

MEMORANDUM

March 18, 1997

TO: Bill Kincaid
FROM: Ted Small *TS*
RE: News Clippings re: First Lady's to Cleveland Elementary

FYI, attached are some newspaper articles, letters and a White House Press Release concerning Mrs. Clinton's recent visit to the school that Holland & Knight has "adopted" as a part of the Community Services Team's neighborhood project in the Shaw Urban Renewal Area here in D.C. The press is good, but the event itself was unforgettable! I hope all is well with you.

WAS1-245021

Report

THE D.C. BAR

Budget hearing set

A public hearing on the Bar's proposed budget for fiscal year 1997-98 will be held at 1:45 p.m. on Tuesday, April 8, in the D.C. Bar's meeting rooms, 1250 H Street, NW.

As *Bar Report* went to press, the Bar's Budget Committee approved a proposed budget. Highlights of the proposal include a recommendation that Bar dues remain at current levels and a proposal that the late fee charged to members who fail to pay their Bar dues promptly be increased by \$10 to \$30. The Committee's full report will be published in the March/April edition of *The Washington Lawyer* magazine, distributed by mail to all D.C. Bar members.

Following the public hearing, the proposal will be submitted to the Bar's Board of Governors for consideration.



Members of the law firm of Holland & Knight in the District of Columbia joined the First Lady on Valentine's Day in reading a story to students at Cleveland Elementary School in Northwest Washington. The firm has "adopted" the students at Cleveland, providing volunteer music instructors, tutors, sports coaches, and advocates. The First Lady challenged other firms and individual lawyers to follow Holland & Knight's example in order to make a difference in the lives of the District's youngsters.

First Lady hails Holland & Knight's D.C. public school partnership

On Valentine's Day, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton went back to school to present a bouquet to the law firm of Holland & Knight for "adopting" a D.C. public school and to challenge other firms to follow suit.

At a program on D.C. schools/D.C. law firm partnerships held at the Cleveland Elementary School, Holland & Knight's partner, the First Lady demonstrated how much law firms can do for schools by enumerating Holland & Knight's contributions. "Lawyers and staff have tutored students and have spent afternoons reading with them. They have taken children on field trips, helped repair school facilities, and helped reclaim historic Kennedy Park from drug dealers. They have donated computers, supplies, and clothing, and they have helped parents with legal problems."

Over the last 15 months, Holland & Knight spent 650 hours—valued at \$115,000—to help the school and donated an additional 920 hours of pro bono work for organizations in the Shaw neighborhood, said Clinton, who applauded other legal organizations with partnership programs: Covington & Burling; Steptoe & Johnson; Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson; Crowell & Moring; Patton Boggs; GWAC-Greater Washington Area Chapter, Women Lawyers Division, National Bar Association; and the D.C. Office of Corporation Counsel. The First Lady concluded by throwing down a gauntlet. "I would like today to challenge every single law firm in the District of Columbia to share its talents and

resources with a school in this city. I challenge each managing partner to call the Washington Lawyers' Committee and volunteer to adopt a school."

The Washington Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs, the link between the schools and the legal community, can be reached at 202/835-0031.

During an ensuing panel discussion, Julius W. Becton Jr., chief executive officer and superintendent of D.C. Public Schools, noted that 23 of the District's 156 schools lack partners and invited firms to call the D.C. Schools hotline (202/724-4016) to inquire about vacancies.

Panel moderator Theodore W. Small of Holland & Knight emphasized the value of the partnership to his law firm. "By working here at Cleveland, we have established that much needed connection to the community."

Holland & Knight's Melinda Burrows hoped that other firms would accept the First Lady's challenge. "We're doing what she and the President are trying very hard to promote, and in a small way it's working. We lawyers take an awful lot from the city; this is one way to give something back."

Board revises ACAB rules, sets up pilot mediation program

The D.C. Bar Board of Governors has approved a number of significant changes in the Attorney/Client Arbitration Board (ACAB) Rules of Procedure for the Fee Arbitration Service and endorsed implementation of a six-month Voluntary Fee Dispute Mediation Pilot Program.

In one of the most substantive rule changes, the ACAB has codified its policy of enforcing a predispute agreement to arbitrate a fee dispute only if the agreement meets specific criteria laid out by the Legal Ethics Committee in its Opinion 218. In general, the agreement must advise the client in writing about the availability of written materials on the ACAB process and the client may contact ACAB staff for counseling about the ACAB program.

Another revision establishes a 20-day

time limit within which parties must file a response to a petition to arbitrate, a request to dismiss based on the jurisdiction of the ACAB to process the petition, or a counterclaim.

New language in one revision extends the definition of "client" to allow inclusion of a party who has no client relationship with a lawyer but who assumes the client's legal right to collect a refund of legal fees or who is legally responsible for paying fees on behalf of the client.

Under the revised rules, the ACAB can now accept a petition to arbitrate a fee dispute even when the dispute is the subject of a pending lawsuit.

"The new rules reflect changes in the program made as a result of implementation of mandatory arbitration," said Carla Freudenberg, ACAB director. For a full text of the revised ACAB Fee Arbitration Rules

Outstanding members, projects to be saluted

The D.C. Bar will recognize outstanding members and projects at its Annual Awards Luncheon and Business Meeting, set for June 18 at the Capital Hilton Hotel.

Among the awards to be presented are the Frederick B. Abramson President's Award for extraordinary service to the profession; and the William J. Brennan Jr. and Thurgood Marshall Awards for excellence in public interest law.

Also to be presented are awards for Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year, Pro Bono Law Firm of the Year, Best Section Community Outreach Project, Best Section Committee, Best Section, Best Bar Committee, and Best Bar Project.

Honored last year were: The Hon. William B. Bryant (Brennan Award), Judith L. Lichtman (Marshall Award), the Reproductive Cancer Task Force (Frederick B. Abramson Award), Michael J. Zoeller of Crowell & Moring (Pro Bono Lawyer Award); the law firms of Covington & Burling and Shea & Gardner (Law Firm Pro Bono Awards); the D.C. Affairs Section's Children's Initiative Forum (Best Section Community Outreach Project); the Employee Benefits Committee of the Taxation Section (Best Section Committee); the Health Law Section (Best Section); the Pro Bono Initiative Working Group (Best Bar Committee); and the Examination of Rule 49 Committee (Best Bar Project).

Nominations must be submitted to the D.C. Bar Executive Director, 1250 H Street NW, Sixth Floor, Washington, DC 20005-5937, by April 1.

of Procedure, contact Wendy Mays, 202/737-4700, ext. 216.

Acting on requests for mediation of fee disputes by numerous clients and attorneys, the ACAB requested and received permission to offer the option of mediation to every party to a fee dispute. Beginning on February 1, along with an Agreement to Mediate form, each party receives information explaining the voluntary mediation process and how it differs from arbitration. If both parties agree in writing to mediate, a volunteer mediator is assigned who has been selected from among ACAB's volunteer arbitrators and a mediation session is scheduled. Cases that cannot be mediated will be returned to arbitration.

After the conclusion of the pilot program, on July 31, 1997, the ACAB will evaluate the program and make its recommendations to the Board of Governors.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 14, 1997

REMARKS BY THE FIRST LADY
TO STUDENTS AT CLEVELAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

MRS. CLINTON: Thank you, Principal Mair, and good morning to all of you. And thank you for inviting me to this historic school in this historic Shaw neighborhood. I am delighted to be joined by General Becton and by Mayor Barry. I've heard wonderful things about what this school is doing, and I am particularly pleased by what I've heard about the partnership between a law firm named Holland and Knight and the Cleveland Elementary School community. And I'm delighted that I've had a chance to come today to get a sense of that relationship firsthand.

I also want to thank everyone at the school and at Holland and Knight, as well as the Washington Lawyers Committee, represented today by its head, Rod Boggs. And I also want to acknowledge and thank Reading is Fundamental, represented by its chairwoman, Lynda Robb, a friend of mine of many years standing, for making this partnership such a success. I'm also pleased that Myles Lynk the President of the D.C. Bar, could also join us today.

As all of you know, the District of Columbia is a special place to live, to work, and to do business. Not only is it the capital city, it is a mecca for tourists, a meeting center for biotechnology and medical research, and a nerve center for international communications. It is a city whose greatest resource is its people and whose future lies with its children.

Washington, D.C., is also a city full of lawyers, and I say that as a recovering lawyer. (Laughter.) Every sector of Washington, from the federal and local governments, to churches, to businesses, has a role in bringing greater prosperity and progress to the District of Columbia. And I believe that lawyers and law firms have a particular opportunity and, I would add, obligation.

While much maligned these days, lawyers who are possessed of so many skills, expertise, and boundless energy can take a leadership role in this task of making Washington, D.C., the capital city it deserves to be. Washington law firms employ nearly 30,000 highly educated, disciplined, and hard-working individuals, and each of those employees can make a difference in our schools.

For example, lawyers and staff from the firm of Holland and Knight have tutored students and spent afternoons reading with them. They have taken children on field trips, helped repair school facilities, and helped reclaim the historic Kennedy Park and playground from drug dealers. They have donated computers, supplies and clothing. They have helped parents with legal problems, and they have supported the studio school program which has provided so much of the artwork that decorates this building.

Over the last 15 months, this law firm has spent 650 hours, which law firms keep track of -- (laughter) -- worth about \$115,000, which law firms also keep track of, helping Cleveland Elementary School. In addition, attorneys have donated about 920 hours of pro bono legal work on behalf of nonprofit organizations in the Shaw neighborhood. And I want to thank all the members of Holland and Knight for their outstanding service and ask everyone associated with Holland and Knight just to stand so that we can thank you personally. (Applause.)

I want to mention a few of the people from the firm who have had important roles in making this partnership successful. Steve Hanlon, Ted Small, Hank Brothers and Melinda Burrows who we will meet in a few minutes. I also want to emphasize something that Principal Mair said when she talked about the idea of the village, because we do think that working on improving a school, providing support for the teachers and the staff and the school is the first priority. But also, helping to improve conditions in the surrounding neighborhood is a very important supplementary task, and Holland and Knight has understood that. And the work that has been done with organizations in the neighborhood and providing support and assistance for them have made it possible for the entire neighborhood to feel the kind of stake in this school that so many of you have been associated with it for so long know is important.

Holland and Knight is not the only law firm that has given generously of its time and resources; several other firms have also formed partnerships with the D.C. Public Schools, including Covington and Burling, Steptoe and Johnson, and the District of Columbia Office of Corporation Counsel. Now, each of these firms has also sent representatives to join us today and I would like to ask those from other law firms, including Covington and Burling and Steptoe and Johnson and the D.C. Office of Corporation Counsel who are working with other schools, please stand as well. (Applause.)

Not only do the volunteers reap the personal rewards of working with children, they are also helping develop individuals who can very well become future colleagues. By helping students to read, to think creatively and to stay in school and follow their own dreams, the volunteers are preparing these young people to meet the challenges of working in the 21st century. I understand that Covington and Burling, for example, hire students from high school every year for summer jobs. The partnership has also enabled volunteer lawyers to meet and develop friendships with some of Washington's most interesting and dynamic citizens -- people they might never have the opportunity of meeting at the office.

So I would like today to challenge each and every single law firm in the District of Columbia to share its talents and resources with a school in this city. I challenge each managing partner to call the Washington Lawyers Committee and volunteer to adopt a school.

And I thank General Becton for pledging his support for this effort. One of the hallmarks of General Becton's leadership over the last months has been his understanding that in order to fix our schools all of us must pitch in and make a contribution to support the hard-working principals and teachers who are on the front lines of caring for children who come from some very difficult circumstances.

We know more about what works in schools today. There is a lot of research. There is a lot of personal experience out there. And we, frankly, need more adults to be involved in the lives of our children and to be there for them, reading to them, mentoring to them, helping them and their families solve problems that often seem overwhelming at first without some kind of help navigating through life.

Education is the single most important tool our children will need to thrive in the coming century. And if this city and this country are to succeed, as the President has often said, we cannot afford to leave any child behind. And all of us who are members of the D.C. village can make a positive difference.

So I thank this school. I thank particularly volunteers like Mr. Wood and others who have supported this school. And I thank all the new volunteers from Holland and Knight, and from every other law firm, who are willing to help our children. And I hope that I'll be able to travel around over the next months, highlighting the work that other volunteer groups are doing in every single school in this city.

Thank you very much. (Applause.)

END

OUTLOOK

Commentary and Opinion

SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 1997

MARY McGRORY

Good Bill, Bad Bill

The best and worst of Bill Clinton have been on display lately, one so different from the other that you wonder if they are found in the same person.

The good Bill Clinton went with his wife Hillary to a school in a poor part of town and spent more than an hour reading and talking to the students of Garrison Elementary School. The president appeared to be in his element. Mrs. Clinton does this sort of thing perfectly. It was the best imaginable use of their time. It validated their common claims of interest in children, their determination to teach them to read. It reminded some voters why they voted for Clinton in the first place.

Reading to children is something the president and the first lady cannot overdo. They set an example for other

city dwellers who say they are too busy to tutor in the slums. Their involvement in the affairs of the hapless Capital City is long overdue—they ignored the shambles at their feet for four years because of the radioactive Mayor. Concentrating on the schools bypasses Marion Barry and his crony-ridden government. As Stephanie Abney, a first-grade teacher at Garrison, explained to Post reporter Debbi Wilgoren, children who have never been read to don't do well in first grade—"and that's why it's so important to have these tutors, because they're filling in that gap."

That was Clinton at his best, rallying the power of government to help the least of his brethren, explaining to first-graders the meaning of "The

See McGRORY, C2, Col. 4

MARY McGRORY

He Reads, She's Right

McGRORY, From C1

Tortoise and the Hare" after he and Hillary read it aloud. His audience probably did not appreciate the irony. Clinton's failure to understand which one he was in *his* race with Bob Dole is what plunged him into his present difficulties. He felt compelled to raise millions to beat a man who couldn't win.

The other Clinton showed up at the Old Executive Office Building this week, standing on a four-inch stack of White House fund-raising documents which suggested rather definitively that people with money were buying their way into the White House.

He was in his defensive mode—defiant, denying, self-pitying.

"The Lincoln Bedroom was never 'sold'," he said. "That was one more false story we had had to endure." Note the use of the word "endure" with its Lincolnian ring.

Contradicting him was his own handwritten response to a memo from his chief fund-raiser, Terry McAuliffe: *"Ready to start overnights right away. Give me the top 10 list back, along w/ the 100, 50,000."* He was like a teenager standing beside the smoldering wreck of the family car and saying to his parents, "I was only going 5 miles an hour, I swear."

The Lincoln Bedroom bookings have brought out the worst in others, too. A kind of terminal tackiness is evinced by everyone involved. The mayor of San Francisco, Willie Brown, had to show off by pronouncing the mattress of the Great Emancipator "lumpy."

How does Clinton survive his own notes? He has wiggled out of much, but nothing worse than the implications of unbridled avarice in the Oval Office. Right now, First Lady Hillary Clinton looks more to be the Comeback Kid in

the family. It's not just that the floppings of independent Whitewater counsel Kenneth Starr have eliminated the possibility of her indictment, or even that she unexpectedly won a Grammy award for her recording of her book, "It Takes a Village." She now seems to have hit her stride as a children's advocate—despite the fact that her husband struck so many of them from help in the welfare reform bill. Her present work is a far cry from creating a health care empire, but it corresponds better to the idea of what a first lady should do.

What may endear her most is her recent charming appearance with a group of lawyers who are doing what she does in the public schools. They have their peaceful uses, it seems. Washington is overpopulated with lawyers, and the sight of them on Valentine's Day with the children of Cleveland School, laughing and chatting and throwing them up in the air, was disarming. The people at the law firm of Holland & Knight have adopted Cleveland, and they beamed as Mrs. Clinton told the little assembly about their donation of time and money to help the pupils, their parents with legal problems and the faculty to buy computers and clothing.

Other law firms around the city have their tutoring and clean-up programs. Even lobbyists, who are probably less popular than lawyers, have gotten into the act. The American Petroleum Institute sends 45 readers next door to the Thompson Elementary School's second and third grades. Every week for an hour, it's "Cinderella" time.

Maybe the Clintons will lead the Capital out of its decline.

It's not the stuff of Mount Rushmore, but it will never get a president into trouble.



WASHINGTON LAWYERS' COMMITTEE
FOR CIVIL RIGHTS & URBAN AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 3, 1997

TO: Firm Representatives

FROM: Roderic Boggs, Executive Director
Iris Toyer, PELSP Project Director

RE: School Partnership Survey

During the first half of last year, the we began to request the assistance of our volunteer law firms to participate in its **Public Education Legal Services Project**. You may recall that for the Committee this was not a new program but the reinstatement of one of our most successful education initiatives. The PELSP proved to be an effective means by which the Committee and a significant number of volunteer lawyers assisted parents to become organized and effective education advocates for their children.

In conversations and meetings with a number of firms we discovered that several had established school partnerships and that a number of others were interested in doing so. Our response time was slowed by the upheaval and dramatic changes that occurred in the leadership of the school system. We are pleased to report that the Committee has met with the new Superintendent and his Director for Corporate and Community Relations and we are working with them to ensure the success of this initiative.

Additionally, we received a major boost from the White House. Mrs. Clinton heard about the outstanding work being done by Holland and Knight at the Cleveland Elementary School and about the PELSP and paid a visit to the school. Following a panel discussion involving the First Lady, school and community representatives and Iris Toyer of our staff, Mrs. Clinton sent a letter to the managing partners of the top one-hundred firms in this city to encourage them to strengthen existing partnerships and, in the absence of an existing relationship with a school, to begin a partnership with the assistance of the Lawyers' Committee. (Copy attached).

So that we might develop a more accurate picture of the level of participation of our volunteer firms with city schools, we ask that you complete and return the attached survey form and as always that you share this information with your colleagues.

As a final note, the Committee's Education Project staff are available to visit your firm to further discuss this and other opportunities available for your consideration. If you would like to arrange such a meeting, please contact either Mary Levy or Iris Toyer at the Committee.

ATTACHMENTS

WASHINGTON (AP) Hillary Rodham Clinton delivered a valentine Friday to the principal of an elementary school after praising its work with a private firm to improve the neighborhood.

Cleveland Elementary was "adopted" more than a year ago by a law firm as part of the company's partnership with the community. Attorneys from the firm, Holland & Knight, provide tutoring, donate classroom supplies and accompany students on field trips. They also provide free legal services to neighborhood groups and help pay for renovations of historic buildings in the area.

Mrs. Clinton encouraged other companies to follow the company's lead.

"We frankly need more adults to be involved in the lives of our children and to be there for them, reading to them, mentoring to them, helping them and their families solve problems that often seem overwhelming at first without some kind of help," she said.

The chief executive officer of the District of Columbia school system, retired Gen. Julius Becton, said 23 schools remain without a partner, primarily because they are located in neighborhoods where "people don't feel comfortable."

Both Becton and Mrs. Clinton sat as a story was read to about 60 second-graders. The first lady later chatted briefly with the students, quizzing them about the pythons, iguanas and owls described in the book.

Paul Ragen, 7, sat next to Mrs. Clinton, who "told me I was smart and knew a lot of words."

"I thought she was great," he said, later explaining. "She has a lot of money and because she's married to the president and because she has everything she could ever hope for."

APNP-02-14-97 1418EST

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Received via NewsEDGE from Desktop Data, Inc.: 02/14/97 14:11

METRO

A Lesson Plan—and a Challenge to Law Firms'

Hillary Clinton Praises Aid To School, Seeks More Sharing

By Pamela Constable
Washington Post Staff Writer

The big picture book told the story of a mosquito, an iguana, a python, a monkey and an owl who all blamed one another for a mishap in the jungle. The students at Cleveland School in Northwest Washington had heard it before, but not with television lights shining in their eyes—and a smiling first lady holding a copy of the book.

Hillary Rodham Clinton visited yesterday morning to laud the remarkable relationship between Cleveland, located in the heart of the historic but run-down Shaw neighborhood, and the law firm of Holland & Knight, which informally has adopted the school.

She said other law firms should follow that partnership example.

"I challenge every law firm in D.C. to share its talents and resources with schools in this city," Clinton told students, staff and visitors who gathered in the school's library. "If this country is to succeed, we cannot afford to leave any child behind."

For the last 15 months, lawyers at Holland & Knight have been tutoring children at Cleveland.



BY JAMES M. THRESEMER—THE WASHINGTON POST

Hillary Rodham Clinton reads with Vernon Williams, Paul Ragan and Myesha Lowe, all 7, at Cleveland School in Northwest. The first lady said she will continue to encourage professionals to help D.C. schools.

"If this country is to succeed, we cannot afford to leave any child behind."

— Hillary Rodham Clinton, during visit to D.C. school

located at T and Eighth streets NW, taking them on field trips, donating books and clothes, helping with building renovations and giving free legal advice to the PTA.

"It gives me a sense of having an impact, and it also gives me a sad sense of how much is needed," said Hank Brothers, a partner in the firm. "So many of these children have parents who aren't there, no books as part of their normal environment. It's so nice to see the light go on in their eyes."

With Clinton, D.C. schools Chief Executive Julius W. Becton Jr. and Mayor Marion Barry (D) looking on, Cleveland's community of loyal supporters spoke of the school as an oasis of love and learning in a neighborhood marred by abandoned

buildings and drug dealing. They told how Cleveland, which teaches 334 children from kindergarten through third grade, had survived the surrounding blight and staved off threats to shut it down.

And they described how youngsters had been inspired by spending time with professionals whose successful world they otherwise could only imagine.

"They know they don't have to be like what they see or hear every day. They can be like these lawyers," said Sandra Braxton, who has taught for 27 years at Cleveland, known formally as the Tri-School Learning Academy, Cleveland School, Lower Campus B.

District school officials said several other D.C. law firms have joined in school partnerships, including Steptoe & Johnson, Covington & Burling and the D.C. Office of Corporation Counsel. But they pleaded for more participation, noting that 27 of the District's 157 public schools have no professionals serving as volunteers.

Clinton, who has taken an increasing interest in the District's problems in recent months, said yesterday that she will continue to encourage pri-

vate companies and professionals to help the city's schools and neighborhoods.

The weightiest testimonial, however, came from W. Norman Wood, Jr., 72.

He attended Cleveland in 1929, sent his eight children there and now chairs the School Restructuring Team. In his spare time, the retired government accountant also sweeps snow from the playground.

"Holland & Knight is the most valuable thing that has happened in Shaw since urban renewal in 1966," Wood told the gathered officials. He said he spent years struggling to get help for the school. Now, when he drops the law firm's name, "people take a different attitude," he said.

Despite all the VIP bustle, Cleveland students went about their normal activities yesterday with seriousness, silliness and aplomb. In the classroom, two young boys fought over a shoe they were learning how to tie. In the principal's office, older children read the weather, the lunch menu and the school slogan over the intercom system.

"I am somebody. I am capable. I am teachable," they recited. "I can do anything. I respect myself and others. I am somebody."

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 24, 1997

Dear

Last week I had the opportunity to visit the Cleveland Elementary School in the District's Shaw neighborhood and learn about the school's remarkable partnership with the law firm of Holland & Knight. As part of this partnership, Holland & Knight lawyers and staff provide parents and community organizations with pro-bono legal assistance; tutor students once a week after school; take children on field trips; help repair school facilities; donate gently used computers, supplies, clothing and grocery store register receipts; and much more. I was told how letters that had fallen on deaf ears when written by a parent, received an immediate response when sent on a law firm's letterhead. One long-time community leader told us the law firm's partnership was "the most valuable thing that has happened in Shaw since urban renewal in 1966."

Holland & Knight is by no means the only District firm that has formed a partnership with a District public school. Several other firms, including Covington & Burling, Steptoe & Johnson, Howrey & Simon, Patton Boggs, and the District Office of the Corporation Counsel have adopted a school. While Holland & Knight has given generously of its time, devoting not only 650 hours over the last 15 months to help the school and its students but also 920 hours of pro-bono legal assistance to nonprofit organizations in the Shaw neighborhood, firm-school partnerships need not require a significant amount of time during weekday office hours.

The existing firm-school partnerships are as varied as the needs and interests of the firm, school, community, and students. For example, Covington & Burling reserves one-third of its summer jobs for Cardozo High School students, sponsors PTA dinners attracting record numbers of parents to meet with teachers to discuss their children's performance, and runs a Saturday Academy at the school, providing students with job, conflict resolution and other

important skills. Other law firms have helped wire schools to the internet, sent their technical staff to help train teachers on computers, and set up e-mail accounts between the firm and the school so lawyers and staff can mentor the students and provide them with advice even when they are unable to visit the school.

I am writing to the law firms in the District to encourage you to strengthen any existing partnership you may have with a public school, or to invite you to form one. The Washington Lawyers' Committee, which has helped establish many of the existing firm-school partnerships, has offered to help any firm that wishes to establish a relationship with a school. Rod Boggs of the Washington Lawyers' Committee and Myles Lynk, president of the District of Columbia Bar, have pledged their support for this effort, and both joined me on my visit to the Cleveland School. General Julius Becton Jr., the new Chief Executive Officer of the D.C. Public Schools appointed by the D.C. Control Board, strongly supports these partnerships and has pledged the support of his administration. To demonstrate his commitment, he also joined me at the Cleveland Elementary School.

I know you will agree that if our city and country are to prosper, we cannot afford to leave any child behind. We know the needs of the District public schools are great. All of us who are members of the District community, who live or work in the District, can make a positive difference. The nearly 30,000 people employed by District law firms have so much to offer the city's children. You can give back to the community and also invest in its future employees. I hope you or someone with your firm will call Iris Toyer at the Washington Lawyers' Committee at (202) 835-0031, ext. 117, and develop a partnership with a school. The need could not be greater or the cause more important.

With appreciation for your consideration and best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hillary Rodham Clinton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hillary Rodham Clinton

A Lesson Plan—and a Challenge to Law Firms

Hillary Clinton Praises Aid To School, Seeks More Sharing

By Pamela Constable
Washington Post Staff Writer

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He attended Cleveland in 1929, sent his eight children there and now chairs the School Restructuring Team. In his spare time, the retired government accountant also sweeps snow from the playground.

"Holland & Knight is the most valuable thing that has happened in Shaw since urban renewal in 1956," Wood told the gathered officials. He said he spent years struggling to get help for the school. Now, when he drops the law firm's name, "people take a different attitude," he said.

Despite all the VIP bustle, Cleveland's students went about their normal activities yesterday with seriousness, silliness and aplomb. In one classroom, two young boys fought over a shoe they were learning how to tie. In the principal's office, five older children read the weather, the lunch menu and the school slogan over the intercom system.

"I am somebody. I am capable. I am teachable," they recited. "I can do anything I try. I respect myself and others. I am a good person."

Talking It Over



Washington deserves to shine for the world

It's no secret that Washington, D.C., is not the city our nation's capital should be. Random violence robs children of their freedom. The public schools are short of textbooks and teachers. Local housing projects are havens for drugs.

These problems should worry all Americans, not just those of us who live in Washington. We all want to feel proud of our nation's capital, whether it is the gleaming monuments that millions of tourists see each year or the schools, businesses and neighborhoods that exist in their shadows. We all have a stake in the city and its future.

Although many Americans only hear the bad news about our capital city, Washington has some good news, too. It is an international nerve center for finance, communications, law and health care research. And it has its people—a wealth of human talent and potential.

That's why I'm optimistic that, if we all pitch in, the city will shine again. Just look at New York City. Twenty years ago, the conventional wisdom was that New York was doomed to decay. Now, its crime rate is down, its reputation is up, and the city is as alive and vibrant as ever.

Chicago, too, is enjoying a renaissance. For years, the city was notorious for having what many experts considered the worst schools in America. Yet, as I saw for myself on a trip to Chicago this week, the city's schools are on the rebound, thanks to strong leadership, better management, more accountability and a committed partnership involving government leaders, business people, school administrators, teachers, parents and members of the local community.

In Washington, solutions will have to come on many different levels. But there are already signs of progress. A new financial control board created by Congress and appointed by the president is now in charge of the city's budget. A well-respected, no-nonsense retired Army general, Julius Becton, has been hired to root out waste, fraud and mismanagement in the public schools. The president and Congress have agreed to make Washington a top priority. And perhaps most importantly, citizens, businesses and organizations across the city are tackling an array of social and economic problems at the neighborhood level.

Last week, I visited the Cleveland School, located in one of the city's most depressed neighborhoods. The school is home to 300 children in kindergarten through

third grade. It has a dedicated principal, committed teachers and an active PTA. It also has the support of partners in the community, like members of the U.S. military who volunteer as physical education instructors at the school and also take the children on field trips.

One particularly active partner is a law firm downtown called Holland & Knight. Every week, lawyers and staff spend afternoons tutoring and reading to students. They have spent weekends repairing school facilities. They even reclaimed a neighborhood park and playground from local drug dealers.

The firm has donated computers, supplies and clothing to the school. Lawyers have helped parents with legal problems and represented nonprofit organizations based in the surrounding neighborhood for free.

When I visited the school, teachers told me how the lawyers' visits inspired the students to raise their expectations of themselves. Parents described how the firm's involvement fostered a new can-do spirit throughout the neighborhood. And lawyers talked about the rewards of developing new friendships in a community that they might never have visited otherwise.

Given the number of lawyers in Washington, one can only imagine how much good would come if every firm was as eager to commit its time and resources to improving life in the city.

Fortunately, other professional, business and nonprofit organizations are following suit. Recently, a community bank, supported jointly by local private investors and the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, was launched to promote small businesses and spur the local economy. And I have seen the commitment of religious communities across the city, which have come together in an unprecedented partnership to strengthen schools and provide affordable housing.

All of these projects are vital, but they are only part of the solution. There is no panacea or quick fix for Washington's deeply rooted problems. The city needs the budgetary changes that Congress and the president are working for. It needs strong, dedicated leadership in local government and business. And it needs the involvement and commitment of every citizen.

As the president said a few weeks ago, it's time to renew our capital city so that Washington is a great place to work and live—and once again the proud face America shows the world.