

point to the fact that we need a lot more resources," said Rigsby. "We need more people—lawyers, paralegals, and secretaries—to do our core functions."

The OCC, he added, also needs a higher salary structure. The goal, he said, is not to compete with private law firms.

"We'll never pay fourth-year people \$160,000. That's impossible, but our people do have to be paid salaries comparable to those of the Public Defender Service and the U.S. Attorney's Office. People are leaving our office and going to those offices and making an average of \$20,000 more."

Rigsby also responded to other matters raised by the Appleseed report. Regarding case management, he said that a prototype case management system was being tested through the month of January and, if it proved satisfactory, would become the office system.

Rigsby disputed the Appleseed report's conclusion that the OCC had too many layers of management. He pointed out that the Hildebrandt International report had approved of the management structure that was in place.

Finally, Rigsby responded to the charges of attorney and staff incompetence that surfaced in the Appleseed report and in local media reports. He believes the problem is a natural consequence of a lack of resources.

"Our attorneys and managers are carrying very high caseloads," he said. "We have a hard time doing that if we don't have the resources to properly prepare and properly represent the residents of the District of Columbia."

Local Initiative to Employ the Homeless Wins Recognition

When the deputy general counsel of the International

Photograph by Michele Iannacci



Congressman Tony P. Hall, left, and James Wolfensohn, president of the World Bank, together hold the plaque Wolfensohn received for his support of an International Finance Corporation initiative to help the homeless.

Finance Corporation (IFC), Jennifer A. Sullivan, had trouble getting routine clerical tasks completed, she came up with a unique community outreach program. She decided to turn to a labor pool of men who needed employment to escape homelessness.

Sullivan learned about Gospel Rescue Ministries (GRM), a group that provides homeless and drug-addicted men with housing, counseling, high school equivalency classes, and job skills training. GRM and IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, formed a partnership that benefited both organizations, and that recently won World Bank President James D. Wolfensohn an award for his strong support of Sullivan's initiative.

After exhaustive screening, the top candidates from GRM go to work for IFC. In the past three years dozens of men have gone through the program.

The program benefits IFC because it gets cost-effective help, and the men gain because they earn a good wage, obtain job skills, and build their résumés.

Sullivan said, "Some of these short-term employees

have been so successful that they've gone on to regular positions at IFC."

In presenting the award to Wolfensohn for his support of the program, Congressman Tony P. Hall (D-Ohio) said, "The IFC deserves our congratulations and thanks for their successful involvement in the fight to combat homelessness in the nation's capital."

West Group Awarded D.C. Code Contract

After months of delay caused by a dispute between publishing companies, the Council of the District of Columbia has named West Group the official publisher of the *D.C. Code Annotated*.

The edition that West Group will produce will be a complete recodification of the 1981 edition. Codification counsel Benjamin Bryant noted that 20 years was a long time between recodifications and that it was a task "that needed to be done."

Other versions of the *D.C. Code* are available from other sources, but Bryant recommends the one published by West Group.

"The D.C. government will be buying the West

Group product, and the courts will be using it. It is, of course, up to each law firm and individual lawyer to decide which product to buy, but it would make sense for ease of use to get the same product that the courts and the government are using."

For more information about the 2001 edition of the *D.C. Code Annotated*, call West Group at 1-800-228-2180.

Panel Discusses State of Economic Development in the District

Government offices that oversee land use in the District of Columbia have made dramatic improvements in zoning and planning to speed the pace of economic development in the city. Nonetheless, even the heads of the zoning and planning agencies admit that their agencies have a long way to go before being state of the art.

This was the consensus view at a recent discussion on economic development and land use regulation sponsored by the D.C. Bar's Real Estate, Housing and Land Use Section's Land Use Committee.

Harold Brazil, chair of the Economic Development Committee of the Council of the District of Columbia, said he hopes that the District "can keep the momentum going."

Brazil cited the tightening of office vacancy rates and the amount of new building as signs that the District was getting new development and deepening its tax base. He indicated that the District needs regulatory reform to streamline regulations.

Elchino Martin, chief of staff for Deputy Mayor Eric Price, said that economic development not only needs to come downtown, but also needs to include residential and low-income neighborhoods. He cited programs that have brought new retail establish-