



District of Columbia Courts
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Pro Bono Honor Roll
Open Letter to D.C. Bar Membership
from Chief Judge Washington and Chief Judge Satterfield

On behalf of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals and the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, we are so pleased and proud to congratulate the more than 4000 members of the *2012 Capital Pro Bono Honor Roll* for their remarkable pro bono service to our neighbors in need. Through their tireless work, an elderly couple avoided homelessness; a survivor of domestic violence finally confronted her abuser in court; a tenant association purchased the building where most of its members have lived all their lives; a recently discharged veteran received his rightful benefits; a seriously ill man has now been approved by his insurance company to receive a lung transplant; and so many other individuals, families, non-profits and small, disadvantaged businesses received critical access to counsel who helped lift them to a better place.

With the support of the D.C. Access to Justice Commission and the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Program, the Court's Capital Pro Bono Honor Roll recognizes the contributions of those D.C. Bar members and others authorized to perform pro bono work in D.C. who self-report that they completed 50 hours or more of pro bono service over the course of the last calendar year, which satisfies their obligation under Rule 6.1 of the D.C. Rules of Professional Conduct.

In only its second year, we are delighted that almost 4100 attorneys reported performing 50 hours or more of pro bono work in 2012. Even more impressive, over 2400 of those attorneys reported performing 100 hours or more of pro bono work in 2012, qualifying them for inclusion in the High Honor Roll. Honor Roll members reflect the full diversity of our legal community, hailing from over 130 law firms and scores of solo practices, federal government agencies, and public interest organizations. Despite greater pressures to bill more hours, work more efficiently, and use fewer resources, this year's Honor Roll represents an increase of almost 20% over last year's inaugural Honor Roll.

Although D.C. has an extraordinary legal services network, the city desperately relies on attorneys in private and government practice to assist the thousands of indigent District residents who cannot afford counsel. We have long recognized that the D.C. legal community leads the nation in its commitment to pro bono service.

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Again we congratulate the 2012 honorees, who make us all proud to be part of a profession that grasps that our neighbors matter... and then does something about it.

Sincerely,



Eric T. Washington
Chief Judge
District of Columbia Court of Appeals



Lee F. Satterfield
Chief Judge
Superior Court of the District of Columbia