

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

DC BAR FOUNDATION **DCBF**

OUR MISSION

At the DC Bar Foundation, our mission is to fund, support, and improve legal representation of the poor, vulnerable, and otherwise disadvantaged in the District of Columbia. We work hand-in-hand with DC's legal aid community to understand the legal issues facing the city's poorest residents and to solve these issues so that every individual, regardless of income, has access to justice.



LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

According to recent estimates, 7 million people across the United States live one crisis away from eviction. As Matthew Desmond and his team of researchers at Princeton University's Eviction Lab found, "eviction is no longer just an issue of poverty—but an issue of race," with eviction rates disproportionately high in minority communities.

The DC Bar Foundation has watched these trends closely over the years and while there is much to do to address the issue in its entirety, we knew that we could play a larger role in alleviating evictions in the District. To that end, in July 2017, the Council of the District of Columbia created the groundbreaking Civil Legal Counsel Projects Program and designated the DC Bar Foundation as its administrator. The Civil Legal Counsel Projects Program funds can only be awarded to legal aid organizations that provide eviction defense to low-income DC residents. We were pleased to award over \$5.4 million in 2018 to housing-related matters: over \$4.1 million through our Civil Legal Counsel Projects Program, to DC organizations that provide free legal assistance to low-income DC residents on eviction matters, in addition to the nearly \$1.3 million in other housing-related grants. Our investments in 2018 included significantly boosting the hours of much-needed attorney time to provide eviction defense services in an effort to remove barriers to justice for those who need it most.

Access to safe, stable, and affordable housing can be a game-changer for individuals and families at risk of eviction. By providing such critical legal services to families in moments when they need it most, our entire city benefits as a result.

In addition to our work on issues of housing in 2018, the DC Bar Foundation also significantly expanded our presence in key community circles. We have always been active within the national IOLTA community through the National Association of IOLTA Programs and the bar foundation community through the National Conference of Bar Foundations, but this year we focused on our local partnerships with organizations like Leadership Greater Washington, Grantmakers for Effective Organizations, and the Washington Regional Association of Grantmakers. By expanding our own network, we can continue to build effective partnerships with cross-sector leaders that ultimately all work to expand access to justice in our city.

There were so many other exciting things that happened in 2018, but to name a few, we moved our office to Southeast DC, and significantly expanded our internal staff with a two new program officers, a grants manager, and an impact and evaluation manager.

Each year, we rely on the time, treasure, and thought partnership with so many throughout the city to help us continue to safeguard and strengthen DC's civil legal aid network, and this year was no exception. I invite you to learn more about the investments we have made in Washington, DC, and thank you, always, for your support of the DC Bar Foundation.

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Kirra L. Jarratt Executive Director

A FULL CIRCLE OF SUPPORT

AN OVERVIEW OF WHAT WE DO

The DC Bar Foundation works hand-in-hand with DC's civil legal aid community to understand and address the legal issues facing people living in poverty. We are committed to the vision that residents of the District have equal access to justice, regardless of income.

GRANTS

The Foundation provides operational support to legal aid organizations through our Private Grants program, and funds promising projects through our Access to Justice and Civil Legal Counsel Projects Program (CLCPP). The new CLCPP is already on the ground serving low-income residents through eviction defense. The Foundation completed its first year of administering these grants. Across all our programs we awarded over **\$10 million** in grants to organizations working throughout the District in 2018.

LOAN REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

DCBF's Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) enables DC legal aid organizations to recruit and retain qualified staff attorneys, who may have incurred significant debt to obtain their law degree and otherwise be unable to continue their critical work. The average LRAP participant makes \$63,600 and owes over **\$169,000** in student debt. Through LRAP, attorneys can receive a forgivable, one-year loan of up to **\$12,000** to help pay their educational loans.

TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

DCBF strengthens DC's legal aid organizations and its attorneys by funding professional and organizational development opportunities. We also cover the cost of hosting two important DC-focused websites: probono.net/dc (resources for pro bono attorneys) and lawhelp.org/dc/ (resources for pro se representation). Throughout 2018, the Foundation supported educational opportunities for attorneys valued at over **\$63,000**.



OUR STRATEGY, AT A GLANCE

Our overall strategy was best reflected in 2018 with the launch of the District's new Civil Legal Counsel Projects Program focused on eviction defense. With funding of \$4.5M from the Council of the District of Columbia, we were able to create a program to help DC residents at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Line. In 2018, this was \$24,280 for an individual (or \$50,200 for a family of four).

In designing the program, we held more than 11 convenings and listening sessions with community partners in order to foster collaboration among legal service providers and promote shared learning around best practices. Attendees included DC Superior Court judges, DC Access to Justice Commissioners, legal aid providers, a number of District agencies, the Office of the Attorney General of DC, as well as the Right to Counsel NYC Coalition. By convening key stakeholders, we were able to identify gaps in eviction defense services and prioritize the grants awarded during the first year of the program.

The Foundation ultimately awarded grants to six organizations with the bulk of the funds supporting work based at the Landlord and Tenant Branch of DC Superior Court, where 34,000 eviction cases were filed in 2017. In the overwhelming majority of these cases, tenants fend for themselves against landlords represented by counsel. The DC Bar Foundation supports its grantees beyond grant funding and includes training and technical assistance. For the Civil Legal Counsel Projects Program, we sponsored a five-day eviction defense training for nearly 30 lawyers in August 2018, and this cohort of lawyers will receive continuing education focused on best practices in eviction defense.

The successes of the first year of the Civil Legal Counsel Projects Program were all made possible due to the dedication and commitment of our community to access to justice for all.



OUR IMPACT

2018, BY THE NUMBERS:

\$10 M

Awarded over \$10 million in grants compared to \$5.5 million in 2017



More than 54% of DC residents served live in Wards 5, 7 and 8

29

Funded Eviction Defensive Cohort Training for 29 legal aid attorneys





Sponsored 125 scholarships for legal aid attorneys to participate in seven trial skill building trainings



\$404K

Awarded more than \$404,000 to 76 legal aid attorneys through the Loan Repayment Assistance Program.





THOSE WHO SERVE - 2018 JERROLD SCOUTT PRIZE

In April, 2018 with great esteem, The DC Bar Foundation awarded the annual Jerrold Scoutt Prize to Phil Fornaci, the Project Director of the DC Prisoners' Project with the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs. Phil has valiantly dedicated over 25 years and counting to DC's civil legal aid community. He has devoted his career to securing justice for many disadvantaged individuals including members of the HIV/AIDS, disabled, low-income, and incarcerated communities.

Throughout his career, Phil has held distinguished positions at Whitman-Walker Legal Clinic, National Association for Public Interest Law (now Equal Justice Works), Maryland Disability Law Center, DC Prisoners Legal Services Project, and DC Employment Justice Center. In Phil's current work with the Washington Lawyer's Committee he directs the Prisoners' Project, which serves over 1,200 prisoners every year.

The Jerrold Scoutt Prize Award, established by the firm of Zuckert, Scoutt & Rasenberger LLP in 1992 in honor of the public interest commitment of one of its founding partners, Jerrold Scoutt, Jr., is awarded annually to an attorney who has worked for a significant portion of his or her career at a nonprofit organization providing direct hands-on legal services to the needy in the District of Columbia. Phil embodies the mission of the DC Bar Foundation. With unwavering commitment, he both skillfully and compassionately serves our impoverished neighbors. In the words of a former client, "Phil is my HERO. I will forever be grateful of his services," Eric Weaver, Chairman of National Association for the Advancement of Returning Citizens.

THOSE IN NEED

We are dedicated to amplifying the voices of those in need by investing in civil legal aid that ensures fairness, safety, and security for the District's most vulnerable residents. In 2018, our funding included awards to organizations focused on supporting children in the community, keeping them in school, and providing them with the educational opportunities they need to thrive.

Paul, a local elementary student with a significant hearing impairment, obtained a learning plan that requires a child with a disability to receive the accommodations they need for their learning environment. Paul's plan mandated that his teachers wear a microphone system that connected directly with his hearing aid, which would enable him to actively participate in class alongside his peers. However, Paul's teachers refused to use the microphone, inhibiting his potential to succeed in the classroom and beyond.

Paul's mother contacted DC Bar Foundation grantee, Children's Law Center, seeking assurance that the school would begin following his learning plan. Paul's mother was connected with an expert legal aid attorney who advocated on Paul's behalf. In turn, the school provided 36 hours of compensatory education for Paul and implemented processes to ensure that his learning plan was accommodated in the future. Paul is now thriving in school, poised to reach his potential from the support of his mother, teachers, Children's Law Center, and the DC Bar Foundation.

THOSE WHO GIVE

We are fortunate to have many steadfast donors and supporters who share our mission to provide access to justice for the District's poor and underserved. One of our most passionate and dedicated supporters is Phil Horton, Retired Partner at Arnold & Porter. Not only does Phil serve as the Foundation's Assistant Treasurer on our Board of Directors, he is an active member of our Finance and Development Committees, and is among the most reliable of our Volunteer Solicitors for our annual Call to Action campaign. Phil's enthusiasm for our critical work also inspires others to get involved; Arnold & Porter's Go Casual for Justice events consistently yield high excitement in addition to high donation rates, thanks largely in part to his efforts.

We would like to offer our sincerest thanks to Phil Horton for his ongoing commitment and generosity not only to the Foundation, but to DC's civil legal aid network as a whole.









DONORS AND PRIME PARTNERS

The DC Bar Foundation would like to thank the following donors who contributed during fiscal year 2018. Their generous support continues to help bridge the gap between available resources and the ongoing need for civil legal aid in the District. As a result, thousands of DC residents are able to access the legal representation and resources they desperately need, regardless of their ability to afford it.

LAW FIRMS AND CORPORATIONS

PLATINUM \$25,000 and UP

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP Alston & Bird LLP Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP Eversheds Sutherland (US) LLP Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP The Sidley Austin Foundation

GOLD

\$15,000-\$24,999

Arnold & Porter LLP Crowell & Moring LLP Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner, LLP King & Spalding LLP Latham & Watkins LLP Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP

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Margot and Paul

The DC Bar Foundation

has made every effort

to assure the accuracy

of this listing. If we have

omission. please accept

our apology and let us

know so that we can

correct our records

made an error or an

Zimmermand Fund

Alexandra Wise

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Delores Simmons

Named in honor of the year that the DC Bar Foundation was founded, the 77 Society recognizes the generosity of our donors, as well as the impact their support has on low-income District residents in need of civil legal aid. Membership in the 77 Society is extended to individuals whose gifts to the DC Bar Foundation total \$1,000 or more each fiscal year.

2017 Murrav Belman Paulette Chapman 2018 Maureen Del Duca 2017 Donald Dunner 2017 Ronald Flago 2018 Marc Fleischaker 2017 Nathalie Gilfovle 2017 Jamie Gorelick 2018 Gwen Green 2018 Anthony Herman 2018 Shirley Higuchi 2018 Susan Hoffman 2017 Philip Horton 2017 Ellen Jakovic 2017 Vonva McCann 2017 Mary McClymont 2017 Patrick McGlone 2017 John Nannes 2017 David Odden 2017 Carter Phillips 2017 Stephen Pollak 2017 Daniel Rezneck* 2017 Hartmut Schneider 2018 Joseph Sellers 2018 Andrew Shaw 2018 Stanlev Sher 2017 Paul Smith 2017 Bruce Spiva 2017 Janet Studlev 2017 Marsha Swiss 2018 Michael Ward 2018

* 77 Society Chair

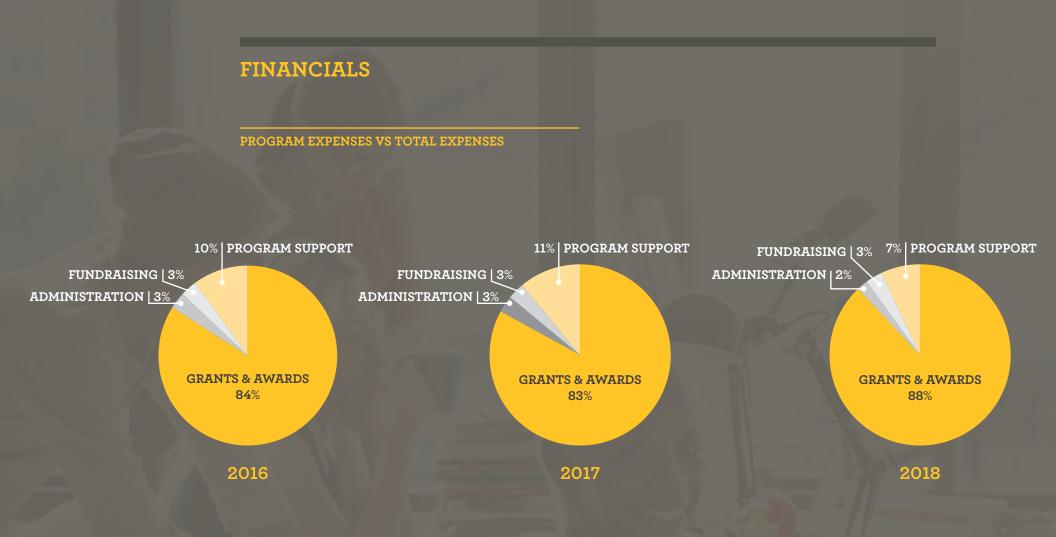
SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PRIME PARTNERS:

The interest gathered from the Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts (IOLTA) Program, comprised of thousands of pooled bank accounts, is administered by DCBF and distributed within the community for legal aid. We are extremely grateful for our Prime Partners for going above and beyond by offering a higher interest on their IOLTA accounts and making civil legal aid more accessible in our community.

- » City First Bank of DC
- Congressional Bank
- » Industrial Bank
- » Premier Bank
- » US Senate Federal Credit Union

THANK YOU TO OUR PRO BONO PARTNERS

- » Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP for their many hours of general counsel support.
- Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP for dedicating a team of pro bono attorneys and paralegals to aid with the management of our loan repayment assistance programs.
- » Arnold & Porter LLP, Morgan, Lewis, Bockius LLP, and Sidley Austin LLP for hosting listening sessions for service providers for our Civil Legal Counsel Projects Program.



YOUR INVESTMENTS AT WORK

Effective management and efficient operations allow us to invest as much as possible in our programs. While our grant programs continue to grow in size, the percentage spent on administration and fund raising has stayed level.

For a complete copy of our most recent audited financial statements, please visit our website at www.dcbarfoundation.org

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GO CASUAL FOR JUSTICE PARTICIPATING WORKPLACES

The following organizations participated in the Go Casual for Justice campaign. Their involvement, and the generosity of their employees, continues to strengthen DC's civil legal aid network.

\$5,000-\$9,9

Arnold & Porter LLP

\$2,500-\$4,999

Sidley Austin LLP Arent Fox LLP

\$1,000-\$2,499

Buckley Sandler Crowell & Moring LLP Holland & Knight LLP Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP Latham & Watkins LLP Dechert LLP Finnegan Henderson Farabow Garrett & Dunner LLP

\$500<mark>-\$9</mark>99

Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale & Dorr LLP Venable LLP Eversheds Sutherland (US) LLP American Psychological Association Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP Banner & Witcoff Ltd. Dentons US LLP DC Access to Justice Commission City First Bank of DC



\$250 - \$499

Alston & Bird LLP Seyfarth Shaw LLP King & Spalding LLP Fried Frank Harris Shriver & Jacobson LLP Kirkland & Ellis LLP Zuckerman Spaeder LLP Goodwin Procter LLP Jackson & Campbell PC

\$100**-**\$249

Blank Rome LLP DC Office of Disciplinary Counsel Perkins Coie LLP Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP Lewis Baach PLLC Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom LLP Littler Mendelson PC Holland & Hart LLP Troutman Sanders LLP Davis Wright Tremaine LLP Vinson & Elkins LLP Catholic Charities Legal Network

Up to \$100

Cohen Segalis Pallas Greenhall & Furman PC Washington Council of Lawyers Network for Victim Recovery of DC Van Ness Feldman LLP

> Buckley Sandler Staff representing their favorite sports team during this year's campaign.

EVENTS

FALL RECEPTION

The Foundation held its annual Fall Reception on October 11, 2017. Generously hosted by Alston & Bird LLP since 2012, the evening served as an opportunity to highlight the important work of our grantees and LRAP recipients, as well as the ongoing support of our loyal donors and volunteers. Naznin Saifi, Executive Director of Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center (APALRC), attended and spoke about the impact that DCBF funding has had on her organization's programs.



LIP SYNC FOR JUSTICE

DCBF's Young Lawyer's Network Leadership Council held its second annual Lip Sync for Justice event on June 7, 2018. Hosted by Arnold & Porter, this year's Lip Sync for Justice brought together over 250 young lawyers and professionals for an evening of karaoke, lip sync, networking, and fun. More importantly, we nearly doubled our fundraised amount from last year's event, bringing in over \$30,000 for the District's civil legal aid network.



SCOUTT PRIZE

In 2018, Philip Fornaci, Project Director of the DC Prisoners' Project with the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs, was selected as the recipient of the 2018 Jerrold Scoutt Prize. Fornaci was selected for his dedication to a lifelong career working for equal justice and against discrimination—specifically within the DC Prisoners' Project where he works to help protect the rights of more than 1,200 prisoners each year.









EVENT SPOTLIGHT: PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION

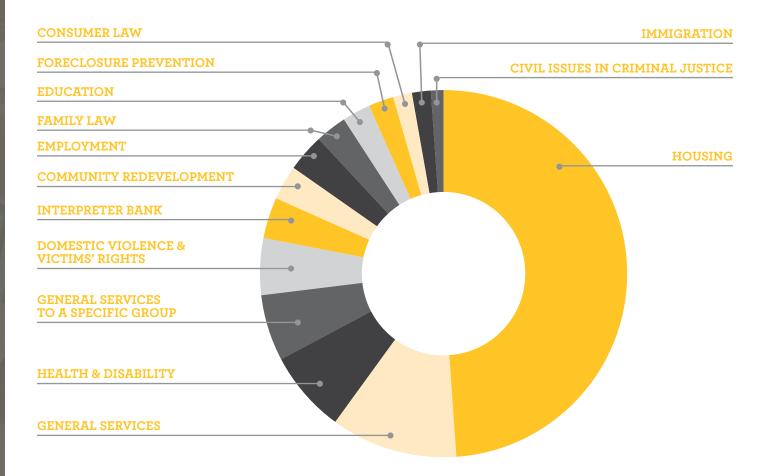
The Foundation hosted its first annual President's Reception for 77 Society members and other distinguished guests on May 8, 2018 at the Cosmos Club. The evening featured light hors d'oeuvres and refreshments as we honored our most loyal donors and thanked them for their belief in the Foundation's mission of equal access to justice for all DC residents. Speakers included DC Bar Foundation Board President Paul M. Smith, Executive Director Kirra L. Jarratt, and 77 Society Chair Daniel A. Rezneck.



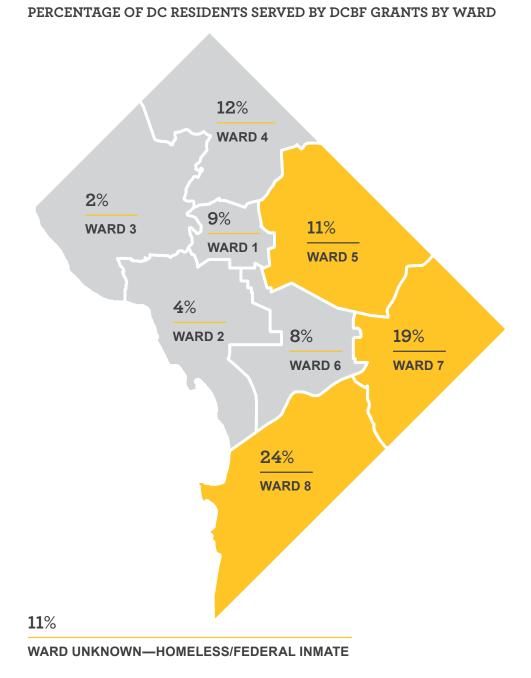
GRANTS

Our grants provide for the organizations and the projects that directly impact District residents in the greatest need. Because of this funding, residents are being treated fairly in the workplace and marketplace; they are staying in their homes; and our most vulnerable or isolated neighbors are receiving specialized outreach and support.

OVER \$10 MILLION IN GRANTS AWARDED IN 2018 FOR LEGAL ASSISTANCE



DCBF funds both general support and project-based grants in numerous categories. Examples of our project-based grants include medical-legal partnerships, court-based projects, and community law offices located in underserved neighborhoods. For more detailed information about our grant programs and the legal aid services that our grantees provide to DC's poor, please visit our website at www.dcbarfoundation.org.



OUR COMMUNITY, OUR GRANTEES

Advocates for Justice and Education Amara Legal Center Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center Ayuda Bread for the City Break the Cycle Capital Area Immigrants Rights Coalition Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington, Inc. Children's Law Center Christian Legal Aid of DC DC Bar Pro Bono Center DC Law Students in Court DC Volunteers Lawyers Project Domestic Violence Legal Empowerment and Appeals Project First Shift Justice Project Howard University School of Law Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia Legal Counsel for the Elderly Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project Neighborhood Legal Services Program Network for Victim Recovery of DC Quality Trust for Individuals with Disabilities School Justice Project Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition Tzedek DC University Legal Services Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless Whitman-Walker Health

Access to safe, stable, and affordable housing can be a game-changer for individuals and families at risk of eviction. By providing such critical legal services to families in moments when they need it most, our entire city benefits as a result.

Kirra L. Jarratt
Executive Director

DC BAR FOUNDATION STAFF

Kirra Jarratt Executive Director

Imoni Washington Director of Programs

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202-467-3750 www.dcbarfoundation.org @DCBarFoundation

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