Overview

(October 1, 2020, Washington, DC) — Steptoe’s Joe Caldwell helped the American College of Trial Lawyers (ACTL) create a new award which will honor persons who have fought for equality and justice and against racism. The award, to be presented from time to time whenever worthy recipients are identified, will recognize those who have been champions of justice and equality in all forms, including but not limited to race, ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation.

In announcing the award, Caldwell and Richard Deane, Jr. who co-chaired the committee that determined its parameters, observed: “Recurring issues of race and inequality are again at the forefront of our public discourse. Both the United States and Canada have long grappled with these issues through much of our history. Now, the tragic deaths of George Floyd and too many others have again put a spotlight on injustices and inequalities that continue to plague our pursuit of equality and justice for all... The college wishes to recognize champions who have fought for equality and justice and against racism in keeping with standards for such an award to be established by the college.”

An ACTL regent, Caldwell focuses his practice on complex civil litigation and white-collar criminal defense and investigations. Having litigated more than 100 jury trials, Caldwell represents clients in federal and state courts and before congressional committees, administrative agencies and arbitration tribunals. He also serves as co-chair of Steptoe’s Diversity Committee and is engaged in numerous pro bono activities.

The ACTL is comprised of the best of the trial bar and is widely considered to be the premier professional trial organization in North America. Founded in 1950, the ACTL is an invitation-only fellowship. The college thoroughly investigates each nominee for admission and selects only those who have demonstrated the very highest standards of trial advocacy, ethical conduct, integrity, professionalism and collegiality. The college maintains and seeks to improve the standards of trial practice, professionalism, ethics, and the administration of justice through education and public statements on important legal issues relating to its mission. The college strongly supports the independence of the judiciary, trial by jury, respect for the rule of law, access to justice, and fair and just representation of all parties to legal proceedings.

About Steptoe

In more than 100 years of practice, Steptoe has earned an international reputation for vigorous representation of clients before governmental agencies, successful advocacy in litigation and arbitration, and creative and practical advice in structuring business transactions. Steptoe has more than 500 lawyers and other professional staff across offices in Beijing, Brussels, Chicago, Hong Kong, London, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, and Washington. For more information, visit www.steptoe.com.

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