

NATIONAL LAW CENTER
ON HOMELESSNESS & POVERTY

— Presents —

THE 2017 MCKINNEY-VENTO AWARDS RECEPTION

Honoring the 30th Anniversary
of the McKinney-Vento
Homeless Assistance Act

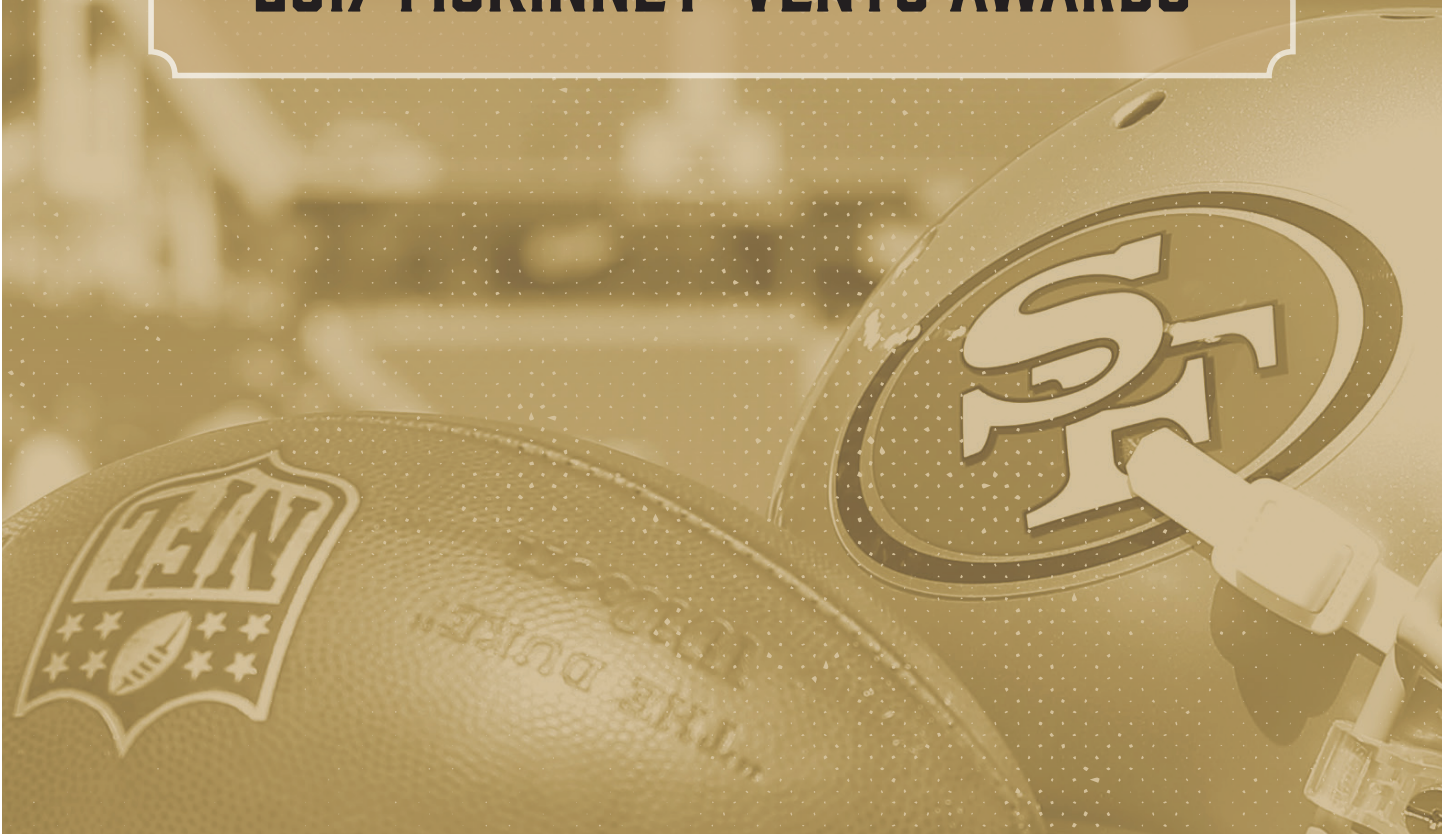




THE SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

Congratulate

**ALL RECIPIENTS OF
THE NATIONAL LAW CENTER ON
HOMELESSNESS & POVERTY
2017 MCKINNEY-VENTO AWARDS**



2017 McKinney-Vento Awards Ceremony

October 24, 2017 | 7:00pm | The Liaison Capitol Hill Hotel | Washington, D.C.

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Stephanie Ramos

Emcee
ABC News

OPENING REMARKS

Ed McNicholas

Chair, NLCHP Board of Directors

Maria Foscarinis

Founder and Executive Director, NLCHP

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Bruce F. Vento Award Presented by Susan Vento to

The Honorable Cory Booker

U.S. Senator (D-NJ)

Stewart B. McKinney Award Presented by Dwight Fettig to

Vernon Davis

Tight End, Washington Redskins, National Football League

Pro Bono Counsel Award Presented by Bruce Rosenblum to

Rajib Chanda of

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP

Personal Achievement Award Presented by Michael Santos to

Juanita Rocha

CLOSING REMARKS

Welcome Message

Thank you for attending the 19th Annual McKinney-Vento Awards. These awards pay tribute to two outstanding national leaders, Stewart B. McKinney and Bruce F. Vento, by celebrating individuals and organizations that have advanced solutions to homelessness and poverty. This year is particularly special as we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the passage of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, the first significant federal legislation in response to homelessness in America.

Our 2017 honorees have led the way in their respective communities, taking a stand against the injustice of homelessness and poverty in America. We are proud to recognize them for their commitment to working for a future where everyone can not only survive, but thrive.

This year the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty presents the Stewart B. McKinney Award to Vernon Davis of the National Football League's Washington Redskins and the Bruce F. Vento Award to U.S. Senator Cory Booker of New Jersey. Both of these honorees have worked to address child and youth homelessness, with Vernon Davis donating his time to help homeless children in Washington, D.C., and Senator Cory Booker advocating successfully in Congress, in partnership with the Law Center, to strengthen the McKinney-Vento education program that ensures access to school for homeless children and youth.

This year's Pro Bono Counsel honoree, Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP, has partnered with the Law Center since 2007 as a Lawyers' Executive Advisory Partners (LEAP) member, providing countless hours of pro bono service toward protecting the fundamental rights of people experiencing homelessness, including ensuring protections in both the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) to support homeless children and domestic violence survivors.

Finally, it is our honor to present the Personal Achievement Award to Juanita Rocha of Laredo, Texas. Ms. Rocha faced the realities of homelessness when she had to leave her job to care for her ailing father and, with her five children, moved into her mother's trailer home—a home that housed nineteen people. When her son's educational stability and enrollment status were jeopardized by his school district, she worked tirelessly with her attorney and the Law Center to combat this wrong and to fight for not just her children's educational rights, but for all children in her school district.

Ending homelessness is possible. This year's honorees show us that, in different ways, each of us can make a difference for those experiencing homelessness. Thank you for your partnership and support of our critical work.

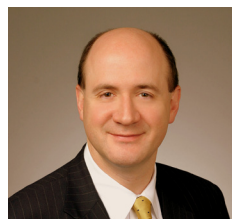
Sincerely,



Dwight Fettig, *Chair, 2017
McKinney-Vento Host Committee*



Maria Foscarinis, *Founder and
Executive Director*



Ed McNicholas, *Chairman of the
Board*

2017 McKinney-Vento Awards Sponsors

Special thanks to our generous sponsors for supporting the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty's mission to prevent and end homelessness in America.

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Susan Vento

History of the McKinney-Vento Awards

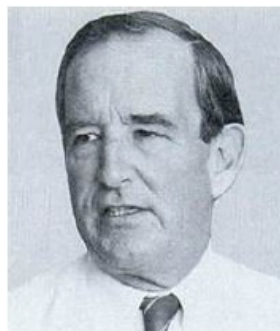
The National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty created the McKinney-Vento Awards to recognize individuals and organizations that have advanced solutions to homelessness and poverty. These awards also pay tribute to two outstanding national leaders: Stewart B. McKinney and Bruce F. Vento.

In 1987, the late Congressman Stewart B. McKinney was a primary sponsor of landmark legislation providing federal assistance to Americans experiencing homelessness. The Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act was the first—and is still the only—federal legislation addressing homelessness. With the Stewart B. McKinney Award, the Law Center is proud to honor leaders who exemplify the patriotism and compassion of Congressman McKinney.

The late Congressman Bruce F. Vento worked in partnership with Stewart B. McKinney and served as one of the original authors of the McKinney Act. After his untimely death in 2000, the legislation was renamed the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act in recognition of Congressman Vento's resolve to help homeless persons become self-sufficient. The Bruce F. Vento Award honors those who demonstrate an extraordinary commitment to addressing homelessness.

The Law Center presents the Pro Bono Counsel Award to a law firm that exhibits the commitment of the legal profession to provide pro bono legal services that significantly transform the lives of men, women, and children who are homeless.

The Personal Achievement Award is presented to an individual who has experienced homelessness and is working to improve the lives of those still suffering its injustice.



Stewart B. McKinney



Bruce F. Vento

Honoring 30 Years of the McKinney-Vento Homelessness Assistance Act

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the passage of the McKinney-Vento Homelessness Assistance Act, the first significant federal legislative response to homelessness. It was passed by the U.S. Congress and signed into law by President Ronald Reagan on July 22, 1987. Since then, millions of dollars each year are given to support a wide range of services to people experiencing homelessness, from emergency shelter programs to education access for children. The act also established the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, an independent federal agency within the U.S. executive branch that leads the federal strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness.

In the mid-1980s, the founder of the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty, Maria Foscarinis, was a lawyer working at a large corporate firm when she volunteered to represent homeless families on a pro bono basis. After seeing the impact of first-rate legal advocacy on the lives of homeless people, Maria left the firm to dedicate herself to that work full-time. She went on to become an architect of the 1987 McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, the first major federal legislation to address homelessness.

2017 McKinney-Vento Awards Host Committee*

Special thanks to the members of this year's Host Committee for their time, energy, and support of the McKinney-Vento Awards.

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Church of the Assumption (retired)

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2017 Honorees

Stewart B. McKinney Award

Vernon Davis

Vernon Leonard Davis is a tight end for the Washington Redskins of the National Football League (NFL). Born in Washington, DC, he played college football at the University of Maryland, College Park, where he was a Consensus All-American and All-Atlantic Coast Conference first-team selection and set school strength records for a tight end.



In 2006, Davis was selected as the 6th pick overall in the NFL Draft by the San Francisco 49ers, where he played for nine years. In 2009 he tied the all-time record for most touchdown receptions by a tight end in a single season with thirteen, a record that stood until 2011. After nine years with the 49ers, Davis was traded to the Denver Broncos in 2015 and helped lead the team to Super Bowl 50, defeating the Carolina Panthers.

Last year, Davis returned to his hometown of Washington, DC, and signed a one-year contract with the Washington Redskins, later extended to three years. In addition to his passion for football, he continues his passion for art (having majored in studio art at Maryland) through the Vernon Davis Foundation for the Arts, which promotes art education and appreciation among youth from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Davis continues to give generously back to the DC community and raise awareness of homelessness. In September, he worked with DC's Covenant House to launch Vernon's Closet, a clothing donation drive to raise awareness of youth homelessness in DC. The event kicked off Sleep Out America 2017, an event on November 16 where participants sleep outside to experience what it's like to be homeless.

Bruce F. Vento Award

The Honorable Senator Cory Booker

Cory Booker was raised in Harrington Park, living his life as a proud New Jerseyan. After graduating from Northern Valley Regional High School, Booker received his undergraduate degree from Stanford University where he played on the varsity football team. While at Stanford, he also was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship and went on to study at the University of Oxford where he received an honors degree in History. Booker then completed his education at Yale Law School, receiving his J.D. in 1997.



After law school, Booker moved to Newark—where he still lives to this day—and started a nonprofit organization to provide legal services for low-income families and help tenants take on slumlords, improve living conditions, and stay in their homes.

Starting in 2006, Booker proudly served as Newark's mayor for more than seven years. During his tenure, the city entered its largest period of economic growth since the 1960s. Overall crime declined and the quality of life for residents improved due to initiatives such as more affordable housing, new green spaces and parks, increased educational opportunities, and more efficient city services.

On October 16, 2013, Booker won a special election to represent New Jersey in the United States Senate and was re-elected to a full six-year term in 2014. As New Jersey's junior Senator, Cory Booker has brought an innovative and bipartisan approach to tackling some of the most difficult problems facing New Jersey and our country. Whether it's advocating for more federal resources to modernize New Jersey's transportation system or ensuring that our communities are safe from the effects of pollution and climate change, Booker has proven his steadfast commitment to standing up for what matters most to New Jerseyans.

Booker has also emerged as a national leader in the Congressional push for common sense criminal justice reform, advocating for front-end sentencing reforms, pushing for the banning of juvenile solitary confinement in federal facilities, and spearheading legislation to make the hiring process fairer for the formerly incarcerated. Booker has also partnered with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to create a number of economic proposals with the hope of fostering greater economic mobility and opportunity for individual Americans.

2017 Honorees

Pro Bono Counsel Award

Simpson Thacher

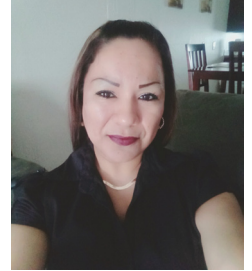
Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP, has partnered with the Law Center since 2007 as a Lawyers' Executive Advisory Partners (LEAP) member, providing countless hours of pro bono service to helping people experiencing homelessness. This year, Simpson Thacher has been instrumental in helping the Law Center analyze the state plans required by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)—the latest re-authorization of the McKinney-Vento law that this awards ceremony celebrates tonight. With Simpson Thacher's help, we are analyzing the submissions and identifying where changes are needed. Both California and Texas changed their state plans after we sent letters advising them of needed changes.

Simpson Thacher has also helped the Law Center substantially in our regulatory work to ensure the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) provides real housing protections to survivors of domestic violence or sexual assault. In 2013, the Law Center pushed a bipartisan Congress to reauthorize VAWA with stronger housing protections—which they did. But when HUD issued implementing regulations, they did not go far enough in protecting victims of economic abuse. Simpson Thacher led our effort to issue comments to successfully strengthen these protections. Simpson Thacher's unceasing support, leadership, and dedication to our shared mission to end homelessness in America has changed thousands of lives across the country.

Personal Achievement Award

Juanita Rocha



Juanita Rocha was born and raised in Laredo, Texas. She is a single mother of five: Mayra, Cassandra, Liliana, Cynthia, and Raul. Her homeless situation began when her father, whom she was living with, became ill. She had a job at Walmart and on a waiting list for affordable housing, but she had to give it all up to care for her father, who suddenly died after a month of illness. After this tragedy, she moved herself and her children to her mother's trailer home. Between Ms. Rocha's children and her brothers and sisters with children already living with her mother, there were nineteen people living all together in a small space. Ms. Rocha called this living situation a "nightmare" as her children had to sleep on the floor, share one bathroom, and deal with arguments between family members. During the day, Ms. Rocha would take her children to the park for hours just to get away.

As the school year started, Ms. Rocha wanted to keep her son Raul in the same middle school, but school administrators questioned her housing status. She spoke to the principal, who allowed Raul to attend the school, but with strict conditions—and Ms. Rocha was never informed that she may qualify for McKinney-Vento protections due to her family's homeless status.

With a deep concern for her child's education, Ms. Rocha reached out to the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty for legal help. Her attorney, Israel Reyna of the Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, was working to ensure that Raul remained enrolled at the same school. But knowing that other homeless families weren't aware of the law, Ms. Rocha wanted to do more. The Law Center worked with Mr. Reyna and Ms. Rocha, developing a strategy and legal arguments for getting the school district to change its treatment toward all homeless students and their families in Laredo. After a long year of fighting for children's rights, the district finally agreed to change its homeless student policy and practice.

Ms. Rocha not only advocated for her own child—she worked to ensure all homeless children in Laredo receive access to the education they deserve. She demonstrated a strong commitment to her son's education, overcoming obstacles, and tirelessly advocating for all children's rights.

2017 Presenters

Stephanie Ramos, ABC News

Stephanie Ramos is an ABC News correspondent based in DC covering national and international news. She joined the network in 2015 and immediately covered two landmark rulings by the Supreme Court on marriage equality and the Affordable Care Act. Since then, Ms. Ramos covered the tail end of the Obama administration, the Trump administration, Pope Francis' first visit to DC and the Pentagon for *Good Morning America*, *World News Tonight* and hundreds of ABC affiliate TV and radio stations across the country.



Before joining ABC News, Stephanie was an anchor and reporter for KMBC in Kansas City. Her work there was particularly notable for her coverage of immigrant children caught crossing into the U.S. from Mexico. In 2008, Stephanie served as a 1st Lieutenant in Iraq and was awarded multiple medals for her exceptional service including the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal and Iraq Campaign Medal. Stephanie and her husband produced an award-winning special "To Baghdad & Back," when she returned using the footage she shot on a small handheld camcorder during her tour. Stephanie is now a Major in the U.S. Army Reserve serving as a public affairs officer in addition to her role at ABC News.

Sue Vento, Church of the Assumption (Retired)

Sue Vento, the widow of Congressman Bruce Vento, served as director of outreach for the Church of Assumption from 2011 to 2016. From 1983 to 2010, she was a field representative, program organizer, and lobbyist for the Minnesota Education Association. Prior to that, she was an elementary educator who taught first and third graders in Willmar, Minnesota. Since Bruce's death from mesothelioma in 2000, Sue has lobbied at the state and federal level on issues related to asbestos and mesothelioma to ensure that mesothelioma patients and their families have a voice in the legislative process.



Bruce Rosenblum, The Carlyle Group

Bruce Rosenblum is vice-chair of the Board of Directors of the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty and corporate advisor for LEAP (Lawyers' Executive Advisory Partners). He serves as managing director and chief risk officer of The Carlyle Group in Washington, D.C. Prior to joining Carlyle in 2000, Bruce was a partner and executive committee member at the law firm of Latham & Watkins, where he practiced for 18 years, specializing in mergers and acquisitions and corporate finance. Before joining Latham, Bruce served as a law clerk to Chief Justice Warren E. Burger on the U.S. Supreme Court. Mr. Rosenblum is a graduate of Yale University and received his J.D. from Columbia Law School.



Michael Santos, Attorney National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty

Michael Santos is an attorney at the Law Center whose work focuses on advocating for homeless youth access to education through public education, impact litigation, and policy advocacy. He has had a long history of working on the rights of low-income and underrepresented communities through the Department of Health and Human Services and various non-profit organizations. Most recently, he was a fellow at the Clinton Foundation where he worked on an initiative to decrease the upward trend of childhood obesity in the United States. Michael graduated from Brown University with a double concentration in biomedical engineering and ethnic studies. He received his J.D. from University of Southern California Gould School of Law.



Ed McNicholas, Chair Board of Directors National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty

Ed McNicholas, a co-leader of Sidley Austin LLP's Privacy and Cybersecurity Practice, has an extensive practice representing clients facing complete information technology, constitutional, and privacy issues in civil and white-collar criminal matters. Ed focuses on trial and appellate representations of technologically-sophisticated clients



2017 Presenters

facing complex personal information and cybersecurity issues. Ed also frequently advises organizations that combat homelessness regarding complex constitutional issues at both the trial and appellate levels and before legislative bodies. His work for such organizations contributed substantially to the firm being awarded the 2004 Pro Bono Counsel Award by the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty. Ed now serves as the chairman of the Board of Directors for the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty.

Dwight Fettig, Chair 2017 McKinney-Vento Awards Host Committee

Dwight Fettig has had a long and illustrious career in both law and public policy. Now a partner at Porterfield, Fettig & Sears LLC, his previous jobs have included serving as the Staff Director of the U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs for then-Chairman Tim Johnson, senior director of government and industry relations at Freddie Mac, senior policy and legislative advisor at Arnold & Porter LLP, and legislative director for Senator and Congressman Tim Johnson. Fettig has been a guest lecturer for Masters-level public policy classes at American University, Georgetown University, and George Washington University, as well as a frequent Washington panelist, having participated on panels for the American Banker, the Bipartisan Policy Center, and a guest appearance on the C-SPAN program *Washington Journal*. A native of Bismarck, North Dakota, Fettig graduated with a B.A. degree in political science from Minnesota State University Moorhead.



Maria Foscarinis, Founder & Executive Director National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty

Maria Foscarinis has advocated for solutions to homelessness at the national level since 1985. She is a primary architect of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and has litigated to secure the legal rights of homeless persons. She regularly speaks and lectures on law, public policy, and homelessness and is frequently quoted in print and electronic media. She is a 1977 graduate of Barnard College and a 1981 graduate of Columbia Law School, where she was Notes and Comments editor of the *Columbia Law Review*. After graduating from law school, she clerked for the Honorable Amalya L. Kearse



on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. She was a litigation associate at Sullivan & Cromwell LLP and director of the National Coalition for the Homeless before founding the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty in 1987. Maria is the recipient of the 2016 Katharine and George Alexander Law Prize from Santa Clara University's School of Law and serves on the Board of Advisers of the Economic Hardship Reporting Project.

About the Artwork on the 2017 Award Plaques

This year's McKinney-Vento Awards plaques feature custom artwork created and donated by Joi Cole of the Latin American Youth Center (LAYC) in Washington, D.C. The title of the artwork is "New Perspective" (2017).



Joi Cole was born on August 8, 1998, in Detroit, Michigan. She moved to Washington, D.C. at the age of nineteen with no place to live. But with support from jobs, drop-in centers, and the youth transitional housing program at the Latin American Youth Center (LAYC), she is now a thriving young artist working on custom art and apparel for a variety of audiences.

Joi took the concept of housing and homelessness "with a sweet twist of hope." The artwork is layered and mixed with pencil, ink pen, markers, watercolor, and acrylic paint. The homeless man is landscaped across the floor, one with the earth and soil, with the lines in his face representing his life. On top of him is displayed the hope of inviting pastel row houses. A similar face coming out of the chimney is blended with the hopeful houses—the same man. He is looking at his own self with hope, yet the lines on his face remain, demonstrating the challenges he has been through.

Special Thanks for Additional Contributors

Axios Wine for donating wine for the reception

Jeffrey Morris Photography for photography and videography services

Joi Cole for creating the artwork for this year's award plaques

The Liaison Capitol Hill for hotel room donation for Personal Achievement Awardee



LEAP (Lawyers' Executive Advisory Partners) is a national legal community effort to serve and protect homeless Americans and those at risk of becoming homeless. LEAP members are the very core of support for the Law Center to achieve our mission of preventing and ending homelessness.

Through membership in LEAP, the Law Center offers law firms, offices of corporate counsel, and individual practitioners opportunities to leverage pro bono legal services throughout each year, including:

- Participating in active high-impact and broad-spectrum litigation throughout the country to protect the rights of homeless individuals;
- Protecting the right of homeless children to a free public education by breaking down barriers to enrollment and training local advocates;
- Representing homeless people prosecuted for violating public ordinances against life-sustaining activities such as eating or sleeping in public spaces; and
- Protecting survivors of domestic violence from eviction or loss of their housing due to the violence perpetrated against them.

To learn more about becoming a LEAP member, visit www.nlchp.org/leap

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About the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty

The National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty (the Law Center) is the only national organization dedicated solely to using the power of the law to end and prevent homelessness. With the support of a large network of pro bono lawyers, we address the immediate and long-term needs of people who are homeless or at risk through outreach and training, advocacy, impact litigation, and public education.

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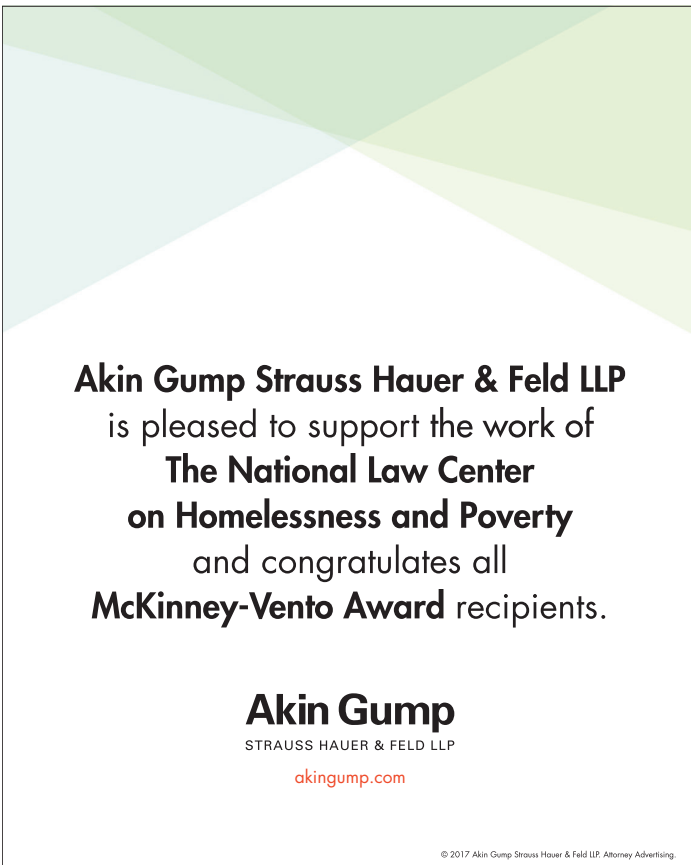
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and congratulates all
McKinney-Vento Award recipients.

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on HOMELESSNESS & POVERTY

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Creating positive change helps individuals grow and communities thrive. Your service to your neighbors makes a difference and it inspires us all to give.

Bank of America celebrates the 2017 McKinney-Vento Awardees for your dedication to making our community the best that it can be. Together, we can help create better lives.

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On Homelessness and
Poverty**, its leadership,
and all of the Law Center's
supporters for 30 years of
work dedicated to serving
the needs of our most
vulnerable neighbors.

*The Judge Family
Steve, Sharon,
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