

AS SEEN IN
Forbes & Fortune

D.C. LEADERS IN LAW



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: NATALIE WALKER, PARTNER; BRUCE FREDRICKSON, FOUNDING MEMBER; WENDELL WEBSTER, FOUNDING MEMBER; AND GEOFFREY SIMPSON, PARTNER.

Legal Lifelines

A 40-year landmark within the Washington, D.C., legal community, Webster & Fredrickson, PLLC levels the playing field for individuals in whistleblower, bankruptcy, and workplace discrimination disputes.

Since whistleblowers gained legal protection in 1778, the United States has become safer and fairer. Unfortunately, those who bravely expose hidden dangers still do so at great risk.

"Whistleblowers are most often motivated by a heartfelt desire to protect the public but may be retaliated against, including being demoted, fired, or worse," says Geoffrey Simpson, partner at Webster & Fredrickson, PLLC. "If you see something, say something, isn't always the best advice. For example, someone who observes a food safety issue at a local restaurant has different protections than those who report wrongdoing involving government agencies. Moving ahead without legal guidance may leave informants vulnerable to retaliation."

This applies just as much to workplace

discrimination, which is why Webster & Fredrickson attorneys are also champions of equity in the workplace.

Discriminatory practices in the workplace have become far more subtle, and harder to claim. Managers may be highly motivated to protect themselves and the company, and, depending on the circumstance and local jurisdiction, a complainant may not have protection. For instance, without assertions of discrimination based on race, sex, age, or other protected groups, there may be no case at all.

"Justice cannot prevail without a lawyer with the legal knowledge and skills to convince judges and jurors," says Simpson, who has represented clients before administrative agencies and in federal and local courts since 2006. "We can help them decide which strategy is in their best interest."

BREAKING THE BONDS OF DEBT

The end of COVID-19-related aid programs coupled with rapidly rising costs are creating a heavy debt load for an increasing number of households and businesses—most through no fault of their own. Bankruptcy can be an underutilized financial lifeline to a fresh start.

"Bankruptcy stops creditors from wiping debtors out, allows them some time to work out payments, and makes it possible to rebuild credit," says Natalie Walker, a partner at Webster & Fredrickson, who specializes in bankruptcy. "Sadly, fear and a lack of understanding keep many people from seeking relief in the courts."

Alongside founding member Wendell Webster—a court-appointed trustee in chapter 7 cases filed in the District of Columbia—Walker and the team at Webster & Fredrickson bring extensive insights on bankruptcy matters. As an integral part of their legal services, they provide personal consultation to help navigate life after bankruptcy.

"The bankruptcy process can be overwhelming," says Walker. "It feels good to know that I can help guide them through that complex process and give them a fresh start in life."

WEBSTER & FREDRICKSON, PLLC

1101 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 402 | Washington, D.C. 20036
202-659-8510 | www.websterfredrickson.com