO, UPS.** 

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Latham joins in honoring **David P. Abney** and **Nikole Hannah-Jones**.

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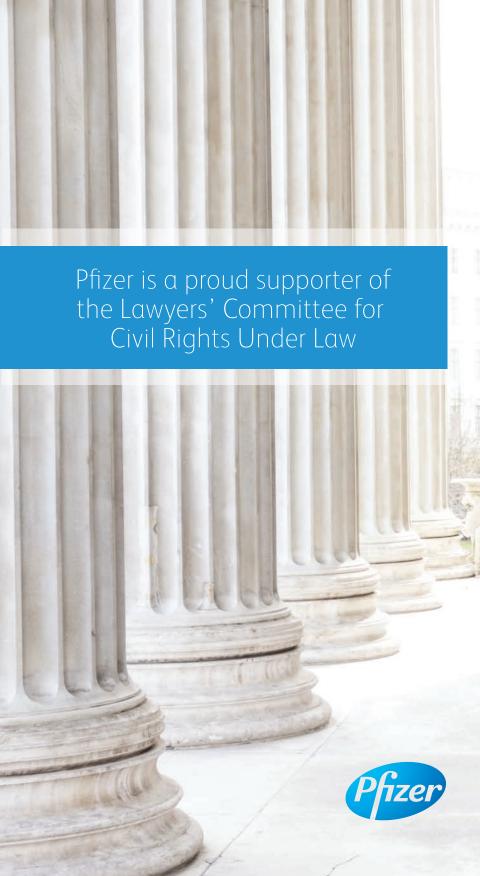
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for Civil Rights Under Law would like to convey our deep appreciation to the UPS Team for helping to make our 20th Anniversary A. Leon Higginbotham Corporate Leadership Event a great success!

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2016	Ernst & Young LLP and CEO, Stephen R. Howe, Jr.
2015	Toyota Motor North America and CEO, James E. Lentz
2014	William D. Zabel, Partner, Schulte Roth & Zabel, Robert F. Kennedy Justice Prize
2013	J.P. Morgan Chase and Co-CEO of the Corporate and Investment Bank, Mike Cavanagh
2012	DuPont and Chair of the Board and CEO, Ellen Kullman
2011	McDonald's Corporation and Vice Chairman and CEO, Jim Skinner
2010	Qualcomm Incorporated and CEO, Dr. Paul Jacobs
2009	Microsoft Corporation and CEO, Steve Ballmer
2008	Earl G. Graves, Sr., Founder and Publisher of Black Enterprise Magazine
2007	Colgate-Palmolive and CEO, Reuben Mark and Aetna Inc. and CEO, Ronald A. Williams
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All titles reflect the honorees' positions at the time they received the Higginbotham Corporate Leadership Award.



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