

For Immediate Release

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WEC Selects Cooley LLP as its 2022 Champion for Immigrants

Washington, D.C. - Washington English Center (WEC), a nonprofit that provides affordable English-language instruction and workforce programs to adult immigrants using volunteers, is pleased to announce the selection of **Cooley LLP** as the recipient of its **2022 Champion for Immigrants Award**.

[Cooley](#)—an international law firm and one of *Fortune*'s “Best Companies To Work For”—is a tireless supporter of immigrants in and around the DC area. The firm “empowers individuals to seek justice and opportunity, and provides nonprofit organizations with the tools they need to effect change and support underserved communities,” which includes a powerful history of supporting the work of organizations that offer aid to immigrants and refugees in the nation’s capital, including WEC.

“Cooley is humbled and honored to receive the 2022 Washington English Center Champion for Immigrants Award. The mission, engagement, focus and dedication of the Washington English Center staff and Board have been very impressive during this pandemic, and Cooley’s role assisting in the execution and realization of that critical strategy has been rewarding on so many levels,” said Cooley partner Jack Lavoie. “We are very proud to acknowledge that Cooley shares so many organizational and cultural goals and values with the Washington English Center.”

By working alongside firms such as Cooley, WEC advances its mission of providing affordable English-language instruction and workforce programs to immigrants through the use of over 1,100 volunteers annually. By serving students from over 100 countries, in 22 states (including DC), as well as refugees migrating to the U.S. as they escape political strife, economic hardship, and natural disasters, WEC’s focus is clear: to embrace immigrants from anywhere in the world and support them in achieving their goals.

“It is so fitting that Cooley was selected to receive this award in a year marked by adaptability and by empathy. As we continue to welcome students, including many recent Afghan refugees, into WEC’s community, Cooley has been a partner at every step,” said Washington English Center executive director, John Odenwelder. “Their *pro bono* team helped WEC weigh its virtual and in-person options in an unpredictable year. They also consistently demonstrated a deep respect for WEC’s mission and for the diverse immigrant communities we serve, even as they provided excellent advice and counsel.”

The **2022 Champion for Immigrant Award** will be presented to Cooley during WEC’s Welcoming the World event on Monday, May 16, from 6:30-8:30 P.M. The event will take place at Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater. For more information, visit <https://www.washingtonenglish.org/welcoming-the-world/>.

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Cooley partners with local and national legal services organizations to represent hundreds of pro bono clients annually. Through its pro bono work, Cooley empowers individuals to seek

justice and opportunity, and provides nonprofit organizations with the tools they need to effect change and support underserved communities.

Cooley has 1,500 lawyers across 17 offices in the United States, Asia and Europe.

WEC provides affordable English-language instruction and workforce programs to adult immigrants using volunteers through in-person classes and on Zoom, helping support students around the country and the world. Learn more at www.washingtonenglish.org.