

# Washington Lawyer

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## Brandt, Schneider Win Justice Potter Stewart Award

The Council for Court Excellence presented Rainey Ransom Brandt and Pauline A. Schneider with its 2010 Justice Potter Stewart Award. Now on its 14th year, the award honors individuals who have captured the spirit of the former U.S. Supreme Court justice and his deep commitment to the law.

As special counsel to the chief judge of the D.C. Superior Court for the past 12 years, Brandt promotes improved access to justice, efficient court and criminal justice system operations, continuing legal education for judges and lawyers, and close collaboration among all stakeholders in the justice system. She also has spent significant time providing pro bono service to the community.



Thai Phi Le

**Rainey Ransom Brandt (left) and Pauline Schneider are this year's recipients of the Justice Potter Stewart Award, which recognizes individuals and organizations for their significant contribution to the law, the legal system, the courts, or the administrative process in the District.**

Chief Judge Lee F. Satterfield lauded Brandt's years of distinguished service, saying, "When it comes to the Superior Court, Rainey Brandt is the best troubleshooter there is.... She's the power behind the judges getting things done."

He later jokingly compared Brandt with famous musicians like Madonna and Beyoncé who enjoy single-name recognition. "In the court industry, we have our own superstar that we all know as Rainey," Satterfield said.

In a show of gratitude and support, more than a dozen judges in the audience came on stage to offer their congratulations to Brandt.

Following the standing ovation, Brandt said, "I'm just doing my job." In accepting the award, she quoted Shirley Chisholm, the first black woman elected to Congress: "Service [to others] is the rent you pay for your room here on Earth.' I'm very fortunate to have a job that allows me live out that sentiment daily."

D.C. Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton introduced Schneider, calling her one of the city's premier lawyers. For more than 30 years, Schneider has made significant contributions to the legal profession and to governance and economic development in the District.

She is a partner at Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP, where she practices primarily in the area of public finance, and a former president of the D.C. Bar. Prior to joining Orrick, she practiced at Hunton & Williams LLP. She also spent part of her career in public service, first in the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs under President Jimmy Carter, and later in former Mayor Marion Barry's Office of Intergovernmental Relations.

"I was steeped in a tradition of finding fulfillment from doing good by parents who spent enormous amounts of time, energy, and modest amounts of money trying to make the communities in which I grew up better places," Schneider said. —T.L.