To fund, support, and improve legal representation of people who are financially disenfranchised, or who are otherwise underserved in the District of Columbia.

An Overview of What We Do

The DC Bar Foundation (DCBF) works hand-in-hand with the civil legal aid community to better understand and address the legal issues facing District residents, identify unmet civil legal needs, and make strategic investments to strengthen and expand legal services for disadvantaged District residents. We are committed to the vision that District residents have equal access to justice, regardless of income. In 2019, we adopted an exciting strategic vision to “transform DC’s civil legal aid network, working closely with all stakeholders, so District residents have a fair and equal legal experience.”

Grants

The DC Bar Foundation assists our grantees with operational support funds through our General Support Grants program, and community project funds through our Civil Legal Counsel Projects Program and Access to Justice program. In 2020, we awarded over $10.5 million in funding, which kept families in their homes, protected people in the marketplace and workplace, and amplified the voices of those in need.

In June 2020, the Foundation awarded an additional $100,000 in COVID-19 Response grants to help the District’s civil legal aid community adapt and respond to the emergent needs of DC workers and families who are most vulnerable to the health and economic repercussions of the pandemic. These grants prioritized small nonprofit legal aid organizations that are working with communities of color who have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

Loan Repayment Assistance Program

The DC Bar Foundation’s Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) makes it more possible for District legal services providers to hire and retain top-notch legal talent to better serve their clients in need. LRAP provides eligible attorneys a forgivable, one-year loan to help pay their significant educational debt. This makes it possible for poverty law attorneys to manage their student debt without having to compromise their desire to work in the civil legal aid sector.

Training and Technical Assistance

The DC Bar Foundation invests in the capacity of the civil legal aid network through ongoing professional and organizational development opportunities, such as eviction defense and litigation skills trial advocacy trainings for civil legal aid attorneys.
We pivoted quickly. Thankfully, we had systems in place for staff to work from home. We downsized our physical office to preserve valuable resources, and we converted in-person events to virtual. Without missing a beat, we continued our mission to fund, support, and improve legal representation of financially disenfranchised people and those living in vulnerable situations in the District of Columbia.

In June, we awarded $100,000 in COVID-19 Emergency Response grants to nine legal aid organizations in the District. We funded two new legal aid networks to increase coordination, cooperation, and collaboration, which ultimately brings better legal results for our DC neighbors in need.

The Landlord-Tenant Legal Assistance Network includes the six grantees of the publicly-funded Civil Legal Counsel Projects Program. Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, these organizations created a single phone line in June 2020 for tenants facing eviction where attorneys can help those in need.

Six of our family law grantees comprise the Family Law Learning Network, which began in February 2020. They are focused on learning from each other and collaboratively building their capacity to use data and evidence to improve their legal practices.

We conducted our events online, beginning with the President’s Reception in September to honor members of our 77 Society – our most generous donors. In early October, the Young Lawyers Network Leadership Council hosted a panel conversation on race, equity, and civil legal aid, moderated by DC Attorney General Karl Racine.

We know that due to systemic racism’s long-term effects, communities of color have disproportionately borne the brunt of this public health crisis. And for that reason, we remain even more committed to help those among us who have critical civil legal aid needs with no one to help them navigate the system.

As we look to the future, a robust civil legal aid network is critical to the District’s recovery from the pandemic. We are finding new ways to listen to the client community, evaluate the unmet needs, address racial equity issues, and create a system-wide coordinated intake program. Building a transformed civil legal aid ecosystem that serves all District residents’ needs is the mission to which we are committed. We hope you will join us.

Kirra L. Jarratt
Chief Executive Officer

David W. Ogden
Board President
2020 Update

$100K
Awarded over $100,000 in emergency grants to support high-priority and short-term emergency civil legal aid needs of the most vulnerable residents in our community.

$10.5 M
Awarded over $10.5 million in grants to amplify voices of those in need, keep families in their homes, and protect people.

85
Hosted two of a four-part racial justice training series for 85 legal aid attorneys in DC

80%
of Grantees serving Wards 5, 7, and 8

The Majority of the grants targeted residents in Wards 5, 7, and 8, where nearly two-thirds of the District’s Black families live, and a concentration of families of four live on an annual income of less than $25,000.

110
Attorney FTEs funded

THE DC BAR FOUNDATION assists our grantees with operational support funds through our General Support Grants program, as well as community project funds through our Civil Legal Counsel Projects Program and Access to Justice program.

In 2020, we awarded over $10.5 million in funding, which kept families in their homes, protected people in the marketplace and workplace, and amplified the voices of those in need.
**ENGAGE ALL STAKEHOLDERS IN THE WORK**

Work with partners to support the civil legal aid network by studying outcomes, providing data, identifying needs, sharing observations, and serving as a sounding board to develop better solutions to meet community needs.

In September 2020, DCBF began work with two organizations: Interaction Institute for Social Change (IISC) and Visible Network Labs (VNL). IISC is charged with identifying who should be in the network, as well as who should participate in an initial convening of the network, currently scheduled for the first half of 2021. VNL will conduct a parallel network analysis that will further inform the IISC-led convening and our next steps in transforming the network. VNL will also provide multiple trainings on network science.

**IDENTIFY UNMET CIVIL LEGAL NEEDS**

Work with stakeholders to identify barriers to access for those in need while launching a data-driven intake and referral system to improve access to civil legal aid services.

In August, DCBF received a $65,000 Momentum Fund Grant from United Philanthropy.

The grant will be used to pilot a participatory grantmaking project where we will work directly with community residents to design a legal aid solution with their voice at its center.
Continue to integrate racial justice & equity initiatives to evolve our practices in the pursuit of justice.

In 2020, DCBF continued its partnership with Service Never Sleeps, a local, African American woman-led training organization, to continue delivering racial justice training for our grantees’ staff attorneys and leadership.

DCBF and its grantees both recognize the racial makeup of the District and want to ensure that we have the understanding and skills needed to provide the highest quality of service to clients seeking support.
FUND WITH INTENTION

Make more strategic grantmaking decisions.

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, DCBF committed $100,000 to support the DC civil legal aid network’s ability to adapt and respond to the emergent needs of DC workers and families who are most vulnerable to the health and economic repercussions of the current pandemic.

The Foundation made grants ranging from $5,000 to $25,000 to nine organizations to help mitigate high-priority and short-term emergency civil legal aid needs of the most vulnerable residents in our community.

DEMONSTRATE HOW PEOPLE WHO NEED SERVICES ARE GETTING THEM

Describe how we are improving District residents’ lives by measuring the effectiveness of services, studying outcomes, determining the level of impact, and sharing those findings with our partners and stakeholders.

The Family Law Learning Network (FLLN) kicked off in April 2020. FLLN comprises six DCBF grantees. NPC Research is leading this multi-year initiative, and will provide facilitation, training and technical assistance related to using data to improve service delivery.

The six organizations have already developed project-specific logic models and data frameworks, and will be working on co-creating client feedback surveys. Logic models help network members define a common understanding of their partnership goals and activities, while data frameworks are guidelines that establish how network members come together to share data for maximum benefit.
Supporting DC Residents Through Times of Loss

Mr. A is a Ward 5 resident whose wife of many years—a nurse who dedicated her career to the care of others—served as their family’s sole breadwinner in 2020. When the pandemic hit, Mr. A.’s wife followed the call of duty, treating COVID patients until she contracted and, tragically, eventually succumbed to the disease. Thanks to the DC Bar Foundation’s DCBF generous COVID-19 Response funding, a team of two attorneys from DCBF grantee DC Affordable Law Firm has been able to work alongside Mr. A., representing him in the arduous, heart wrenching, multi-stage process of probating his wife’s estate. At Mr. A.’s request, DC Affordable Law Firm’s team will take his representation a step beyond the work funded by DCBF, drafting powers of attorney and a will for Mr. A. so that their children will not be left picking up the pieces if something happens to him.

WHAT JUSTICE LOOKS LIKE

Securing Life-Saving Unemployment During the Pandemic

Ms. R. was a worker in both Virginia and the District before the pandemic hit. In March of 2020, Ms. R. was terminated from both of her jobs. Shortly after, she applied for unemployment benefits in DC. After waiting almost two months, she was told to apply in Virginia. Virginia’s unemployment office then told her that she had to apply again in DC. At this point, frustrated and in need of financial assistance, Ms. R. contacted DC Bar Foundation grantee, Neighborhood Legal Services Program (NLSP) for help. NLSP worked with her to resolve the situation regarding her unemployment, and she was able to get critical back pay going back to her initial application in DC in the spring.
Fall Reception
The Foundation held its annual Fall Reception on October 10, 2019. Generously hosted each year by Alston & Bird, the reception brought together members of our network to highlight the important work and support of our grantees, LRAP participants, donors, and volunteers. Naseema Shafi, Chief Executive Officer of Foundation grantee Whitman Walker Health spoke about issues facing the LGBTQ+ community in DC, how the Whitman Walker Health Legal Services Program supports their clients, and how DC Bar Foundation funding helps make their work possible.

Scoutt Prize
In May 2020, the DC Bar Foundation awarded the annual Jerrold Scoutt Prize to Beth Mellen, supervising attorney in the Housing Law Unit at Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia, and Director for the organization’s Eviction Defense Project. In addition to her work with Legal Aid’s Eviction Defense Project and Housing Right to Counsel Project, Beth also regularly advocates on behalf of the city’s most vulnerable residents on issues surrounding rent control, housing affordability, housing conditions, and greater systemic problems with District agencies and legislators. Her policy advocacy work includes work on important legislation at the DC Council.

The Jerrold Scoutt Prize was established by the firm of KMA Zuckert LLC (formerly Zuckert, Scoutt & Rasenberger LLP) in 1992 in honor of the public interest commitment of one of its founding partners, Jerrold Scoutt, Jr. It 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.

President’s Reception
The Foundation hosted its third annual President’s Reception for 77 Society members on September 10, 2020 – our first virtual event of 2020. We spent the evening honoring our most generous donors and thanked them for their support of access to justice in DC. The live-streamed event featured remarks from the Foundation’s CEO, Kirra Jarratt, and President, David Ogden, as well as features from DC Councilmember Charles Allen, DC Mayor Muriel Bowser, and DC Bar Foundation grantees.

Avenues to Justice
The Foundation’s Young Lawyers Network Leadership Council made an impressive pivot from its annual Lip Sync for Justice fundraising event to create Avenues to Justice, a virtual panel discussion on race, equity, and civil legal aid in DC. The discussion, hosted on October 8, 2020 and facilitated by DC Attorney General Karl A. Racine, raised over $41,500 and featured an impressive panel of guests, including: Dayna Bowen Matthew, Dean and Harrold H. Greene Professor at GW Law, Deray Mckesson, author and civil rights advocate, and Aja Taylor, Advocacy Director at Bread for the City.
INDIVIDUALS ($0 - $999)

Anonymous
Yewande D. Aderolu
Cepheh Alizadeh
Laura Golden Ames
Alison Lima Andersen
Elizabeth Anisikevich
Valarie B. Ashley
James Barton
Stacy Barton
Melanie Bates
James D. Bishop
Stephanie Bitto
Diane Boykin
Brian Boynton
Steven Brummer
Leila Brown
Meghan C. Hammond
Stacy Cammarano
Michael Carpenter
Ricardo Carvajal
Tanja Castro
Ann Chauvin
Yevedzo Chitiga
Thomas Cicciolillo
B.A. Cockburn
Tamara L. Copeland
Diana Daniels
Benjamin M. Dean
Katherine A. DeStefano
Brad C. Deutsch
Lucas Dolan
Kelly Dunbar
Billy J. Eastley
Paul Eckert
Carolyn Ellison
Adam Farra
Reece G. Flexner
Hannah Flint
David S. Forman
Monique Fortenberry
David Reed Freeman
Bernard B. Fulton
Martha G. Gadd
Karen N. Gardiner
Sandra George
Gwen S. Green
Felicia Greer
Kerry-Ann Hamilton
Christopher A. Hatfield
Kathleen Havey
Traci L. Higgins
Gunnar Himich
Kevin Hinton
Sheila Slocum Hollis
Christine Hopkinson
Bryan J. Hoynak
Joanne Hurt
Linda Jackson
Alma Jadallah
Carol Jones
George A. Jones
Harlan Jones
Carla Jordan-Detamore
James M. Jorling
Leslie Keyes
Paul J. Kiernan
Marla Kirby
Rachel S. Kronowitz
Peter L. Dressel
Emily Laqan
Caroline C. Leary
Kimberly S. LeBlanc-Ross
Brenda Lee
Allendra Letsome
Ariel Levine-Waldman
Carla Levy
Kathleen B. Lewis
Timothy A. Libutti
Courtney Lindsay
Bridget Bailey Lipscomb
Loree Lipstein
Elizabeth Lynch
Tania Matrey
Helena Mastrogiannis
Melanie J. McColl
Vonya B. McCann
Kimberly A. McCarthy
Patrick M. McDermott
Jennifer McClain
Eun Mi Mi Yu
Danielle Morris
Thomas Mueller
Lindsey Nelson
Joseph Onsk
Angela M. Owens
Teresa Payne-Nunn
Heather Peeler
Brian Pickett
Kyle Pozza
Erin Prangley
Abigail Pulliam
Patricia Reilly
Greer Richey
Karen Ritter
Ruth Robinson
Seth A. Rosenthal
David J. Ross
Danielle Rowan
Tiana L. Russell
Janice Ryan
Fahad Saghir
Rita Sampson
Rachna Scott
Joseph M. Sellers
Stephanie Shain
Sandra Shaw
Tracy Shaw
Susan Ann Silverstein
Dara S. Smith
Erin Smith
W. Mark Smith
Carolyn Stennett
Jay Stewart
Lisa A. Stewart
Samuel M. Strongin
Kenneth R. Thomas
Whitney Toomer
John Tucker
Mama S. Tucker
Mark H. Tucey
Lori Wachman
Vernetta Walker
Robert N. Weiner
Harry J. Weiss
Seth Weissman
Melvin White
Thomas J. Widor
Leah Willis
Michael Wolin
Matthew Yancey
Alice K. Yang
Betsy Yuhas
Debra Zuzin

DONORS AND PRIME PARTNERS

The Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts (IOLTA) Program, comprised of thousands of pooled bank accounts, is administered by DCFBF 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 rate 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, Inc.
United States Senate Federal Credit Union

77 SOCIETY MEMBERS

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. Members are listed below by the year they joined the 77 Society.

Class of 2017
Murray J. Belman
Maureen F. Del Duca
Marc L. Fleischhacker
Nathalie F.P. Gilfoyle ***
Susan F. Hoffman
Philip W. Horton
Ellen J. Jakovic
Kirra L. Jarratt
Stuart Land
Andrew Marks
Mary E. McClymont
Patrick McGlone
John M. Nannes
David W. Ogden ***
Carter Phillips
Stephen Poliak *
Daniel A. Reznick
Stanley O. Sher
Paul M. Smith **
Bruce V. Spiva *
Janet R. Studley
Hartmut Schneider
Marsha E. Swiss
Michael Ward
Class of 2019
J. Daryl Byler *
John C. Cruyen
Mark Herzog
Adam Pollet
John P. Relman *
Michael Rogan *
James J. Sandman
Matthew S. Watson
Melissa Weberman
Ashley James
Rachel Kent
Perry Lange
Karen A. Lash
Deborah Lindenberg
Ronald Machen
William McElwain
William McLucas
Benjamin Powell
Danielle Reyes
Allison Rochford
Kenneth Salazar
Howard Shapiro **
Andrew Shaw
Jean Simons
Danielle Spinelli
Daniel Volchok
Seth Waxman *

Class of 2018
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Ronald S. Flagg
Jamie Gorelick **
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Michael Ward

** Champions of Justice ($5,000 - $9,999)
*** Pillars of Justice ($10,000 and above)

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Michael Ward

** Champions of Justice ($5,000 - $9,999)
*** Pillars of Justice ($10,000 and above)
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- Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP
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AARP Foundation, Alston & Bird, Eversheds Sutherland (US) LLP, Relman Colfax and Dane, Sidley Austin LLP, and WilmerHale for hosting DCBF board and committee meetings.

Venable LLP for hosting DC Consortium meetings.

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP for their many hours of general counsel support.

Sidley Austin LLP for hosting our racial justice training series, and Hogan Lovells for hosting eviction defense cohort trainings. WeWork 80 M Street for hosting our Go Casual for Justice pop-up table, and Eversheds Sutherland (US) LLP for hosting our 77 Society Breakfast.

GO CASUAL FOR JUSTICE PARTICIPATING WORKPLACES

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- Arent Fox LLP
- Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP
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$1,000-$2,499
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- Steptoe & Johnson LLP

$250-$499
- American Psychological Association
- Eversheds Sutherland (US) LLP

$100-$249
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- Ballard Spahr LLP
- Dentons US LLP

**Platinum ($3,500)**
- Arent Fox LLP
Our grants provide support to organizations that invest in District residents with the greatest need. Our goal is to ensure that 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.

$10.5 Million invested in legal assistance in DC

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 residents, please visit our website at www.dcbarfoundation.org.
PERCENTAGE OF DC RESIDENTS SERVED BY Civil Legal Counsel Projects Program

GRANTS BY WARD

2020 GRANTEEES

- Advocates for Justice and Education
- African Communities Together
- Amara Legal Center
- Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center
- Ayuda
- Bread for the City
- Break the Cycle
- Capital Area Immigrants Rights Coalition
- Catholic Charities Legal Network
- Central American Resource Center
- Children’s Law Center
- Christian Legal Aid of DC
- DC Affordable Law Firm
- DC Bar Pro Bono Center
- DC Volunteer 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
- Rising for Justice
- School Justice Project
- The Safe Sisters Circle
- Torture Abolition & Survivors Support Coalition
- Tzedek DC
- University Legal Services
- Washington Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs
- Whitman-Walker Health
- Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless
YOUR INVESTMENTS AT WORK

Effective management and efficient operations allow us to invest as much as possible in our programs.

While our grantmaking and other program activities continue to grow in size, the percentage spent on supporting services has stayed level.

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

* = Administration and Fundraising
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Relman, Dane & Colfax PLLC

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