Building Momentum for Peace in Korea

WOMEN CROSS DMZ ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Mobilizing Women for Peace in Korea
WOMENCROSSDMZ
Dear Friends,

While 2018 felt as if peace in Korea was within reach, 2019 was a sobering reminder of how hardened and entrenched relations are between the US and North Korea. Despite summits and love letters between President Trump and Chairman Kim, the US and North Korea have not been able to come to agreement on a path towards peace and denuclearization.

What hasn’t been tried — and has been proven to actually lead to peace — is the inclusion of women in the peace process. As we engage senior officials from the US, North Korea and South Korea to end the Korean War with a peace agreement, we also call on them to ensure women have a seat at the table in order to guarantee durable, lasting peace.

This spring, we launched a global campaign Korea Peace Now! Women Mobilizing to End the War with our coalition partners the Nobel Women’s Initiative, WILPF and Korean Women’s Movement for Peace. Women Cross DMZ worked with members of Congress to introduce H. Res. 152 calling for an end to the Korean War. We mobilized ten chapters of the Korea Peace Now! campaign in major cities across the US.

None of this would have been possible without the generous support of our community of donors, who enabled us to build a team of smart, strategic organizers, researchers, and communications experts to lead this work. We don’t take our responsibility lightly. We know we have limited time and
resources to promote a diplomatic breakthrough.

With your support, we are injecting new energy and vision into our work, connecting lawmakers, foreign policy communities, and women's movements to realize peace on the Korean Peninsula. The good news is that we are making some traction. According to an October 2019 Data for Progress/YouGov poll, 2 out of 3 American voters support negotiating a peace agreement with North Korea.

As our co-founder Gloria Steinem told a captive audience at the DMZ peace forum in September, “We don’t know what the outcome of this process will be, but we do know that unless we act — from taking to the streets to lobbying members of Congress and Parliament, from meeting with North Korean women to ourselves crossing the DMZ — there will be no lasting, durable peace. We are creating democracy and engaging in diplomacy from the bottom up. Like a tree, this is the only way that peace grows.”

On behalf of all of us, thank you for believing in the power of women to mobilize for peace. We are ready to go all in and see an end to this war. To do the seemingly impossible, we depend on you to stay the course with us. Women can and will end this war.

With deep gratitude and hope,

CHRISTINE AHN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WOMEN CROSS DMZ

WomenCrossDMZ.org
EXPANDING OUR WORK: KOREA PEACE NOW! WOMEN MOBILIZING TO END THE WAR

In March 2019, Women Cross DMZ joined with the Nobel Women’s Initiative, Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, and the Korean Women’s Movement for Peace to officially launch Korea Peace Now! Women Mobilizing to End the War, a global campaign to educate, organize, and advocate for a Korea peace agreement.

By the end of 2020, the campaign aims to have made significant headway toward:

- A peace-building process towards a formal end to the Korean War, a Korea peace agreement, and normalized relations among the US, North Korea, and South Korea
- Tangible de-militarization including removal of landmines, reduction of bases/troops and steps towards denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula
- Women’s leadership and gender-based analysis in the Korea peace process
- Lifting of broad-based sanctions against North Korea, particularly those impacting humanitarian conditions
- Re-defining security from national security based on war and militarism to a feminist understanding of security centered on basic human needs and ecological sustainability

Opposite page: Ribbons bear messages of peace and love for separated family members on a barbed-wire fence at Imjingak Resort near the DMZ. Photo by David Guttenfelder

Education

As part of our mission to educate the public and policymakers about the need to end the war and advance a peace agreement that includes women, Women Cross DMZ has organized and spoken at events and press conferences, created fact sheets and videos, published several op-eds, and appeared in major media.

In September 2019, our delegation of women leaders from the US, South Korea, and Japan — including WCDMZ Co-Founder Gloria Steinem — went to South Korea to attend the DMZ Peace Forum and lead a workshop on “Women Crossing Borders: From the DMZ to the Women’s Peace Movement.”

We visited the DMZ and held a press conference in front of the US Embassy in Seoul to demand an end to the Korean War, to urge the US to stop impeding inter-Korean cooperation, and to call for women’s inclusion in the peace process. Our action was widely covered by South Korean media and internationally by CNN.

WomenCrossDMZ.org
## EVENTS WE PARTICIPATED IN

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>9.21-22.18</td>
<td>World Beyond War Annual Conference: Legalizing Peace, Toronto, ON</td>
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<td>11.14.18</td>
<td>Ploughshares Fund Nuclear Policy Conference, Washington, DC</td>
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<td>11.9-11.18</td>
<td>The 2018 Roundtable for Peace on Korean Peninsula The Carter Center, Atlanta, GA</td>
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<td>11.29.18</td>
<td>Overseas Base Realignment and Closure Coalition (OBRACC) Senate Launch Event, Washington, DC</td>
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<td>12.4.18</td>
<td>Northeast Asia Roundtable on Women, Peace and Security Beijing, China</td>
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<td>1.12.19</td>
<td>Women’s Empowerment Conference Empire State Plaza Convention Center, Albany, NY</td>
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<td>1.19.19</td>
<td>Women’s March Albany Albany, NY</td>
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<td>1.29.19</td>
<td>Roundtable with Representative Lee In-Young, floor leader of the South Korean Democratic Party in the Korean National Assembly Mansfield Foundation, Washington, DC</td>
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<td>2.2.19</td>
<td>Georgia Korea Peace Campaign Meeting Atlanta, GA</td>
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<td>3.11.19</td>
<td>Korea Peace Now! Women Mobilizing to End the War Campaign Launch South Korean women Parliamentarian delegation to Washington, NY, Ottawa</td>
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<td>3.12.19</td>
<td>Capitol Hill Briefing, Women Leading the Way for Peace in Korea U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC</td>
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<td>3.11-14.19</td>
<td>Korea Peace Network 2019 Advocacy Days Washington, DC</td>
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<td>3.13.19</td>
<td>CSW63 NGO Panel: Northeast Asia Women Lead New York, NY</td>
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<td>4.26.19</td>
<td>Association of Asian American Studies Conference Madison, WI</td>
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<td>4.26-27.19</td>
<td>DMZ International Peace Conference South Korea</td>
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<td>4.27.19</td>
<td>Korean DMZ People’s Peace Chain Movement Peace Nuri Road, DMZ, South Korea</td>
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<td>4.27.19</td>
<td>The Role of Women in Peacebuilding Along the DMZ Dallas, TX</td>
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<td>5.1.19</td>
<td>Ending America’s Longest War: Prospects for Peace with North Korea Scripps College, Claremont, CA</td>
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<td>5.24.19</td>
<td>South Korean Women’s Movement for Peace Campaign Launch Seoul, South Korea</td>
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<td>6.16.19</td>
<td>Beyond the Trump-Kim Summit: Getting to a “Peace Regime” in Korea Center for International Policy, Washington, DC</td>
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<td>7.26.19</td>
<td>From Armistice to Peace: Ending the 70 Year Korean War The People’s Forum, New York, NY</td>
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<td>7.27.19</td>
<td>Korea Peace at the Lowell Folk Festival Patrick J. Morgan Cultural Center, Lowell, MA</td>
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<td>7.27.19</td>
<td>From Armistice to Peace: How to End the Korean War The Korean American Association of Greater Atlanta, Norcross, GA</td>
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<td>7.19.19</td>
<td>Women and Building Peace with North Korea Sepulveda Peace Center, Los Angeles, CA</td>
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<td>9.19.19</td>
<td>Women Crossing Borders: From the DMZ to the Women’s Peace Movement KINTEX Exhibition Center, Gyeonggi-do, South Korea</td>
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<td>9.20.19</td>
<td>Korea Peace Now! Press Conference Gwanghwamun Plaza, Seoul, South Korea</td>
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<td>10.5.19</td>
<td>Peace Action New York State Student Leadership Conference Macaulay Honors College, NY</td>
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<td>11.5.19</td>
<td>Patriarchy, Gender, and Peace Geneva Peace Week, Geneva, Switzerland</td>
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<td>11.7.19</td>
<td>Physicians for Social Responsibility: Visionary Leaders Awards Symposium, Washington, DC</td>
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<td>11.8.19</td>
<td>Building Sustainable Peace: Ideas, Evidence, and Strategies Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN</td>
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<td>11.20.19</td>
<td>Pathways to Peace on the Korean Peninsula Emory University, Atlanta, GA</td>
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<td>11.20.19</td>
<td>Women Building Political Will for Peace with North Korea University of Hawai‘i, Manoa, Honolulu, HI</td>
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Top: WCDMZ Executive Director Christine Ahn speaks at the Council on Foreign Relations on October 31, 2019. Photo by Constance Faulk
Bottom: YWCA members at the Korean DMZ People’s Peace Chain Movement in South Korea on April 27, 2019.
Women Cross DMZ | Annual Report 2019

MEDIA COVERAGE OF OUR WORK


“It’s in everyone’s interest to forge a diplomatic path forward with North Korea. You don’t have to like Trump or Kim Jong Un to want their talks to garner results.

To be sure, there’s plenty about the nascent process to criticize. But it’s on all of us to envision and then to create the conditions for a more secure future, because there’s too much at stake to do otherwise.”

Elizabeth Beavers and Catherine Killough
op-ed in Newsweek, October 8, 2019

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“To convince somebody to put down a gun, you first have to convince them they will not be harmed. We need to establish peace first to create the necessary conditions for denuclearization.”

Christine Ahn and Gloria Steinem
op-ed in The Washington Post, February, 24, 2019

“Peace lays the foundation for a relationship between two historic enemies to address difficult matters. It isn’t a gift to North Korea or an endorsement of the government’s actions; peace is the means that allows us to achieve our goals.”

Christine Ahn, Abigail Disney, Suzy Kim, Gloria Steinem, Jody Williams
op-ed in TIME, July 8, 2019
Advocacy

Korea Peace Now! works to build political space for peace with North Korea, not just in the US but around the world. In the US, Women Cross DMZ worked with Rep. Ro Khanna (D-Calif.) to draft and introduce H. Res. 152, a Congressional resolution to end the Korean War with a peace agreement.

Our organizing is in large part responsible for mobilizing the 40 members of Congress — including leading women such as Barbara Lee, Jan Schakowsky, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, and Ilhan Omar — who have co-sponsored it as of this writing. Our team in Washington led by Elizabeth Beavers worked closely with Congressmembers to secure the first-ever congressional vote on ending the Korean War, as part of the House version of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2020.

WCDMZ circulates a monthly “Preventing Fire and Fury” memo to the Hill, a messaging guide on how to respond to the latest Korea news through a peace lens. With our beltway partners, WCDMZ distributed a memo for 2020 presidential candidates on pro-peace and pro-diplomacy policy positions on North Korea. We also lead a weekly advocacy strategy meeting with our DC-based partners and coordinate a “Korea Peace Champions” shared social media strategy to amplify each new Congressional co-sponsor of H. Res. 152.

As of this writing, we have conducted about 50 advocacy meetings with Hill offices. Our efforts are helping to disabuse long-held misinformation that stands in the way of peace with North Korea.

This spring we officially launched our campaign in Washington, New York, Ottawa and Seoul. With our campaign partners, US Nobel Peace Laureate Jody Williams and South Korean women Parliamentarians engaged with members of Congress and foreign policy experts in DC on the urgent need to end the Korean War.

Our delegation met with members of Congress to discuss how to advance a new US policy on North Korea, including at a breakfast roundtable with Reps. Barbara Lee and Jan Schakowsky. The delegation met with Sen. Bernie Sanders and urged him to introduce a Senate companion bill to H. Res. 152.

We also secured a strategic event at the Council on Foreign Relations where two South Korean Parliamentarians stressed the importance...
“When the history of the Arca Foundation is written, Women Cross DMZ will be a shining example of a grantee organization that made a difference in shifting an aggressive militaristic U.S. foreign policy towards peace and human dignity.”

Anna Lefer Kuhn,
Executive Director, Arca Foundation
of respecting the wishes of US allies by supporting the Korea peace process, which was heard by representatives from the Brookings Institute, RAND Corporation, and the Federation of American Scientists. Following our DC trip, Sen. Bernie Sanders featured WCDMZ’s Christine Ahn in a video on the need for peace in Korea and shared it with his 8.7 million followers on Twitter.

The Korea Peace Now! campaign also held events in New York City at the UN Commission on the Status of Women and the UN Correspondents’ Association, where we spread our messages to members of women’s movements and the media. We traveled to Ottawa, Canada, to call on the Canadian government to restore diplomatic relations with North Korea, ease restrictions on humanitarian aid, and advocate for women’s inclusion in the peace process.

In May, our campaign partners in South Korea held events in Seoul to officially launch the Korean Women’s Movement for Peace, a new coalition that consists of Korean Women’s Association United, Women Making Peace, National YWCA of Korea, and Korea Women’s Alliance.

In June 2019, we met with Stephen Biegun, US Special Representative for North Korea, as well as Moon Chung-in, Special Advisor to South Korean President Moon Jae-in for Foreign Affairs and National Security, on ways to advance the peace process. We now have established official channels of communication with all three governments: US, North Korea and South Korea.

Support for a peace agreement with North Korea among US voters

In order to change the political conversation in Washington for the US to reach a peace agreement with North Korea, WCDMZ recognizes the need for a tightly sequenced inside-outside strategy. Our Washington advocacy team led by Elizabeth Beavers and Catherine Killough works closely with our US National Organizer Hyun Lee, who organizes constituents from key regions around the country, to ensure our messages are aligned and are applying pressure in a strategic way.

In just nine months, Women Cross DMZ has organized teams of people in major cities across the country to reach out to their elected representatives and advocate for peace in Korea. We currently have chapters in ten regions: Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Denver, Honolulu, Los Angeles, New York, Philadelphia, the San Francisco Bay Area, and Washington, DC. These teams are comprised of multi-generational Korean Americans and activists from peace, anti-war and interfaith groups.

On July 27, 2019, the 66th anniversary of the signing of the Korean War Armistice, WCDMZ coordinated a national action with public events and in-district meetings with members of Congress. On October 8, 2019, we organized a national call-in day for Korea peace with our allies, including the American Friends Service Committee, Code Pink, Korea Peace Network, Mennonite Central Committee, Peace Treaty Now, United for Peace and Justice, and Win Without War.

On the international level, we coordinated high-profile letter campaigns throughout the year and continued to strengthen relations with women’s groups from North Korea, South Korea and elsewhere.

In December 2018, Korea Peace Now! organized a historic meeting of women peacemakers from Northeast Asia in Beijing, China, to discuss women’s leadership in building peace in Korea and in the region. It was the first time ever that women peace activists came together from North Korea, South Korea, China, Russia, US, and Japan to begin exploring how to learn from other conflicts where women mobilized and advocated for their inclusion in the peace process, which ultimately led to more durable peace agreements.
“Through the dedicated, effective work of Women Cross DMZ the issue of a peace agreement between North Korea and the United States has moved from the backburner of policy debate to the front of mind.

They have convincingly demonstrated that we cannot end North Korea’s nuclear program without a comprehensive peace.”

Joe Cirincione
President, Ploughshares Fund
The number of countries represented at the Northeast Asia Roundtable in December 2018 in Beijing, China. We convened 30 women peacebuilders from North Korea, South Korea, US, China, Japan, Russia and Canada to learn and share strategies to advance women’s participation in the peace process.

67% The percentage of American voters who support negotiating a peace agreement with North Korea. The poll, released by Data for Progress and YouGov in October 2019, showed that support is highest among Republicans (76%), followed by Independents/Others (64%), and Democrats (63%).

$3,000,000 The amount of dollars that Women Cross DMZ has leveraged since 2014 from individuals, foundations, churches, businesses and other supporters for building peace in Korea.
The number of co-sponsors of House Resolution 152 calling for an end to the Korean War (as of Nov. 1, 2019). Working with Rep. Ro Khanna (D-Calif.), Women Cross DMZ gave substantial input on H. Res. 152, which is supported by leading women including Barbara Lee, Jan Schakowsky, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Ilhan Omar, and others.

The number of calls and emails, respectively, made to members of Congress in October 2019 during a National Call-in Day for Korea Peace, organized by Women Cross DMZ and several national peace organizations.

The number of years it took Congress to vote on ending the Korean War after the Armistice Agreement was signed. In July 2019, the House of Representatives adopted — in the first vote of its kind — an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act calling for a formal end to the war.
REVENUES:

Thanks to the continued generosity of our supporters, Women Cross DMZ had a banner year for fundraising. We raised $644,000 while managing to keep our operational expenses lean at $458,000.

WCDMZ received $250,000 of a $1 million grant from the NoVo Foundation’s Radical Hope Fund to support our Korea Peace Now! campaign with three coalition partners, which we used to build a stellar national team to advance peace in Korea.

We ended FY 2019 with a healthy $185,000 surplus, which we have earmarked for reserves and ongoing program activities, allowing us to pursue our ambitious goals into FY 2020. In FY 2019 we received 115 individual gifts ranging from $25 to $20,000. We are immensely grateful for each of these gifts, which makes our broad-based work possible.

EXPENSES:

Ninety-six percent of dollars raised were dedicated to WCDMZ’s program activities: education, advocacy, and organizing for Korea peace. The bulk of these expenses supports our team of excellent organizers, researchers, and communications experts.

They are regularly on the road to attend meetings and speak at conferences, to educate policymakers and the public, and to advocate for a peace agreement with North Korea. For a full list of our speaking engagements and media appearances, see pages 6-8.

With our donors’ critical support, we brought on:

- Hyun Lee, US National Organizer
- Kathleen Richards, Media and Communications Director
- Elizabeth Beavers, Advocacy Advisor
- Catherine Killough, Advocacy and Leadership Coordinator
- Sophie Kim, Research and Administrative Assistant
Who We Are

ADVISORS

Kozue Akibayashi
Professor, Doshisha University, Women’s International League for Peace & Freedom, Japan

Coleen Baik
Former Senior Designer, Twitter, USA

Medea Benjamin
Co-founder, Code Pink, USA

Liz Bernstein
Executive Director, Nobel Women’s Initiative, Canada

Marie Berry
University of Denver, Inclusive Global Leadership Institute, USA

Gay Dillingham
Filmmaker, USA

Abigail Disney
Filmmaker and Philanthropist, USA

Cynthia Enloe
Professor, Clark University, USA

Jodie Evans
Co-founder, Code Pink, USA

Ewa Eriksson Fortier
Retired Humanitarian Aid Worker, Sweden

Meri Joyce
Peace Boat, Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict NE Asia Regional Coordinator, Australia/Japan

Eleanna Kim
Professor, University of California, Irvine, USA

Suzy Kim
Professor, Rutgers University, USA

Namhee Lee
Professor, University of California, Los Angeles, USA

Sung-ok Lee
Secretary General, United Methodist Women, USA

M. Brinton Lykes
Professor, Boston University, Center for Human Rights, USA

Mairead Maguire
1976 Nobel Peace Laureate, Northern Ireland

Liza Maza
Gabriela Women’s Alliance, Philippines

Lisa Natividad
Guahan Coalition for Peace & Justice, Guahan

Hye-Jung Park
Media Activist, USA

Jay Song
Professor, University of Melbourne, Australia

Gloria Steinem
Feminist Author and Activist, USA

Yifat Susskind
Executive Director, MADRE, USA

Alice Walker
Author and Activist, USA

Cora Weiss
Representative to the UN, International Peace Bureau, USA

Cindy Wiesner
Coordinator, Grassroots Global Justice, USA

Ji-Yeon Yuh
Professor, Northwestern University, USA

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Kathleen Ok-soo Richards
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Advisor on Advocacy

Catherine Killough
Advocacy & Leadership Coordinator

Susan Yohn
Administrative & Financial Director

Jacquelyn Wells
Social Media & Admin. Coordinator

Margaret Gerhart
Designer

Yeonhee Sophie Kim
Administrative & Research Assistant

WomenCrossDMZ.org
NEXT STEPS:

- **February 2020 Roundtable on Generating Movement-Driven Foreign Policy for Peace** with MADRE and Grassroots Global Justice Alliance at the Pocantico Center of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, New York.

- **Spring 2020 Northeast Asia Women Peace and Security Roundtable in Stockholm, Sweden** with women from North Korea, South Korea, China, Russia, Japan and the US. Supported by Canadian government, endorsed by Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

- **March 2020 Korea Peace Now! National Grassroots** convening in Washington, DC.

- **Spring 2020 release of Crossings documentary film** by Deann Borshay Liem about 2015 DMZ peace walk and global movement of women mobilizing to end the Korean War. WCDMZ is partnering with the independent filmmaker to develop an educational curriculum to accompany the film, launch an advocacy strategy to target key institutions (government, academic, policy), and organize community screenings nationwide.

- **May 2020 Women’s Peace Walk + DMZ Crossing** on International Women’s Day for Peace and Disarmament.

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INDIVIDUAL DONORS 2018-19


INSTITUTIONAL DONORS 2018-19


*Special thanks to Edward Krauland and Elizabeth LaRocca & Steptoe Johnson, LLP for providing pro bono legal services.*