



Raising the Bar in D.C.: A Funding Campaign for Legal Services

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the *Raising the Bar in D.C. Campaign*?

The Campaign is an initiative launched by the D.C. Access to Justice Commission that provides special recognition to law firms that support local legal services providers. The Campaign establishes revenue-based benchmarks for law firm donations to legal services providers with the goal of substantially increasing financial support for organizations serving indigent residents. Because the benchmarks are based on revenue, the recognition levels are accessible to firms of all sizes and a wide range of firms, from large, multinational firms to solo practitioners, are honored each year.

What are the benchmark levels?

The levels are 0.110% of D.C. office revenue for platinum recognition, 0.090 % for gold and 0.075% for silver. The following chart can give you a rough estimate of the giving level required at different revenue levels:

Benchmark Levels		D.C. Office Revenue			
		\$100,000	\$1,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$100,000,000
Platinum	0.110%	\$110	\$1,100	\$11,000	\$110,000
Gold	0.090%	\$90	\$900	\$9,000	\$90,000
Silver	0.075%	\$75	\$750	\$7,500	\$75,000

How do I determine if my firm is eligible for recognition?

First, calculate the donations made by your firm to the eligible organizations on the attached list during the campaign year. Only donations to these organizations – each of which has as a core mission the provision of direct legal services to low- or moderate-income District residents – count toward meeting the benchmark level. Cash donations, donation of attorneys’ fees, and sponsorship of fellowships at the organizations on the attached list all count. The value of pro bono work, the value of loaned associates, in-kind donations made by the firm, and donations made by individual attorneys do not count. Firms may only count contributions to the D.C. Access to Justice Commission once they have reached the silver level through donations to one or more of the other listed organizations. In other words, donations to the Commission may only be counted to move a firm up a level – either from the silver to the gold level, or from the gold to the platinum level.

Second, calculate your firm's D.C. office revenue. Revenue is calculated as an average of the preceding three years (e.g., for donations made in 2022, firms would look at the average of D.C. office revenue in 2021, 2020, 2018¹). The firm is not required to release to the Commission its revenue calculations or its method of calculating what revenue is attributed to the D.C. office. Firms take different approaches to this calculation.

Third, you will calculate your firm's recognition level. If your firm's giving represents 0.075% of its D.C. office revenue or higher, it is eligible for recognition at the silver level; 0.090% or higher at the gold level; and 0.110% or higher at the platinum level. The Commission's Executive Director, Nancy Drane (contact information below) is available to answer questions and assist in the calculations.

What happens if the firm qualifies?

Qualifying firms should fill out a reporting form for the previous calendar year's giving. Firms may use the past years reporting form to assist in calculating the required giving levels. Historically, the Commission has also honored all participating firms at an annual event in the Spring following the campaign year. The receptions have featured a prominent speaker and receives press coverage. Previous events have included remarks by U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, the Honorable David Tatel, U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez, U.S. Solicitor General Donald B. Verrilli, Jr., Principal Deputy Assistant U.S. Attorney General Vanita Gupta, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Chair Catherine E. Lhamon, D.C. Attorney General Karl Racine, Chief Judge Anna Blackburne-Rigsby, Chief Judge Robert Morin, D.C. Mayor Vincent Gray, and the Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton, who've each congratulated the firms for their leadership and support of local legal services providers. In 2018, D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser issued a proclamation celebrating the success of the Campaign. Due to the pandemic, the Commission did not hold a recognition event for the 2019 and 2020 leadership circle. For the 2021 Campaign, the Commission is planning a social media and media campaign to highlight Leadership Circle firms.

Does the firm need to submit any documentation?

The Campaign is run on an honor system and firms are not required to provide their revenue or donation amounts to the Commission. However, the Commission does require firms to provide confidential information about its giving levels to Ernst & Young so that it can in turn provide aggregate data to the Commission. Specifically, firms are asked to provide Ernst & Young with their total amount of giving and what level of recognition this represents for the firm. Ernst & Young releases to the Commission only the total amount of giving by all participating firms. This allows the Commission to quantify the aggregate amount of money donated under the Campaign. The firm is not required at any time to provide information about its revenue or the amounts donated to individual providers. A reporting form is provided to participating firms in the early part of the year following the campaign year (i.e., firms will receive the 2022 reporting form in early 2023).

What other firms are participating?

Because of an ongoing pledge process, the list continues to grow. Forty-four firms participated in 2019; thirty-seven participated in 2020 despite COVID-related impact on giving, and thirty-four firms participated in 2021. An historical listing of participating firms is attached.

Who can I contact with questions?

Contact the Commission's Executive Director, Nancy Drane, nancy.drane@dcaccesstojustice.org, or 202-736-8334, or Staff Attorney Diana Sisson, diana.sisson@dcaccesstojustice.org.

The Raising the Bar in D.C. Campaign - Eligible Recipient Organizations

Advocates for Justice and Education	First Shift Justice Project
Amara Legal Center	Human Rights First – D.C. Asylum Legal Representation Project
Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center	Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) – D.C. Office
Ayuda	Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia
Bread for the City Legal Services	Legal Counsel for the Elderly
CAIR Coalition	Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project
CARECEN	Mil Mujeres Legal Services
Catholic Charities Immigration Network	Neighborhood Legal Services Program
Catholic Charities Legal Network	Network for Victim Recovery D.C. (NVRDC)
Children’s Law Center	Open City Advocates
Christian Legal Aid of D.C.	Quality Trust for Individuals with Disabilities
D.C. Access to Justice Foundation ¹	School Justice Project
D.C. Affordable Law Firm	Tahirih Justice Center
D.C. Bar Foundation	Tzedek D.C.
D.C. Bar Pro Bono Center	U.D.C. Law Summer Public Interest Fellowship Program
D.C. Crime Victims Resource Center	University Legal Services
D.C. KinCare Alliance	Washington Area Lawyers for the Arts (WALA)
D.C. Law Students in Court (now Rising for Justice)	Washington Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs
D.C. Volunteer Lawyers Project	Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless
DV LEAP (Domestic Violence Legal Empowerment Appeals Project) – DC Project	Whitman Walker Legal Services

¹ Firms may only count Contributions to the D.C. Access to Justice Foundation (in support of the Commission) once they have reached the Silver level through donations to one or more of the other listed organizations. Donations to the D.C. Access to Justice Foundation may only be counted to move a firm up a level – either from the Silver to the Gold level, or from the Gold to the Platinum level.

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A FUNDING CAMPAIGN FOR LEGAL SERVICES**

SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE 2021

PLATINUM LEVEL DONORS



ArentFox Schiff LLP
Arnold & Porter
Beveridge & Diamond PC
Covington & Burling LLP
DLA Piper LLP (US)
Henrikson Law PLLC
Jones Day
Katz, Marshall & Banks LLP
Kirkland & Ellis LLP
Klein Hornig LLP
Kropf Moseley PLLC

Law Offices of Andrew Marks PLLC
Law Office of Cecily E. Baskir, LLC
Law Offices of Gary N. Horlick
Lippman, Semsler & Salb LLC
Mayer Brown LLP
Sidley Austin LLP
Steptoe & Johnson LLP
The Morrison & Foerster Foundation
The Piorkowski Law Firm, PC
Venable LLP
Zuckerman Spaeder LLP

GOLD LEVEL DONORS



Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP
Buckley LLP
Crowell & Moring LLP
Eversheds Sutherland (US) LLP
Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP
Latham & Watkins LLP
Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP
WilmerHale

SILVER LEVEL DONORS



Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP
Epstein Becker & Green, PC
Lowenstein Sandler LLP

The Raising the Bar Campaign – Participating Firms (2011-2021)

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP

Platinum 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014; Gold 2021, 2020; Silver 2013, 2012, 2011

Arent Fox LLP

Platinum 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017; Gold 2016; Silver 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011

Arnold & Porter

Platinum 2021, 2019, 2018; Gold 2020, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011

Ballard Spahr LLP

Platinum 2014

Banner Witcoff

Silver 2011

Benach Collopy LLP

Silver 2017; Platinum 2016, 2014, 2012

Beveridge & Diamond PC

Platinum 2021, 2019; Gold 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013; Silver 2020, 2012

Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP

Platinum 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015

Buckley LLP

Gold 2021, 2020, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015; Platinum 2014, 2013, 2012; Silver 2011

Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP

Silver 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013

Cohen & Gresser LLP

Platinum 2019

Covington & Burling LLP

Platinum 2021, 2017, 2015, 2014; Gold 2020, 2018, 2016, 2012, 2011; Silver 2019, 2013

Crowell & Moring LLP

Platinum 2020, 2019, 2018, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013; Gold 2021, 2017, 2012, 2011

Cuneo Gilbert & LaDuca, LLP

Silver 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013

Delaney McKinney LLP

Platinum 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011

Dentons US LLP

Gold 2020, 2017; Silver 2019, 2018, 2016; Platinum 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011

DLA Piper LLP (US)

Platinum 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013; Gold 2017, 2012; Silver 2011

Dykema Gossett PLLC

Gold 2017, 2016; Platinum 2015, 2014

Epstein Becker & Green, P.C.

Silver 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012

Eversheds Sutherland (US) LLP

Platinum 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011; Gold 2021

Greenberg Traurig, LLP

Gold 2016; Platinum 2015; Silver 2014; Platinum 2013

Henrikson Law PLLC

Platinum 2021, 2020, 2019

Jenner & Block LLP

Silver 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011

Jones Day

Platinum 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011; Gold 2015

KaiserDillon PLLC

Platinum 2018, 2017

Kalijarvi, Chuzi, Newman & Fitch, P.C.

Platinum 2017

Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP

Platinum 2020, 2019, 2018; Gold 2021, 2017

Katz, Marshall & Banks

Platinum 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013

Kirkland & Ellis

Platinum 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011

Klein Hornig LLP

Platinum 2021, 2020, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2013, 2012, 2011; Gold 2019; Silver 2015, 2014

KMA Zuckert

Platinum 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012

Kropf Moseley LLP (formerly Law Offices of Sara Kropf)

Platinum 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013

Latham & Watkins LLP

Gold, 2021; Silver 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013

Law Offices of Andrea Ferster

Platinum 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012

Law Offices of Dean Gregory

Platinum 2020, 2019

Law Offices of Andrew Marks PLLC

Platinum 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013

Law Office of Cecily E. Baskir, LLC

Platinum 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015

Law Offices of Gary N. Horlick

Platinum 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011

Law Office of Virginia Kling

Platinum 2013, 2012

Lippman, Semsker & Salb LLC

Platinum 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012

Lowenstein Sandler LLP

Platinum 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017; Silver 2021

Matalon & Nathani, LLP

Platinum 2017, 2016, 2015; Gold 2018, 2014

Mayer Brown LLP

Platinum 2021, 2012; Gold 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2013, 2011; Silver 2014

McDermott Will & Emery LLP

Silver 2011

Miller & Chevalier Chartered

Platinum 2019, 2017; Gold 2018, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012; Silver 2020

Orr Immigration Law Firm

Platinum 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP

Platinum 2020, 2019, 2018; Gold 2021, 2017, 2016, 2015; Silver 2014

Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP

Gold 2021; Silver 2020, 2019, 2018

Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP

Platinum 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013; Silver 2019, 2012

RDH Law

Platinum 2013, 2012

Regan Associates, Chartered

Platinum 2016, 2014, 2013

Relman Colfax PLLC

Gold 2018; Platinum 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012; Silver 2019

Richards Kibbe & Orbe LLP

Platinum 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013

Sidley Austin LLP

Platinum 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017; Gold 2016, 2015, 2014; Silver 2013, 2012, 2011

Steptoe & Johnson LLP

Platinum 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013; Silver 2012, 2011

Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young LLP

Silver 2017, 2016; Gold 2015, 2014

The Morrison & Foerster Foundation

Platinum 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011

The Piorkowski Law Firm PC

Platinum 2021, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015; Silver 2020

Tycko & Zavareei LLP

Gold 2013; Silver 2014

Venable LLP

Platinum 2021, 2020, 2019

Weisbrod Matteis & Copley PLLC

Platinum 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013

Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP

Gold 2021, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011; Silver 2020

WTAILL PLLC

Platinum 2019

Zuckerman Spaeder LLP

Platinum 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011