



COMMISSIONERS

Peter B. Edelman
Chair

Eric Angel

Jon Bouker

Shelley Broderick

Rochelle Bobroff

Patty Mullahy Fugere

Mark Herzog

George Jones

Mary Kennard

Sheldon Krantz

Andrew H. Marks

Stephen J. Pollak

Bill Robinson

James Sandman

Jonathan M. Smith

T.J. Sutcliffe

Rebecca Troth

Nancy Drane
Executive Director

Jessica Rosenbaum
Senior Advisor

May 10, 2017

The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Council of the District of Columbia
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 504
Washington, D.C. 20004
Sent via e-mail: pmendelson@dccouncil.us

RE: Access to Justice Initiative Funding – FY 2018

Dear Phil:

I am writing to follow up on our prior communications regarding the Access to Justice Initiative funding. As you know, we reached out to your office several weeks ago to seek your support for an increased level of funding from the Mayor's proposed FY 2018 budget for the well-established Access to Justice Initiative program. Specifically, we sought a modest increase of \$280,714 to meet our original budget request to the Mayor of \$5,308,549. This increase will allow the D.C. Bar Foundation to maintain its support of our network of legal services providers, who are seeing an unprecedented demand for legal assistance, while also accounting for the additional administrative responsibilities they've assumed in administering the program.

We were pleased to learn that Chairman Allen and the Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety have identified funding to support our requested increase. I'm just writing to let you know that the Committee has identified that funding. We are grateful for the Committee's attention to this program and strongly support the increased level of funding. We appreciate your long-standing support of the program, and hope that you will support this increase as well.

If we can provide any further information on this important program to you or your staff, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or to the Commission's Executive Director, Nancy Drane.

Sincerely,

Peter B. Edelman, Chair

cc: Peter Johnson, Special Counsel, D.C Council
Nancy Drane, Executive Director, D.C. Access to Justice Commission