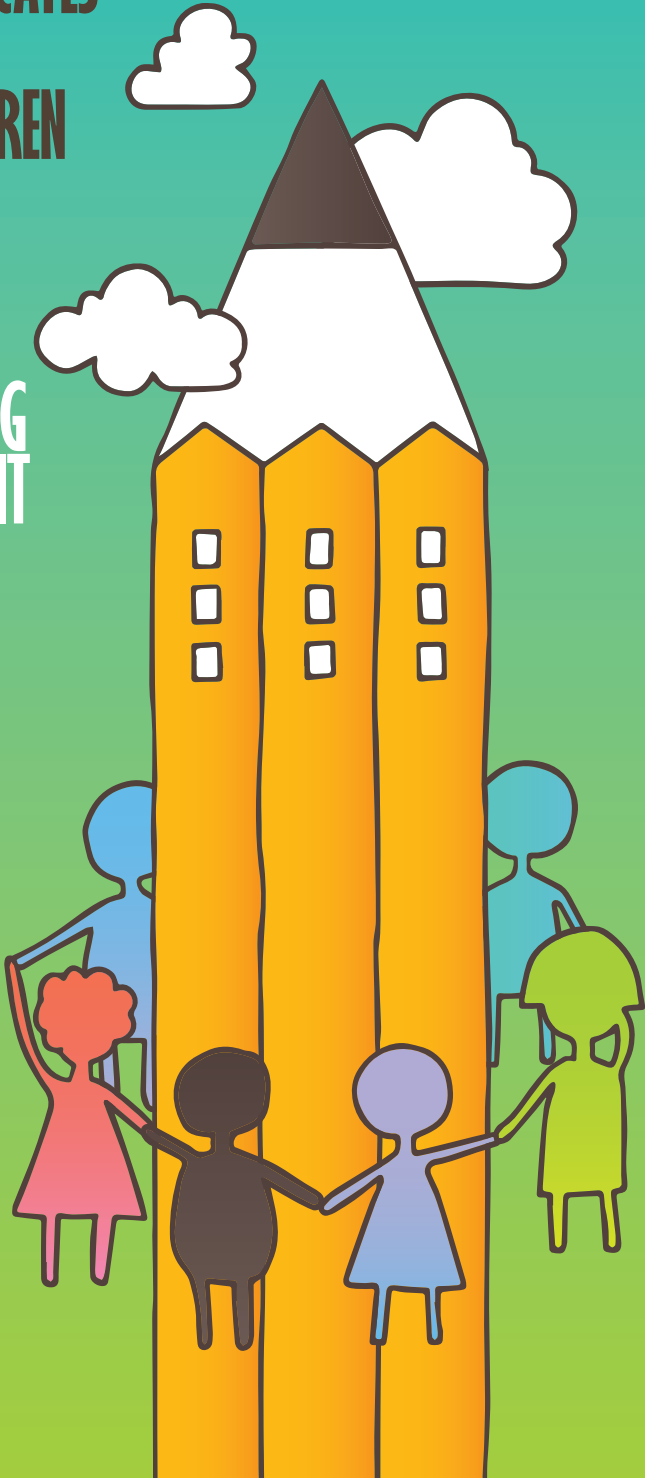


**ADVOCATES
FOR
CHILDREN
OF
NEW
YORK
SPRING
BENEFIT
2018**



Thank you to
the staff of
Advocates
for Children of
New York, for
your unwavering
dedication to
securing a quality
public education
for New York
City's children
and youth.

—AFC's Board of Directors



**ADVOCATES
FOR
CHILDREN
OF
NEW
YORK
SPRING
BENEFIT**

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 2018

6:00 pm
Cocktail Reception

7:15 pm
Presentations



Welcome
Eric F. Grossman
Board President
Advocates for Children of New York

Remarks
Kim Sweet
Executive Director
Advocates for Children of New York



Awards Presentation

THE JILL CHAIFETZ AWARD

Bonnie Hammer
Chairman, NBCUniversal
Cable Entertainment and Studios

THE EDUCATION CHAMPION AWARD

Manuel De Jesus Figueroa
High School Student and AFC Client

PRESENTED BY

Hoda Kotb
Co-Anchor, NBC News' TODAY



Closing Remarks
Kimberley D. Harris
Board Member
Advocates for Children of New York

Gena Miller
Greenberg Traurig Equal Justice Works
Fellow, AFC's School Justice Project

Welcome to Advocates for Children of New York's 2018 Spring Benefit! Thank you for being here with us tonight.

For nearly five decades, AFC has been the leading advocate for education of New York City's most disadvantaged children. When families face barriers to getting their children what they need to succeed in school, it is AFC they turn to. The children AFC fights for have the potential to succeed, but require additional support. Many of these children have disabilities or are homeless or in foster care; many are learning English or adjusting to a new country; others are involved in the court system. To have AFC on their side, protecting their right to an education that meets their learning needs, can mean the difference between a life filled with possibility and one without.

Thank you to our generous Sponsors, who have donated an astounding \$2.1 million to support AFC in the coming year! Gratitude also goes to my Co-Chairs for all you have done to make this evening a success. Congratulations to Bonnie Hammer and Manuel De Jesus Figueroa. Thank you for allowing us to honor you tonight.

None of AFC's work would be possible without its phenomenal staff, who give new meaning to the terms "relentless" and "dedicated." Praise goes as well to our Executive Director, Kim Sweet, for continuing to lead AFC with such purpose and passion. Finally, I am so appreciative of each of AFC's pro bono partners, our Flagship Firms, and my colleagues on the Board and Junior Board of AFC for their commitment and service. Simply put: we could not do this work without each and every one of you!

Thank you, everyone, for helping to keep AFC strong. Enjoy!



Eric F. Grossman

*President
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as of May 30, 2018

Hoda Kotb is the co-anchor of NBC News' TODAY and co-host of the fourth hour of NBC News' TODAY alongside Kathie Lee Gifford. Since joining NBC in 1998, Ms. Kotb has served as a correspondent for Dateline, where she has covered a wide variety of domestic, international, and human-interest stories and features, including Hurricane Katrina, the war in Iraq, the conflict in the West Bank and Gaza, the War on Terror in Afghanistan, and the 2018, 2016 and 2012 Olympics.

A *New York Times* bestselling author, Hoda Kotb has written four books: *I've Loved You Since Forever*; *Hoda: How I Survived War Zones, Bad Hair, Cancer and Kathie Lee*; *Ten Years Later: Six People Who Faced Adversity and Transformed Their Lives*; and *Where We Belong*, which was released in January 2016. Ms. Kotb is a nine-year breast cancer survivor and is involved in several initiatives to raise awareness about the disease.

In 2016, Ms. Kotb was recognized with a Gracie Award for *The Hoda Show* on SiriusXM. She received both a Gracie Award and a Webby Award in 2015, for her *Truly Brave* music video about pediatric cancer. She received additional Gracie awards in 2008 and 2003, the Alfred I. duPont–Columbia University Award in 2008, a Peabody Award in 2006 for her report *The Education of Ms. Groves*, and a 2002 Edward R. Murrow Award. Ms. Kotb was awarded Daytime Emmys in 2010, 2011, and 2012, as part of *TODAY's* recognition as the best morning news program.

Prior to joining NBC News, Ms. Kotb worked as an anchor and reporter at WWL-TV in New Orleans (1992-1998) and WINK-TV in Fort Myers, Florida (1989-1991).

Ms. Kotb graduated from Virginia Tech University with a Bachelor of Arts in broadcast journalism. She welcomed daughter Haley Joy in February 2017 and resides in New York City.



Hoda Kotb
Co-Anchor, NBC
News' TODAY

As Chairman of NBCUniversal Cable Entertainment and Studios, Bonnie Hammer has executive oversight of USA Network, SYFY, Bravo, Oxygen, E!, Universal Cable Productions, Wilshire Studios, and digital businesses Craftsy and Priv. Her portfolio has emerged as an industry forerunner and is one of the most successful divisions of NBCUniversal.

The Hollywood Reporter has named Ms. Hammer the “Most Powerful Woman in Entertainment” and she is regularly featured on its annual “Power 100” list. She also appears among *Fortune’s* “50 Most Powerful Women,” *Forbes’* list of “The World’s 100 Most Powerful Women” and *Vanity Fair’s* “New Establishment” list.

Ms. Hammer has a long history of commitment to social issues and recently relaunched her Emmy award-winning social impact campaign *Erase The Hate*. The campaign has been reinvented for today’s world to encourage a new generation to take action against hate, intolerance and inequality in America.

Ms. Hammer is the recipient of numerous honors and awards including: UJA Federation of New York’s Steven J. Ross Humanitarian Award; New York Women in Communications’ Matrix Award; Women in Film’s Crystal+Lucy Award; the Anti-Defamation League’s Entertainment Industry Award; and NATPE’s Brandon Tartikoff Legacy Award.

Ms. Hammer serves on the Board of Directors of eBay and IAC/InteractiveCorp, and on the strategic planning committee for Boston University’s College of Communication.

Ms. Hammer holds a bachelor’s degree in communications and a master’s degree in media and new technology from Boston University. She also received an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters upon delivering the commencement address to Boston University’s graduating class of 2017.



Bonnie Hammer
*Chairman,
NBCUniversal
Cable Entertainment
and Studios*

Manuel De Jesus Figueroa, “Manny,” is a high school senior on the autism spectrum. Manny arrived in New York City from Florida when he was in the 5th grade. Although Manny was mandated to receive speech, occupational, and physical therapies, he did not progress. He was taunted by his peers, misunderstood by his teachers, and neglected by an administration that did nothing to address mounting warning signs.

Manny’s mother, Caroline Figueroa, has always believed in Manny’s ability to succeed in school. Faced with Manny’s school trauma and the Department of Education’s (DOE’s) inability to offer an appropriate program, she knew she had to take action. A DOE psychologist secretly told Ms. Figueroa to call AFC, and the tide started to turn for Manny.

AFC worked quickly, obtaining Manny’s admission to the sixth grade at Gersh Academy, a private school for students on the autism spectrum, and won an impartial hearing awarding full tuition and compensatory services for Manny. The next year, Jon Cyprys, an attorney with Greenberg Traurig, became pro bono co-counsel. Jon has worked with AFC to represent Manny’s interests, securing tuition for the past six years, including funding for meal reimbursements.

Throughout his academic career—despite living in temporary housing, illness in his family, and stresses of the unknown—Manny has persevered and blossomed in his education. This month, Manny will graduate with a Regents diploma and is off to Hostos Community College, where he will study digital design and animation. AFC is both proud and thrilled to award our 2018 Education Champion Award to Manuel De Jesus Figueroa.



Manuel De Jesus Figueroa
High School Student
& AFC Client

“AFC changed my life for the better.”

**Thanks to the members of our Leadership Circle
for their multi-year commitments to support and sustain our work.**

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ABOVE PHOTO
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JOCELYN LEE

Since 1971, AFC has been speaking out for the children and youth who are at greatest risk for failure or discrimination in school because of their poverty, race, disability, immigrant or English Language Learner status, sexual orientation, gender identity, homelessness, or involvement in the foster care or juvenile justice systems. No other city-wide organization is like AFC: working in the trenches to provide these vulnerable students and their families with urgently needed guidance and advocacy, while at the same time, pressing for systemic reforms that benefit all students, even those who are most challenging to educate. Our efforts on the individual and policy levels inform and strengthen each other, further increasing our effectiveness for the communities we serve.

FOR OVER FOUR DECADES ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN OF NEW YORK HAS MADE COUNTLESS FUTURES BRIGHTER

By Solving Problems for Parents in Need:

Any parent of a New York City public school student knows how difficult it can be to navigate a school system that has 1.1 million children. Our Jill Chaifetz Education Helpline is a crucial resource for New York families having problems with special education, transportation, school suspensions, transfers, and more. Our experienced lawyers and advocates work with parents to get their children the educational support they need in school.

By Sharing Our Unique Expertise in Education Advocacy:

We know that one of the best ways to reach the most isolated students is to collaborate with other organizations that serve them. AFC is currently partnering with twenty organizations funded by the Robin Hood Foundation in areas like child welfare, juvenile justice, and domestic violence. In addition, AFC's highly skilled staff can be found in foster care agencies and community-based organizations across the five boroughs, sharing their expertise in educational advocacy, providing legal representation to families, and helping these partners build their capacity to advocate for the educational needs of the children they serve.



CHEICK, AGE 20

**ADVOCATES
FOR
CHILDREN
AT A
GLANCE**

By Understanding and Addressing the Education-Related Challenges Confronting the City's Most Vulnerable Children:

AFC proudly serves on the frontlines of the fight to champion the education-related rights of children and youth who are most likely to experience failure or discrimination in school because of factors beyond their control.



WAYRA, AGE 5

CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

AFC's multi-pronged approach is a model for education advocacy throughout the city and state. First, we provide one-on-one legal representation and advocacy to help low-income families of children with disabilities get the educational services and support they need. Second, we offer free workshops throughout the city to bring training, information, and direct assistance on the education system to parents and the

professionals who work with them. Third, we address systemic problems with the education of students with disabilities through our policy work and when necessary, federal litigation. And finally, we coordinate and lead a collaborative effort called the ARISE Coalition, which brings together more than sixty different organizations and individuals to press for policy change to benefit children with disabilities in the New York City schools.



IMMIGRANT STUDENTS & ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

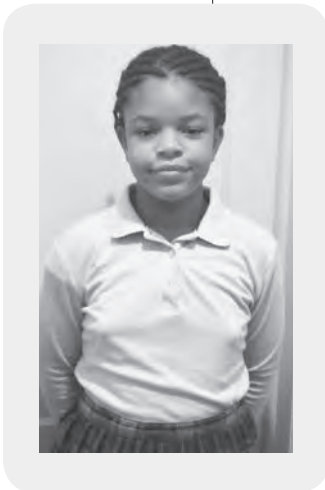
AFC's bilingual project staff advocates on behalf of individual parents and their children, trains parents and community-based organizations serving immigrant families on education-related rights, monitors access to interpreters and translated materials in the city's schools, and collaborates with other groups to support communities seeking to improve outcomes for immigrants and English Language Learners.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

AFC's Early Childhood Education Project provides individual case assistance, community education, and policy advocacy to improve access to early childhood education for low-income children, ages 0–5, so that children can enter kindergarten prepared to succeed.

RECIPIENT OF THE
2016 EDUCATION
CHAMPION AWARD,
YSHAMAR GESTINE,
RECORDING AN
INTERVIEW WITH
HODA KOTB,
CO-ANCHOR OF
NBC NEWS' TODAY.

ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN AT A GLANCE



VALER E, AGE 12

CHILDREN IN THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM

AFC's Project Achieve advocates for the educational needs of children in or at risk of placement in foster care while building capacity in the agencies that serve them. Project staff operates satellite offices in child welfare agencies, providing on-site assistance and training to caseworkers, birth parents, and foster parents so that they can address the education-related issues affecting their children. Project staff also conducts policy advocacy on the city and state levels to improve educational outcomes for students in foster care.

STUDENTS FACING DISCIPLINARY ISSUES & COURT-INVOLVED YOUTH

AFC's School Justice Project (SJP) provides case advocacy and legal representation to address the educational needs of youth facing school suspension or court involvement. Through relationships built with social services agencies, community-based organizations, and community courts, project staff are able to reach the students who often fall through the cracks. The project also provides trainings and technical assistance to parents, young people, and the professionals who work with them. Finally, project staff advocate for systemic reform with respect to school discipline and school climate, as well as the education of court-involved youth.

STUDENTS IN TEMPORARY HOUSING

AFC operates the New York State Technical and Education Assistance Center for Homeless Students (NYS-TEACHS), which focuses on building the capacity of school districts throughout the state to improve educational opportunities for homeless children and youth.

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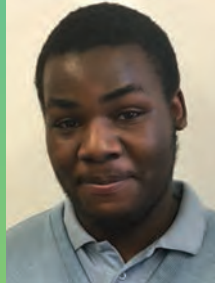
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**MANUEL DE JESUS
FIGUEROA
2018**



**JULIAN
CENTENO
2017**




**YSHAMAR
GESTINE
2016**



**ASHA
JOHNSON-STEPTOE
2015**



**AYANNA
JOHNSON S.
2015**



Davis Polk is proud to join
Advocates for Children
of New York in honoring
Bonnie Hammer and
Manuel De Jesus Figueroa.

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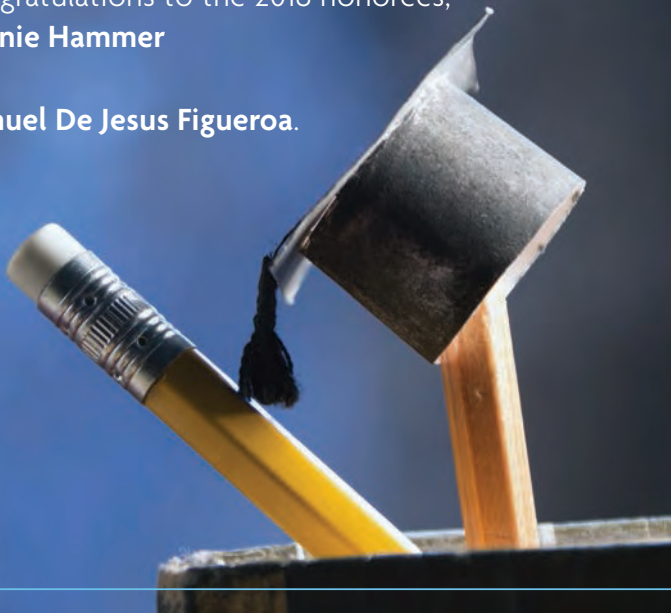
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Greenberg Traurig proudly supports **Advocates for Children of New York** and its mission to protect every child's right to an education through advocacy and legal services.

Congratulations to the 2018 honorees,
Bonnie Hammer
and
Manuel De Jesus Figueroa.



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Morgan Stanley is proud to support

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and congratulates honorees

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Chairman, NBCUniversal Cable Entertainment and Studios

2018 Recipient of The Jill Chaifetz Award

and

Manuel De Jesus Figueroa

High School Student and AFC Client

2018 Recipient of The Education Champion Award

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A class act.

Congratulations to our friend and colleague
Bonnie Hammer on tonight's distinguished award.

Honored to support
Advocates for Children
of New York

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and congratulates this evening's honorees

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Manuel De Jesus Figueroa

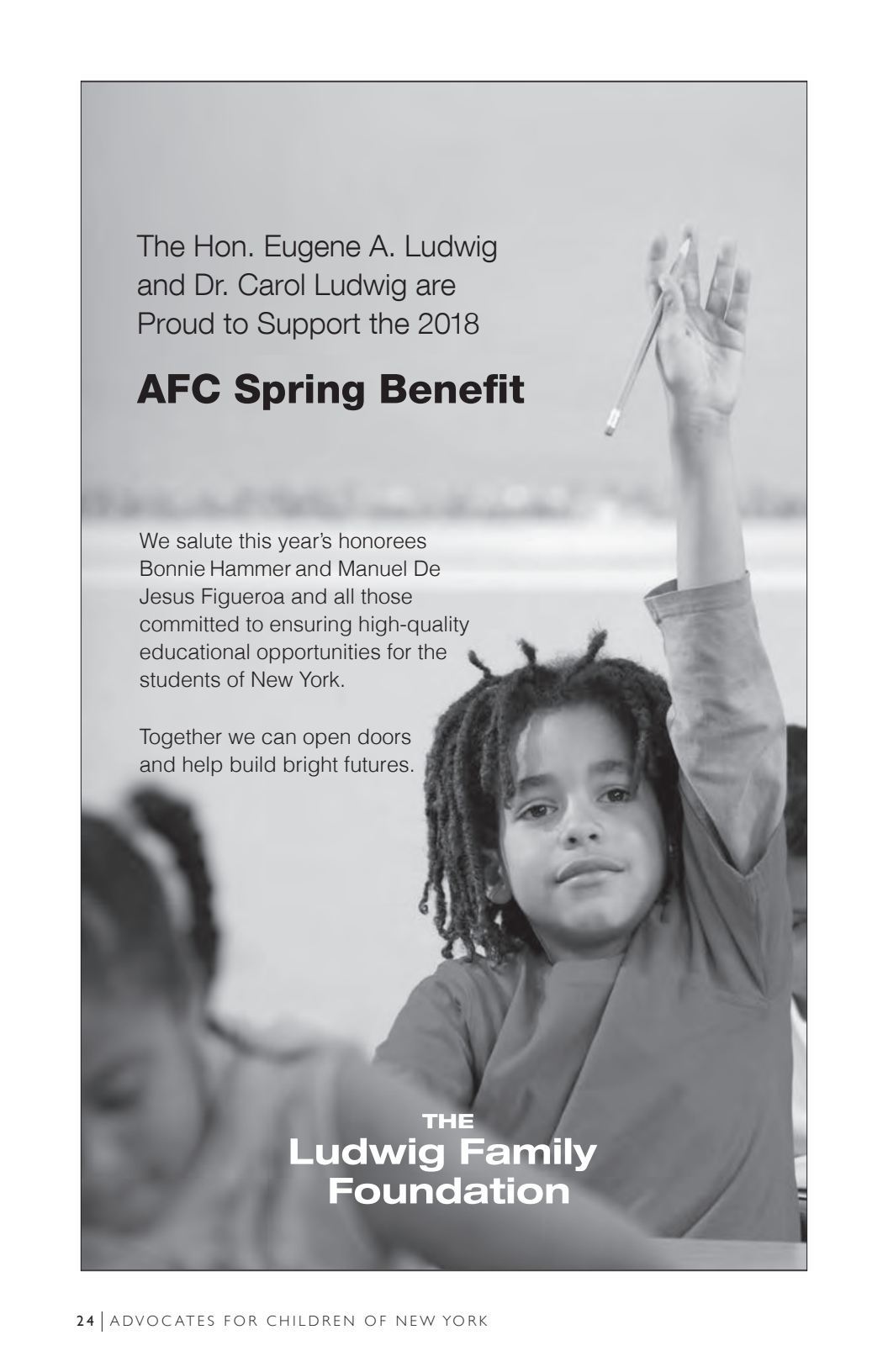
High School Student and AFC Client
2018 Recipient of the Education Champion Award

Akin Gump

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A black and white photograph of a young child with braids, wearing a light-colored shirt, raising their right hand in a classroom setting. The child is holding a pencil between their fingers. The background is slightly blurred, showing other students and a classroom environment.

The Hon. Eugene A. Ludwig
and Dr. Carol Ludwig are
Proud to Support the 2018

AFC Spring Benefit

We salute this year's honorees
Bonnie Hammer and Manuel De
Jesus Figueroa and all those
committed to ensuring high-quality
educational opportunities for the
students of New York.

Together we can open doors
and help build bright futures.

THE
**Ludwig Family
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and warmly congratulates tonight's honorees

Bonnie Hammer

CHAIRMAN, NBCUNIVERSAL CABLE ENTERTAINMENT AND STUDIOS

and

Manuel De Jesus Figueroa

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PwC is proud to support Eric Grossman of Morgan Stanley and Advocates for Children of New York in their vital mission to ensure high-quality education for New York students who face barriers to academic success.

We extend a special congratulations to Bonnie Hammer, Chairman, NBCUniversal Cable Entertainment and Studios, recipient of the 2018 Jill Chaifetz Award.

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and congratulate honorees

**Bonnie Hammer and
Manuel De Jesus Figueroa**

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Congratulations

We are pleased to support
Advocates for Children of New York
and congratulate tonight's
honorees, Bonnie Hammer and
Manuel De Jesus Figueroa.

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and we salute

**ERIC GROSSMAN,
STEVEN REICH,** and

**2018 JILL CHAIFETZ AWARD RECIPIENT
BONNIE HAMMER**

for their longstanding support of AFC
and their ongoing commitment to
helping children with special needs



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We congratulate this year's honorees:

▪ **BONNIE HAMMER**

Chairman, NBCUniversal Cable Entertainment and Studios

The Jill Chaifetz Award

▪ **MANUEL DE JESUS FIGUEROA**

High School Student and AFC Client

Education Champion Award

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We Proudly Support

Advocates for Children of New York

and Congratulate This Year's Honorees

Bonnie Hammer

*Chairman, NBCUniversal Cable
Entertainment and Studios*

Recipient of the Jill Chaifetz Award

and

Manuel De Jesus Figueroa

High School Student and AFC Client

Recipient of the Education Champion Award

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We congratulate
tonight's honorees,
Bonnie Hammer and
Manuel De Jesus Figueroa.

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Making a difference

WilmerHale proudly supports the Advocates for Children of New York Spring Benefit 2018 and applauds AFC's mission to ensure a high-quality education for New York students who face barriers to academic success.

Congratulations to tonight's honorees Bonnie Hammer and Manuel De Jesus Figueroa.

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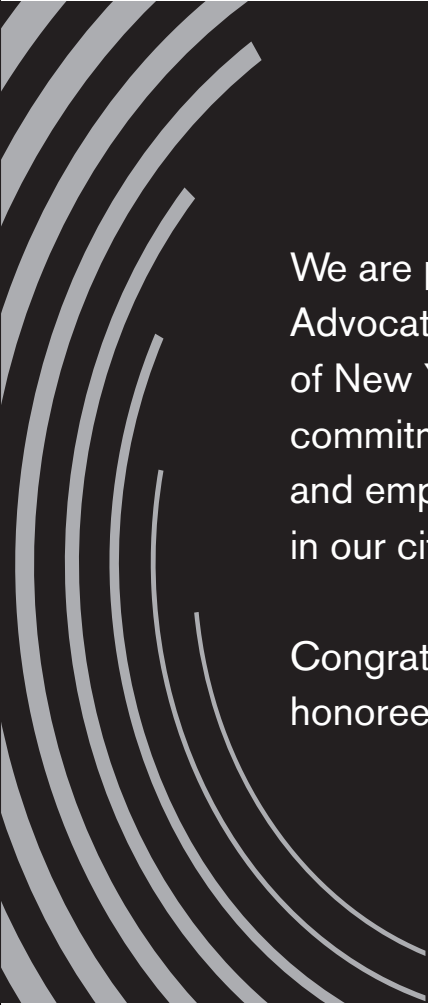
Bonnie Hammer of NBC Universal Cable Entertainment
and Studios, 2018 recipient of The Jill Chafetz Award

Manuel De Jesus Figueroa, High School Student and AFC
Client, 2018 Recipient of the Education Champion Award

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We are proud to support
Advocates for Children
of New York and its
commitment to protecting
and empowering students
in our city.

Congratulations to this year's
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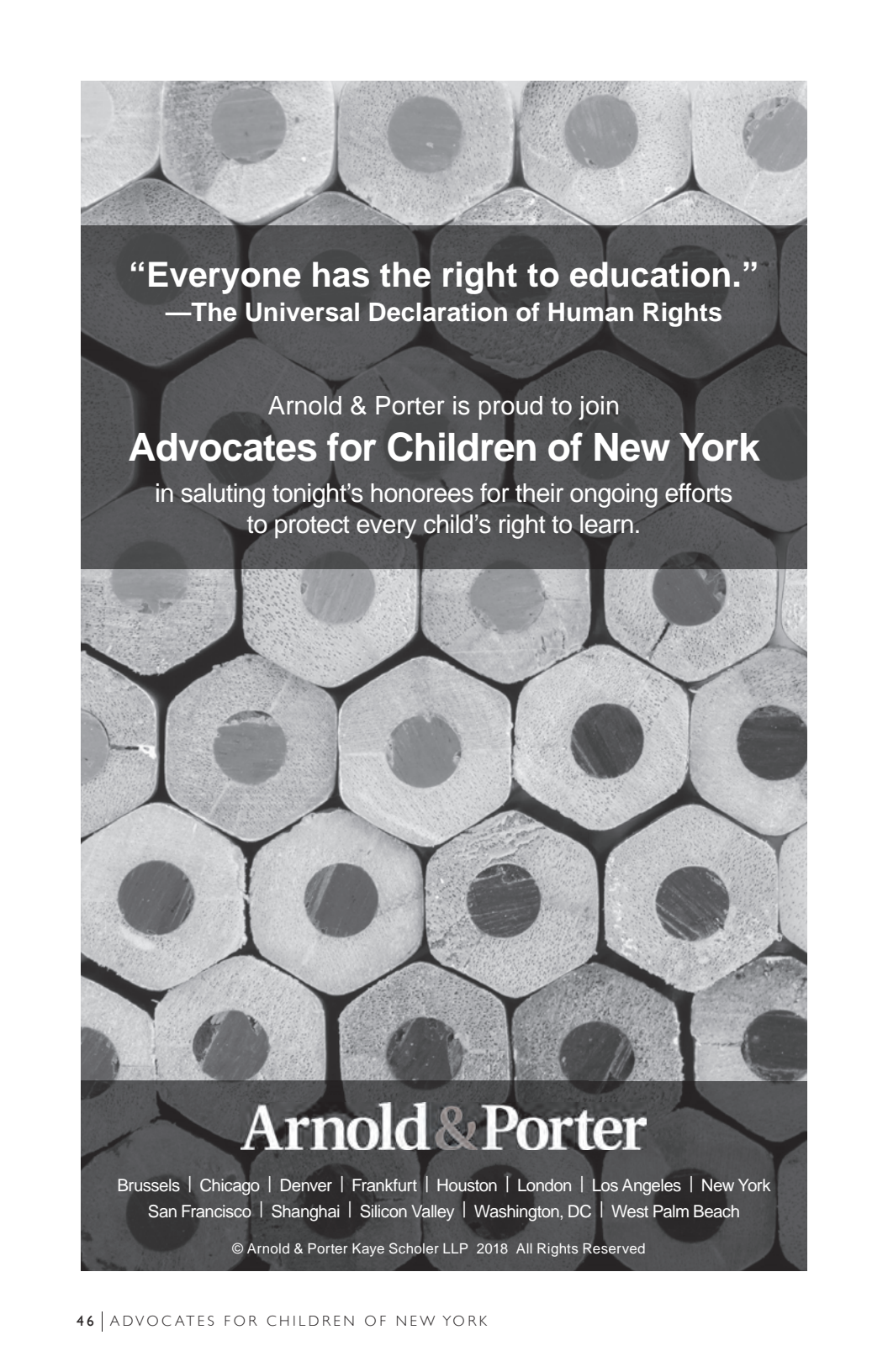
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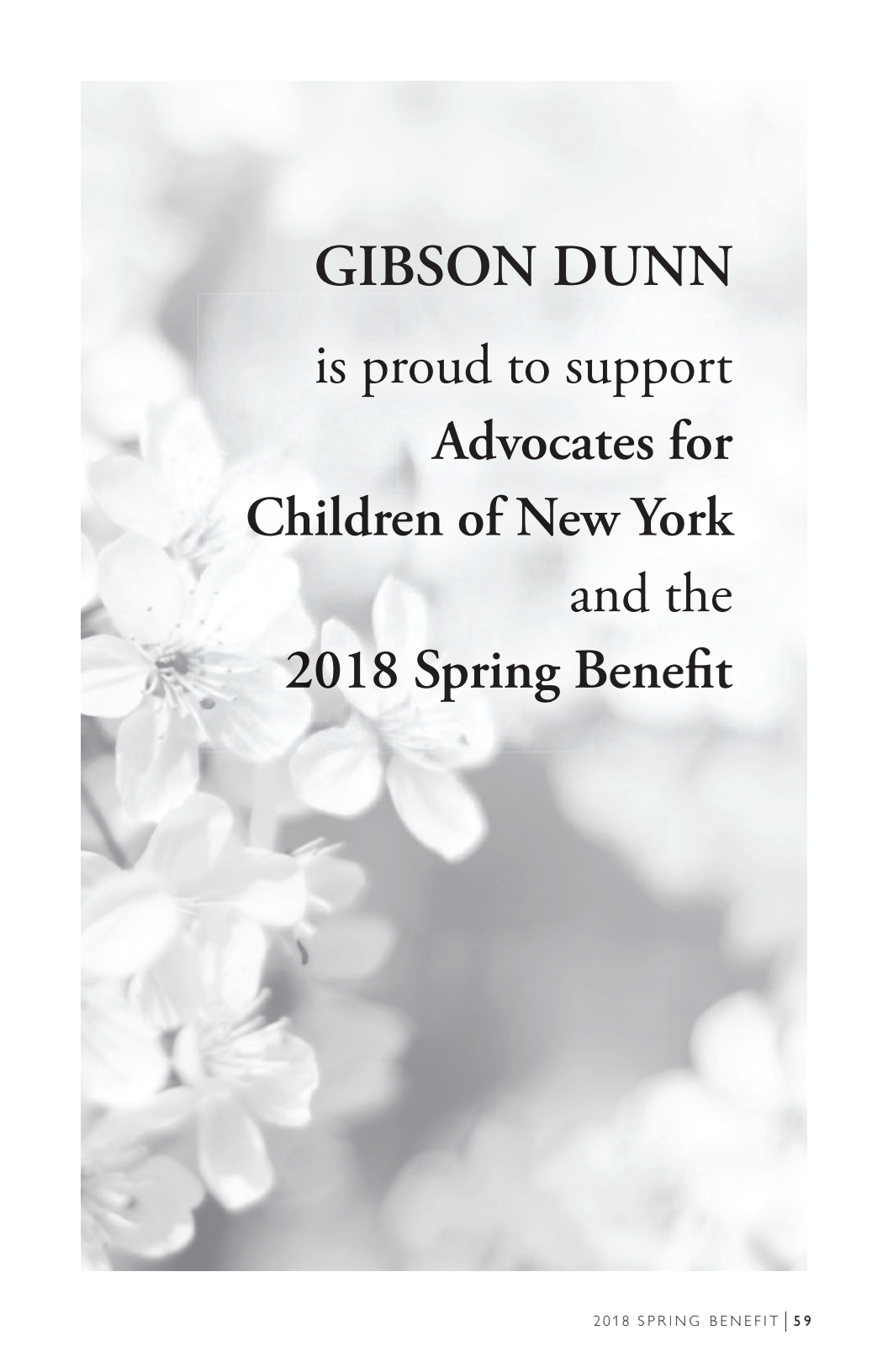
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