

RAISING THE BAR IN DC CAMPAIGN 101



Access to Justice Commission

Take these steps to see if your firm qualifies for Raising the Bar in DC Recognition

Qualification is based on 2 things:

- Providing financial support to the campaign's list of 40+ eligible legal services organizations during the calendar year.
- Calculating whether your total giving to these organizations during the year meets pre-established benchmark percentages of your firm's average DC office revenue.

You can plan ahead! Because the percentage is measured against the average of prior years' revenue, you can calculate what amount of giving will qualify your firm at the desired level in advance - Platinum, Gold, or Silver. **Here's how:**

Work with the firm's administrative team to gather information about the firm's D.C. office revenue in 2022, 2021, and 2020. For example, let's assume the firm's D.C. office revenue was \$520,000,000 in 2022; \$515,000,000 in 2021; and \$450,000,000 in 2020.

Average these three numbers. This is the revenue number you will use for your Raising the Bar calculations. For example, based on the above, the average revenue is \$495,000,000.

Calculate the total sum of charitable contributions to the 40+ Raising the Bar in DC firms you'd need to qualify at each benchmark level. For example, based on the above, the following total sum of charitable contributions would be needed to qualify at each level: Platinum - 0.11% of \$495,000,000 = \$544,500; Gold - 0.09% of \$495,000,000 = \$445,500; Silver - 0.075% of \$495,000,000 = \$371,250

Calculate your charitable contributions to the list of organizations thus far in calendar year 2023. (There is a handy list on our sample reporting form.) For example, let's assume the sum of the firm's giving to these organizations thus far in 2023 is \$400,000.

Compare that total to the benchmarks above. This will tell you how close/far you are to your desired benchmark level. For example, based on this sum, the firm will qualify at the Silver level. If the firm increased its charitable giving budget to the Raising the Bar in DC eligible organizations by \$45,500, it'd qualify at the Gold level; if it increased by \$144,500 it'd qualify at the Platinum level.



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