



D.C. Represents Civil Justice for our Neighbors



What is D.C. Represents?

D.C. Represents is a campaign mobilizing law firms and individual practices, government attorneys, corporations, associations, law schools and public interest organizations to enhance their existing pro bono commitment to confront the influx of COVID-19 related legal needs in the District.

The campaign is organized by a coalition of representatives from D.C.'s legal service providers, law firms, and the D.C. Access to Justice Commission.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, one in six D.C. residents lived in poverty and the poverty rate in the District's poorest Ward (which is 90% Black) was 35.7%. When faced with legal issues threatening their stability, 75% to 97% of D.C. residents appeared in Superior Court without a lawyer.

Since the pandemic struck, the health crisis and the resulting economic downturn have created a wave of evolving COVID-19 related legal needs that have made this crisis even more acute.

To confront pandemic-related legal needs, legal service providers are seeking increased pro bono assistance in areas such as eviction, domestic violence, debt, children and families, wills and probate, and access to public benefits and unemployment insurance through opportunities large, small, and remote – from intakes and brief advice, to full representation.

Enhanced pro bono commitments are a crucial component to ensuring District residents have access to civil legal services, which are a critical safety net, a racial justice issue, and essential to an equitable pandemic recovery.

Joining D.C. Represents is an opportunity to publicly announce through D.C. Represents media and publications that you have made a commitment to expand your pro bono commitment – no reporting or details about your specific commitment are required!

To share that you are making a commitment
SIGN ON at the D.C. Represents website

Find more information and background about the campaign attached and at www.dcccesstojustice.org/dcrepresents

Expand Your Commitment
Explore ideas for how you can enhance your existing commitments to meet pandemic legal needs

The District's Civil Legal Needs Crisis
Learn more about pro bono's crucial role in an equitable pandemic recovery

The Legal Community's Response
Explore a listing of existing pro bono opportunities and trainings available to be prepared to help as more legal needs emerge