

"There is a tremendous desire in this city among all corners of society to ensure that our schools are excellent. We may disagree about how we want to get there, and that's [why] I see my job as getting everybody to look in the same direction," she said.

Rhee talked about the uproar over her decision to introduce legislation that would make workers at the D.C. public schools' central office "at will" employees. During the hours she spent testifying before the D.C. Council, Rhee often heard complaints that such a decision would not be fair to the employees because they would have no due process.

Rhee believes, however, the current system is most unfair to the children.

"In this system, if you don't get the education you deserve, you don't get any due process. We've set up a system where we're looking out for the interests of the adults rather than the interests of the children.

"Public education is supposed to be the greatest equalizer ... That is so far from what is happening in the District."

Abramson, who died in 1991, was a private practitioner who served as president of the D.C. Bar and as Bar Counsel for the District of Columbia. The foundation's work continues to reflect his commitment to young people through scholarships and other programs.—K.A.

### Appointments Bolster Continuity of Access to Justice Commission

The District of Columbia Court of Appeals has issued an order to continue the D.C. Access to Justice Commission without a fixed termination date. With this mandate, the commission can pursue its mission of fostering equal access to the civil justice system for low-income and marginalized individuals in the District of Columbia.

As part of the Court of Appeals' order, the following people have been reappointed for three years as members of the commission, effective February 28: Peter B. Edelman, Patricia Mullahy Fugere, Andrew H. Marks, Shirley Massey, Stephen J. Pollak, and Jonathan M. Smith, as well as judges Stephanie Duncan-Peters, Hiram Puig-Lugo, Vanessa Ruiz, and Inez Smith Reid. In addition, Edelman will continue to serve as chair of the commission.

Also appointed to the commission are Muneer I. Ahmad, Rawle Andrews Jr., Katherine S. Broderick, Joanne Doddy

### INJUSTICE FOR ALL



Hamid Khan, former president of the Pakistan Supreme Court Bar Association, holds a copy of *The Washington Post*, which features a front-page story on lawyers demonstrating in the streets of Pakistan after President Pervez Musharraf declared a state of emergency and fired chief members of the judiciary shortly before they were to vote on the legitimacy of his reelection in October. Khan spoke about the situation at a program on March 3 at the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law. Also speaking were (from left) Sahibzada Anwar Hamid, former vice president of the Supreme Court Bar Association who was arrested and detained for 15 days, and Shahid Buttar, a Pakistani American lawyer who cochairs the Pakistan Justice Coalition.—K.A.

Fort, Nathalie F. P. Gilfoyle, Maria S. Gomez, and Su Sie Ju.

The Access to Justice Commission was first created by the D.C. Court of Appeals in 2005 for a three-year term. In those years, the commission has had many notable successes, including securing \$3.2 million in public funding from the District government for civil legal services in fiscal years 2007 and 2008. As a result of this cash influx, legal services organizations were able to hire more than 30 staff lawyers to work full time on behalf of low-income residents in the District.

The commission has undertaken other activities to raise community awareness regarding the need for civil access to justice and ways to help meet that need. These activities include creating, in collaboration with the D.C. Bar, a pro bono

legal initiative targeting lawyers in mid-size firms, assisting the D.C. Bar Foundation to increase the amount of interest paid by banks on Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts, and conducting an in-depth study of the legal needs of low-income District residents.

The full text of the order by the Court of Appeals is available at [www.dcappeals.gov](http://www.dcappeals.gov).

For more information about the D.C. Access to Justice Commission, contact Sunil Mansukhani, executive director, at 202-344-4441, or [info@dcaccesstojustice.org](mailto:info@dcaccesstojustice.org), or visit [www.dcaccesstojustice.org](http://www.dcaccesstojustice.org). —K.A.

### D.C. Superior Court Branch

#### Moves to Electronic Case Files

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