

McDowell Foundation 10th Anniversary Event

VEG Remarks to introduce speakers/program:

I am very happy to welcome you all to this celebration of the 10th year of the Barbara McDowell Foundation and in particular its partnership with Drinker Biddle & Reath. In particular, I want to welcome, Judge Patricia Millett of the DC Cir Court of Appeals, other members of the federal and local District of Columbia bench, former and current members of the Solicitor General's office and all those who worked with or knew Barbara McDowell.

I am the Chair of Drinker's Public Interest Committee and want to express the Firm's continuing commitment to the high impact litigation that is central to the McDowell Foundation's mission. 10 yrs ago Jerry Hartman, then a senior partner, proposed a program to honor the legacy of his late wife, Barbara McDowell. As many of you know, Barbara was committed to promoting social and economic justice through the courts. Drinker embraced Jerry's idea of partnering with the Foundation to bring high impact litigation to achieve those goals.

Over the past 10 years, the Firm has worked with a number of public interest organizations on nearly 20 lawsuits and investigations. Those cases have benefited thousands of people—Food Stamp recipients, the blind and visually impaired, the intellectually and physically disabled. We now working on cases that seek to promote fair housing for low income tenants, provide fair educational opportunities to the disabled, and ensure transparency in government. All of these are extremely worthy goals. With us tonight are a number of Drinker lawyers who worked on those cases, but there are many, many more who are not here. We are truly grateful for all of their efforts and we look forward to continuing the Barbara McDowell Initiative over the coming years.

And now, let me turn things over to Jerry Hartman.