APPLESEED'S
ANNUAL
PILLARS OF JUSTICE CELEBRATION

Honoring the pro bono leadership of

JOHN JOHNSON
CEO OF EDGEBOROUGH ECONOMICS
AND

LAW FIRM ANTIRACISM ALLIANCE

SEPTEMBER 9, 2021
5 - 6 p.m. EASTERN

Host Committee
Brian Boyle, Brian Brooks, Mary Morningstar, Tom McCoy, Jim Rogers
2021 Pillars of Justice Honorees

Dr. John Johnson  
CEO, Edgeworth Economics

Dr. Johnson founded and helped build Edgeworth Economics into a world-class economic consulting firm, bringing together a group of the brightest, most rigorously trained economists in the industry. He is recognized as one of the leading econometricians practicing today. He has served as an antitrust expert witness and consultant in high-stakes cases in the United States, Canada, Europe, and Asia, opining on class certification, market definition, anticompetitive effects, liability issues, causation, and damages. As a distinguished thought leader in his field, Dr. Johnson has authored several academic papers on labor class actions and an amicus brief to the Supreme Court in Comcast v. Behrend. Dr. Johnson is a former Chair of the Appleseed Foundation Board of Directors.

Kiisha Morrow  
Head of Diversity & Inclusion, Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP  
Co-President, Law Firm Antiracism Alliance

With a deep passion for equity and philanthropy, Kiisha has centered these “twin passions” throughout her career. Kiisha proudly serves alongside Brenna DeVaney as Co-President of the Law Firm Antiracism Alliance. She is the Head of Diversity & Inclusion at Cravath, where she initially began her career as a corporate associate. Kiisha also serves on the Board of Directors of the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation, whose mission is to relentlessly pursue equity for all Arkansans. Kiisha was raised in New Jersey and Arkansas. She and her husband, Charles, live in New York.

Brenna DeVaney  
Pro Bono Director, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP  
Co-President, Law Firm Antiracism Alliance

Brenna DeVaney directs Skadden’s global pro bono practice and is responsible for the firm’s relationships with legal services organizations and nonprofits. Her own practice focuses on representing low-income individuals, including women in family law matters who have been the victims of domestic violence. Brenna gratefully serves with Kiisha Morrow as Co-President of the Law Firm Antiracism Alliance. She also works as an adjunct professor at the University of Michigan Law School and Northwestern Pritzker School of Law. She is a frequent lecturer and presenter at both national and international convenings focused on access to justice. Brenna lives in Evanston, IL with her husband, David, and their four children.
Purpose
To leverage the resources of the private bar in partnership with legal services organizations to amplify the voices of communities and individuals oppressed by racism, to better use the law as a vehicle for change that benefits communities of color and to promote racial equity in the law.

Context
Lawyers and law firms are uniquely positioned to analyze and advocate to change laws and policies that encourage, perpetuate or allow racial injustice. Many legal services organizations have spent decades working to dismantle systemic racism, and the private bar has historically been involved in serving underrepresented communities and individuals, supporting entities that serve those communities and advancing civil rights causes primarily through law firm *pro bono* programs. Recent events have affirmed and highlighted the need and responsibility for law firms to do more in partnership with legal services organizations to identify and dismantle structural or systemic racism in the law.

The collaborative efforts of law firms, in partnership with legal services organizations, other sectors of the legal profession and key stakeholders, have the potential to create deeper and more lasting change than through firms acting independently.

Focus
The LFAA will facilitate the coordination of its member firms to best enable legal services organizations and the LFAA to create large-scale, coordinated *pro bono* projects that are both immediate and long-term in scope. Member firms will dedicate substantial *pro bono* resources to initiatives that address systemic racism as outlined herein. Law firms acknowledge their ongoing responsibility to increase diversity, equitable access to opportunities and inclusion of people of color within their ranks and, in tandem with the LFAA’s *pro bono* efforts, the leaders of the LFAA law firms are committed to examining and eliminating internal policies and practices that may perpetuate racial inequities within law firm structures.

Mechanisms
National collaboration across law firms.

Development or enhancement of partnerships with legal services organizations and other stakeholders focused on race equity.

Elevation of the voices of people and communities of color by leveraging the platforms of law firm leaders and law firms.

Collaborative advocacy.

Coordinated effort among law firm *pro bono* professionals and diversity and inclusion professionals.

Involvement of corporate in-house legal departments in the LFAA initiatives.

Action Items
Host a summit of key stakeholders to prioritize the LFAA’s work facilitated by experts in the areas of racial justice and systemic project design.

- Listen to and be guided by experts (including legal services organizations) and affected communities.
- Blueprint a Systemic Racism Legal Inventory.
- Charge the law firm *pro bono* professional community via the Association of Pro Bono Counsel (APBCo) with the organization and advancement of the LFAA.
- Commit law firm leadership to continued action through the LFAA.

Develop Systemic Racism Legal Inventory: a catalogue of laws, rules, policies and practices that result in negative outcomes for people of color, with priority focus to tackling anti-Black racism as determined by affected communities and policy experts.

Implement legislative and regulatory advocacy strategies to change laws, rules, policies and practices identified in the Systemic Racism Legal Inventory.

Initiate high-impact litigation as required to effectuate reform identified in the Systemic Racism Legal Inventory.

Evaluate the effectiveness of the LFAA through regular convening of stakeholders.
Thank you to our Sponsors!

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John Johnson, Edgeworth Economics

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We congratulate Appleseed and the 2021 Pillars of Justice honorees, the Law Firm Antiracism Alliance and our CEO, Dr. John Johnson.

Edgeworth is committed to furthering access to justice in communities across our country through our long-time relationship with the Appleseed Network and our pro bono work. We believe it is our role as economists to make a meaningful impact in pro bono projects that contribute to legal progress and the advancement of justice for all.
Supporting Justice and Equity for All

We are proud to support this year’s award winners and Appleseed’s continued work to advance justice.

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Speaking for justice.

As a leading global law firm, we believe we have a responsibility to help provide access to justice and legal care. That’s why our lawyers have a long-standing commitment to meaningful and impactful pro bono projects that support the needs of our communities.

Appleseed’s 2021 Pillars of Justice Celebration

We applaud and support your efforts identifying and addressing perceived injustices in communities across the US and Mexico and your tireless efforts to address their needs.

We also congratulate this year’s honorees

John Johnson
CEO of Edgeworth Economics

Law Firm Antiracism Alliance

Dentons is proud to once again support Appleseed’s 2021 Pillars of Justice Celebration.

As a founding member of the Law Firm Antiracism Alliance (LFAA), we are honored that Appleseed has chosen to award the LFAA this year’s Pillars of Justice award.

We look forward to continuing our pursuit of bringing systemic change and racial equity to the rule of law.
We are proud to sponsor the Appleseed Network in its mission to reduce poverty, combat discrimination, and advance the rule of law.

Follow us:

Congratulations

Cravath is pleased to support The Appleseed Foundation and congratulates today’s honorees, John Johson and the Law Firm Anti-Racism Alliance.
Arent Fox is proud to support Appleseed’s 2021 Pillars of Justice Celebration and congratulate this year’s honorees, John Johnson, CEO of Edgeworth Economics, and Law Firm Antiracism Alliance.
We are proud to support the Appleseed Foundation’s work and join in the fight to reduce poverty and combat discrimination.

Congratulations to this year’s Pillars of Justice Award honorees.

Where industries, disciplines, technologies, and trends intersect and when transformational moments and events overlap – Ankura is there.

We spring into action, putting our world-class expertise to work – developing and executing creative, end-to-end solutions, and providing the expertise and skills our clients need at critical moments.

PROTECT, CREATE, & RECOVER VALUE

Thank you!!

Appleseed Foundation

www.appleseednetwork.org
Appleseed Network

145 full-time advocates across 14 states, DC, and Mexico, spanning the urban-rural and red blue divides, investing $14.3 million annually in community-driven advocacy.

Appleseed is a network of 16 justice centers across the United States and Mexico working together to reduce poverty, combat discrimination, and advance the rule of law.

We unite research, organizing, policy advocacy, and impact litigation to build systemic solutions for our communities’ most pressing problems.

Our Impact

SINCE 2018

41 bills passed

43 impact lawsuits won

42,000+ pro bono hours donated

Thousands grassroots volunteers engaged

RECENT VICTORIES

Hawaii Appleseed’s advocacy and analysis of pandemic-related housing assistance led to the creation of a program that distributed nearly $60 Million in rent and mortgage assistance, helping prevent the eviction of 13,000 households, the largest state-wide pandemic rent assistance program in the nation on a per capita basis.

Georgia Appleseed created a social innovation lab in 2020 that crafted an eviction diversion program that has kept over 1,000 families in their homes during COVID.

DC Appleseed this year entered into a settlement with Blue CrossBlue Shield requiring it to spend approximately $100 Million on pressing healthcare needs in the District.

Kansas Appleseed this year secured a settlement in their class action foster care lawsuit that will end the extreme housing instability and lack of mental health services youth in foster care have faced in the state.

New York Appleseed in December 2020 won a one-year pilot elimination of all middle-school screens in NYC public schools, which the Center’s research and advocacy had shown to exacerbate racial segregation.