

# ACCESSING JUSTICE in D.C.



## How the Access to Justice Initiative Promotes Community Stability

The proposed FY25 budget reduces the Access to Justice Initiative by 67% to \$10.457 million. By eliminating access to critically needed legal services, this cut will put the safety, health, housing, and economic stability of some of the District's most vulnerable populations at risk. We urge the D.C. Council to restore level funding of \$31.668M to ensure these services continue.

## Materials on the Initiative's Impact

- The Initiative's Impact
- Highlights from the Budget Oversight Hearing
- Initiative Impact by Ward
- How the Initiative Partners with the Community
- Impact of Proposed Funding Cuts
- Impact on Economic Security
- Impact on Housing
- Impact on Public Safety
- How the Initiative Leverages Resources
  
- Statements of Support
  - D.C. Courts
  - D.C. Bar Presidents
  - D.C. Law Firm Leaders

# THE INITIATIVE'S IMPACT

## ACCESSING JUSTICE in D.C.



### Restore Funding of \$31.7M for the Access to Justice Initiative

The proposed FY25 budget cuts the Access to Justice Initiative by 67% (or \$21.211M) to \$10.457M. This cut will eliminate access to critically needed legal services and put the safety, health, housing, and economic stability of the District community at risk. We urge the D.C. Council to restore FY24 funding of \$31.7M to ensure these vital services continue.

### *The Access to Justice Initiative Promotes Community Stability*



#### Initiative Programs

- 30+ Initiative grantees **keep DC residents in their homes, promote public safety and community stability, and further economic security**
- Initiative programs address life's fundamentals: **the roof over your head** (*evictions and foreclosures, housing conditions*); **family stability** (*child custody, child support, education, guardianship, immigration*); **personal safety** (*protection against abuse*); and **financial security** (*public benefits, debt, bankruptcy*)
- A **legal interpreter bank** ensures linguistically accessible legal services are available
- **Loan repayment** helps committed legal services lawyers stay working in and living in DC



#### Snapshot of its Impact

- The Initiative served **almost 40,000 DC residents** in 2023
- The legal interpreter bank provided more than **7,500 telephonic interpretations to 35 organizations in 2023** and declined additional requests due to under-funding
- Legal assistance from Initiative grantees in eviction cases led to **76% of tenants retaining possession** of their unit in 2023
- Initiative programs promote a **more racially equitable community**: most Initiative grants target Wards 5, 7 & 8 which are majority-Black
- A medical legal partnership that receives Initiative funding found its legal services helped **avoid \$14.1M in Medicaid costs** over three years



#### Essential services are at risk

- The proposed budget cut would force **deep staffing cuts** and **greatly reduce the number of District residents helped**.
- Putting these services in jeopardy will have **devastating consequences** for District residents.
- This cut will **reverse progress fostered by the Council** since the Initiative's inception, including new programs, strategic coordination between providers, and community-led and -based interventions.
- Current funding still fails to meet the **continued high demand for legal help** in housing, domestic violence, family law, immigration, probate, public benefits, & consumer protection. One provider reported receiving its highest number of requests for legal help in a decade this year.

FY25 funding of \$31.7M would provide \$20.35M for a wide range of civil legal services (including \$3M for eviction diversion and \$1M for a coordinated system to streamline legal referrals); \$11M for eviction-related legal services; and \$350,000 for loan repayment assistance to DC legal services attorneys

# BUDGET TESTIMONY HIGHLIGHTS

## ACCESSING JUSTICE in D.C.



### *Budget Oversight Hearings: What We Heard*

More than 50 witnesses testified at the D.C. Council on April 25, 2024 about how drastic cuts to the Access to Justice Initiative will undermine the safety, health, housing, and economic stability of District residents.

Dozens more expressed support for Initiative funding. Key points from oral and written testimony are below. We urge the D.C. Council to restore FY24 funding of \$31.7M to ensure these services continue.

### What Clients Said ...

*“The victimization I experienced bled over to my family, friends, and neighbors.... Let me assure you, the threats to the victim can quickly become problems to the community.... Without the legal aid and literal hand-holding, I’m not sure where I’d be today.”* C.N., DCVLP Client

*“I’m asking this Committee - will you keep me safe? Will you protect my life? Or will you take away the funding that has helped this - my life- become possible?”*

T.M., Georgetown HJA Cancer Law Project client who required legal help to stabilize housing before she could receive a lifesaving surgery and medical device

### What This Funding Cut Will Mean:

- **Thousands fewer clients will be served** across the entire spectrum of vital legal needs, meaning:
  - Instability for families and children without help in custody, child support, legal support for kinship care arrangements, and other legal help that keep families together
  - A provider having to turn away 1 in 3 domestic violence survivors seeking life-saving services
  - Hundreds of District households uprooted by eviction
  - The potential loss of the District’s only dedicated workers’ right clinic
  - Less support for returning citizens seeking employment and stability
  - Less or no support for elderly residents and residents with disabilities who want to live in the community
- Gutting of the Community Legal Interpreter Bank, leaving non-English speakers isolated and at risk
- **Significant loss of dedicated, experienced staff**, potentially 1/3 to 1/2 of legal staff at some organizations
- **Some funded projects and organizations could cease to exist entirely.**

### Need is Growing:

- The Initiative’s largest grantee is on track to accept 49% more cases in 2024 than in 2023 while still having to turn clients away
- Domestic violence needs are growing. One provider handled 1,200 consults in 2023, double the number the previous year
- The Family Law Assistance Network has received over 3,100 eligible referrals since 2020, with a 55% increase in volume in 2023
- Evictions are on the rise, with double the number scheduled so far in 2024 as in the same period of 2023
- The need for services to assist recently arrived migrants and combat fraud against immigrants, and for District residents facing debt and consumer fraud, is outpacing provider capacity

### What the Initiative Means to the Community:

- A **collaborative, robust legal community** that supports the courts, District agencies, non-legal services providers and their clients
- **More than 5,000 low-income residents have remained housed** since June 2020 because of Initiative eviction-related services
- **More youth in school and engaged in their education** due to receiving necessary supports
- **District families receiving millions of dollars** in benefits, tax credits, and protecting assets from debt and fraud, including \$14M saved by the District in Medicaid costs by keeping children out of hospitals and emergency rooms
- **Dignity and autonomy** for low-income District residents aging in place, remaining in their communities, and managing end-of-life planning

## ACCESSING JUSTICE in D.C.



### Civil Legal Services: Promoting Community Stability in Ward 1

- More than 5,200 Ward 1 residents were served through Access to Justice Initiative-funded civil legal services projects in 2023 - and community need continues to grow.
- With a poverty rate of 12% and child poverty rate of 23%, more than 1 in 10 Ward 1 residents who experience civil legal problems - housing instability, family issues, domestic violence and economic insecurity - cannot afford legal help.
- Having legal representation leads to better outcomes like stable families, secure incomes, and livable housing, and supports safe, thriving communities citywide.

Source: DC Kids Count

### How the Access to Justice Initiative Helps



#### Safe, Affordable Housing

Gentrification has pushed up rents and displaced longtime residents across DC. In Ward 1, 32% of households report a high housing cost burden. Initiative funded programs prevent foreclosures, help preserve affordable housing, maintain safe housing conditions, and use an intensive, in-person outreach model to stop evictions.

Source: DC Kids Count



#### Economic Security

Income disparities in Ward 1 point to uneven financial security: the median household income for Black families in Ward 1 is less than one-third of that for White families. Initiative grantees help residents secure public benefits, fight illegal debt collection, and protect their rights in employment matters.

Source: DC Kids Count



#### Families and Youth

More than 12,400 children live in Ward 1. Initiative grantees assist District families with resolving custody disputes, securing child support, immigration matters, keeping students invested in their educations and supporting reentering youth, and undertaking long-term care and estate planning, to help families manage unforeseen circumstances.

Source: DC Health Matters

#### Initiative-funded Legal Service Providers Work in Communities Throughout Ward 1



#### Did You Know it Funds?

- **Medical-legal partnerships** with Ward 1-based medical clinics that accept legal referrals for family law, public benefits, and a range of other issues
- A weekly **immigration and domestic violence legal clinic** at two Ward-1 sites
- Legal intakes and a quarterly **immigration clinic** held at Carlos Rosario International Public Charter School
- Monthly **financial workshops**, and outreach at local food distributions
- **Partnerships** with Ward-1 located community organizations
- 351 Ward 1 tenants alone were assisted with **eviction matters** in one year's time

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## ACCESSING JUSTICE in D.C.



### Civil Legal Services : Promoting Community Stability in Ward 2

- More than 2,300 Ward 2 residents were served through Access to Justice Initiative-funded civil legal services projects in FY23 - and community need continues to grow.
- Low-income Ward 2 residents who experience civil legal problems - housing instability, family issues, domestic violence or economic insecurity - cannot afford legal help.
- Having legal representation leads to better outcomes like stable families, secure incomes, livable housing, and supports safe, thriving communities citywide.

### How the Access to Justice Initiative Helps

#### Safe, Affordable Housing

Gentrification has pushed up rents and displaced longtime residents across DC, including in Ward 2, where 33% of households report a high housing cost burden. Initiative grantees prevent foreclosures, help preserve affordable housing, maintain safe housing conditions, and use an intensive, in-person outreach model to stop evictions citywide.

Source: DC Kids Count

#### Economic Security

Ward 2 includes some of DC's most economically stable neighborhoods, but sharp disparities exist: the median household income for Black families in Ward 2 is less than one-quarter of that for White families, and 4.8% of families in Ward 2 live below the poverty line. Initiative grantees help residents secure public benefits, fight illegal debt collection, and protect rights in employment matters.

Source: DC Health Matters

#### Family Stability


More than 8,700 children live in Ward 2. Initiative grantees assist District families with resolving custody disputes, securing child support, keeping students invested in their educations and supporting reentering youth, and undertaking long-term care and estate planning to help families manage unforeseen circumstances.

Source: DC Health Matters

### Initiative-funded Legal Service Providers Work in Communities Throughout Ward 2

#### Did You Know it Funds?

- **Legal and wraparound services** in Shaw, including, including housing search help, social work support, medical care, and free food and clothing
- Free weekly legal clinic for **domestic violence survivors and immigration matters** at a Ward-2 medical clinic
- **Trainings and presentations** at health clinics, law firms, MLK Library, and community locations
- Criminal record sealing workshops
- Support for **low-income Asian American communities** in downtown DC to secure tenant rights and preserve affordable housing
- A number of grantees have their **primary office spaces** in Ward 2
- 108 Ward 2 tenants alone were assisted with **eviction matters** in one year's time

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## ACCESSING JUSTICE in D.C.



### Civil Legal Services : Promoting Community Stability in Ward 3

- More than 1,100 Ward 3 residents were served through Access to Justice Initiative-funded civil legal services projects - and community need continues to grow.
- Low-income Ward 3 residents who experience civil legal problems - housing instability, family issues, domestic violence or economic insecurity - cannot afford legal help
- Having legal representation leads to better outcomes like stable families, secure incomes, livable housing, and supports safe, thriving communities citywide.

### How the Access to Justice Initiative Helps

#### **Safe, Affordable Housing**

Gentrification has pushed up rents and displaced longtime residents across DC, including in Ward 3, where 31% of households report a high housing cost burden. Initiative grantees prevent foreclosures, help preserve affordable housing, maintain safe housing conditions, and use an intensive, in-person outreach model to stop evictions citywide.

Source: DC Kids Count

#### **Financial Security**

Ward 3 includes some of DC's wealthiest neighborhoods, but sharp disparities exist: the median household income for Black families in Ward 3 is less than one-half of that for White families, and 8% of Ward 3 residents live in poverty. Initiative grantees help residents secure public benefits, fight illegal debt collection, and protect their rights in employment matters.

Source: DC Health Matters, DC Kids Count

#### **Family Stability**

More than 13,200 children live in Ward 3. Initiative grantees assist District families with resolving custody disputes, securing child support, keeping students invested in their educations and supporting reentering youth, and undertaking long-term care and estate planning to help families manage unforeseen circumstances.

Source: DC Health Matters

#### Initiative-funded Legal Service Providers Work in Communities Throughout Ward 3

##### **Did You Know it Funds?**

- Initiative funded providers serve residents in all 8 wards, including Ward 3.
- One Initiative grantee with a home office in Ward 3 provides legal services for DC residents with low incomes dealing with the often devastating consequences of abusive debt collection practices and other consumer related issues.
- Initiative grantees partner with UDC David A. Clarke School of Law, American University Washington College of Law, and other community service providers to provide trainings and support for Ward 3 service professionals and clients.
- Last year, Initiative grantees provided legal assistance to **148 tenants faced with eviction in Ward 3**

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## ACCESSING JUSTICE in D.C.



### Civil Legal Services : Promoting Community Stability in Ward 4

- More than 5,000 Ward 4 residents were served through Access to Justice Initiative-funded civil legal services projects in FY23 - and community need continues to grow.
- With a poverty rate of 9% nearly 1 in 10 Ward 4 residents who experience civil legal problems - housing instability, family issues, domestic violence or economic insecurity - cannot afford legal help.
- Having legal representation leads to better outcomes like stable families, secure incomes, and livable housing, and supports safe, thriving communities citywide.

Source: DC Kids Count

### How the Access to Justice Initiative Helps

#### **Safe, Affordable Housing**

Gentrification has pushed up rents and displaced longtime residents across DC. In Ward 4, 32% of households report a high housing cost burden. Initiative grantees prevent foreclosures, help preserve affordable housing, maintain safe housing conditions, and use an intensive, in-person outreach model to stop evictions citywide.

Source: DC Kids Count

#### **Financial Security**

With a 6% unemployment rate and a 9% poverty rate, many Ward 4 residents struggle to pay bills and meet their families' needs. Initiative grantees help residents secure public benefits, fight illegal debt collection, and protect their rights in employment matters.

Source: DC Health Matters, DC Kids Count

#### **Family Stability**

More than 18,700 children live in Ward 4. Initiative grantees assist District families with resolving custody disputes, securing child support, keeping students invested in their educations and supporting reentering youth, and undertaking long-term care and estate planning to help families manage unforeseen circumstances.

Source: DC Health Matters

### Initiative-funded Legal Service Providers Work in Communities Throughout Ward 4

#### **Did You Know it Funds?**

- One Initiative grantee helps **preserve affordable housing** in Ward 4, working with tenants to fight illegal rent increases, demand repairs for housing code violations, and challenge unfair landlord practices
- One Ward 4-based Initiative grantee provides **legal assistance to crime victims, including sexual assault and domestic violence survivors**, along with holistic advocacy and case management
- One grantee provides a quarterly financial workshop at the Petworth Neighborhood Library, and does monthly outreach at a food distribution site
- In one year's time, Initiative grantees provided legal assistance to **278 tenants threatened with eviction** in Ward 4

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## ACCESSING JUSTICE in D.C.



### Civil Legal Services : Promoting Community Stability in Ward 5

- More than 4,700 Ward 5 residents were served through Access to Justice Initiative-funded civil legal services projects in 2023 - and community need continues to grow.
- With a poverty rate of 16%, many Ward 5 residents who experience civil legal problems - housing instability, family issues, domestic violence or economic insecurity - cannot afford legal help
- Having legal representation leads to better outcomes like stable families, secure incomes, and livable housing, and supports safe, thriving communities citywide.

Source: DC Kids Count

### How the Access to Justice Initiative Helps

#### Safe, Affordable Housing

Gentrification has pushed up rents and displaced longtime residents across DC. In Ward 5, 38% of households report a high housing cost burden. Initiative grantees prevent foreclosures, help preserve affordable housing, and use an intensive, in-person outreach model to stop evictions citywide.

Source: DC Kids Count

#### Financial Security

With a 5.9% unemployment rate and a 16% poverty rate, many Ward 5 residents struggle to pay bills and meet their families' needs. Initiative grantees help residents secure public benefits, fight illegal debt collection, and protect their rights in employment matters.

Source: DC Health Matters, DC Kids Count

#### Family Stability

More than 17,400 children live in Ward 5. Initiative grantees assist District families with resolving custody disputes, securing child support, keeping students invested in their educations and supporting reentering youth, and undertaking long-term care and estate planning to help families manage unforeseen circumstances.

Source: DC Health Matters

#### Initiative-funded Legal Service Providers Work in Communities Throughout Ward 5

##### Did You Know it Funds?

- A **free monthly walk-in clinic** at Woodridge Library that provides legal help with public benefits, unemployment, student loans, and more
- Legal information, advice, and brief assistance from a **Ward 5-based** legal services provider on a range of legal issues
- **Twice-monthly legal clinics** in Spanish and English at a resource center for families experiencing homelessness and poverty
- **Legal orientation clinics** for recently arrived migrants
- **Medical-legal partnerships** at Children's National Hospital, focused on adolescents, and at Washington Hospital Center, focused on maternal health.
- In one year's time, Initiative grantees provided legal assistance to 466 **tenants facing eviction** in Ward 5

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## ACCESSING JUSTICE in D.C.



### Civil Legal Services : Promoting Community Stability in Ward 6

- More than 2,700 Ward 6 residents were served through Access to Justice Initiative-funded civil legal services projects in FY23 - and community need continues to grow.
- With a poverty rate of 11%, many Ward 6 residents who experience civil legal problems - housing instability, family issues, domestic violence or economic insecurity - cannot afford legal help
- Having legal representation leads to better outcomes like more stable families, secure incomes, and livable housing, and supports stable, thriving communities.

Source: DC Kids Count

### How the Access to Justice Initiative Helps

#### Safe, Affordable Housing

Gentrification has pushed up rents and displaced longtime residents across DC. In Ward 6, 32% of households report a high housing cost burden. Initiative grantees prevent foreclosures, help preserve affordable housing, maintain safe housing conditions, and use an intensive, in-person outreach model to stop evictions citywide.

Source: DC Kids Count

#### Financial Security

Income disparities in Ward 6 point to uneven financial security: the median household income for Black families in Ward 6 is less than half of that for White families, and 7.1% of Ward 6 families live below the poverty line. Initiative grantees help residents secure public benefits, fight illegal debt collection, and protect their rights in employment matters.

Source: DC Health Matters

#### Family Stability

More than 17,200 children live in Ward 6. Initiative grantees assist District families with resolving custody disputes, securing child support, keeping students invested in their educations and supporting reentering youth, and undertaking long-term care and estate planning to help families manage unforeseen circumstances.

Source: DC Health Matters

#### Initiative-funded Legal Service Providers Work in Communities Throughout Ward 6

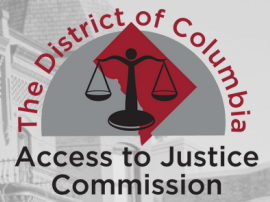
##### Did You Know it Funds?

- On-site legal assistance at D.C. Superior Court in Ward 6, including the Child Support Resource Center, which offers **same-day representation and legal advice for low-income litigants in parentage and child support matters** and the Domestic Violence Intake Center, where Initiative-funded lawyers offer **representation to domestic violence survivors seeking protection orders** against their abusers, and the **Landlord Tenant Resource Center**.
- Twice monthly legal aid clinics at a emergency shelter
- One Ward 6-based Initiative grantee provides **legal assistance to people with disabilities**, such as ensuring they have equal access to public accommodations
- In FY23, Initiative grantees provided **legal assistance to 268 tenants facing eviction** in Ward 6

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## ACCESSING JUSTICE in D.C.



### Civil Legal Services : Promoting Community Stability in Ward 7

- Nearly 6,700 Ward 7 residents were served through Access to Justice Initiative-funded civil legal services projects in FY23 - and community need continues to grow.
- With a poverty rate of 24%, many Ward 7 residents who experience civil legal problems - housing instability, family issues, domestic violence or economic insecurity - cannot afford legal help.
- Having legal representation leads to better case outcomes like stable families, secure incomes, and livable housing, and supports stable, thriving communities.

Source: DC Kids Count

### How the Access to Justice Initiative Helps



#### Safe, Affordable Housing

As gentrification has lowered Black homeownership rates east of the river and pushed up rents, 43% of Ward 7 households report a high housing cost burden. Initiative grantees prevent foreclosures, help preserve affordable housing, maintain safe housing conditions, and use an intensive, in-person outreach model to stop evictions citywide.

Source: DC Kids Count



#### Financial Security

With a 16.5 % unemployment rate and a median household income less than half of that for all of DC, many Ward 7 residents struggle to pay bills and meet their families' needs. Initiative grantees help residents secure public benefits, fight illegal debt collection, and protect their rights in employment matters.

Source: DC Health Matters



#### Family Stability

More than 19,700 children live in Ward 7 and the child poverty rate is 34%. Initiative grantees assist District families with resolving custody disputes, securing child support, keeping students invested in their educations and supporting reentering youth, and undertaking long-term care and estate planning to help families manage unforeseen circumstances.

Source: DC Kids Count

### Initiative-funded Legal Service Providers Work in Communities Throughout Ward 7



#### Did You Know it Funds?

- An Initiative grantee is a **medical-legal partnership** with Unity Health Care in Ward 7, offering legal assistance to parents of children whose medical issues are related to poor housing conditions
- Community legal education workshops focused on **estate planning and probate matters** were held by one Initiative grantee at the DC Dream Center in 2022 and 2023
- A free monthly walk-in clinic at Benning Neighborhood Library offered by one Initiative grantee provides **legal help with public benefits, unemployment, student loans, and more**
- Free monthly trainings on **family law, housing, and public benefits** at Capital View Library
- In FY23, Initiative grantees provided **legal assistance to 560 tenants threatened with eviction** in Ward 7

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## ACCESSING JUSTICE in D.C.



### Civil Legal Services : Promoting Community Stability in Ward 8

- More than 7,300 Ward 8 residents were served through Access to Justice Initiative-funded civil legal services projects in FY23 - and community need continues to grow.
- With a poverty rate of 28%, many Ward 8 residents who experience civil legal problems - housing instability, family issues, domestic violence or economic insecurity - cannot afford legal help.
- Having legal representation leads to better outcomes like more stable families, secure incomes, and livable housing, and supports safe, thriving communities.

Source: DC Kids Count

### How the Access to Justice Initiative Helps

#### Safe, Affordable Housing

As gentrification has lowered Black homeownership rates east of the river and pushed up rents, 49% of Ward 8 households report a high housing cost burden. Initiative grantees prevent foreclosures, help preserve affordable housing, maintain safe housing conditions, and use an intensive, in-person outreach model to stop evictions citywide.

Source: DC Kids Count

#### Financial Security

With a 9.6% unemployment rate and a median household income less than half of that for all of DC, many Ward 8 residents struggle to pay bills and meet their families' needs. Initiative grantees help residents secure public benefits, fight illegal debt collection, and protect their rights in employment matters.

Source: DC Health Matters

#### Family Stability

More than 21,000 children live in Ward 8, with a child poverty rate of 36%. Initiative grantees assist District families with resolving custody disputes, securing child support, keeping students invested in their educations and supporting reentering youth, and undertaking long-term care and estate planning to help families manage unforeseen circumstances.

Source: DC Health Matters, DC Kids Count

#### Initiative-funded Legal Service Providers Work in Communities Throughout Ward 8

##### Did You Know it Funds?

- Provided **legal assistance to 982 tenants threatened with eviction** in Ward 8
- One grantee provided legal help with housing, public benefits, family law and more, as well as **wraparound services** at its Anacostia location, including social work support, medical care, and free food and clothing
- **Children's National Hospital** sites in Anacostia and at THE ARC host Initiative-funded lawyers.
- A criminal record sealing workshop with CSOSA
- Advanced Directive workshop **for seniors**
- Weekly walk-in legal clinic for **domestic violence survivors**
- Legal clinic at **Parkland Turner Library**
- Know-your-rights seminars for **caregivers and caseworkers** at community locations
- Financial literacy training for **young adults** at THEARC

To learn more: visit us at

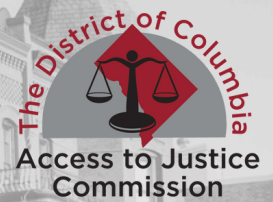
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# IMPACT OF PROPOSED BUDGET CUT

## ACCESSING JUSTICE in D.C.



The proposed FY25 budget reduces the Access to Justice Initiative by 67% to \$10.457 million. This will have catastrophic consequences for the District's legal services providers and the almost 40,000 District residents who receive life-changing civil legal services through the program each year. It will also erase significant progress made in the past three fiscal years to address chronic justice gaps in high-need areas. We urge the D.C. Council to restore FY24 funding of \$31.7M to ensure services continue.

### *Potential consequences of the proposed 67% cut in funding:*

#### Increased Housing Instability

- A potential **loss of over \$10.8 million** dedicated to keeping District residents in their homes through eviction defense and prevention, foreclosure prevention, addressing unsafe housing conditions, and affordable housing preservation.
- Funding cuts would mean dramatically less outreach to tenants (6,858 door knocks and 5,609 outreach letters in FY23) - and **more District residents losing their homes**

#### Other Devastating Cuts

A 67% cut spread equally across currently funded projects would mean:

- Almost \$900,000 less for legal services for consumer issues, debt defense, predatory lending and fraud
- Almost \$500,000 less to support re-entering citizens
- Almost \$700,000 less for domestic violence legal services and almost \$1.5 million less for family law legal services
- \$700,000 less for immigration legal services
- Around \$600,000 less for probate and estate planning services to ensure the intergenerational transfer of wealth
- Almost \$900,000 less for public benefits matters and over \$900,000 for health and disability matters, which ensure financial stability and health care services for District residents
- Almost \$275,000 less for special education matters, at a time of skyrocketing student need

#### Critical loss of staffing

The proposed budget cut would force **deep staffing cuts which will greatly reduce the number of District residents helped.**

Cuts could mean:

- **The loss of 161 FTEs** - the equivalent of 67% of those currently funded through the Initiative
- The loss of 2/3 of staffing for the Community Legal Interpreter Bank (from 3 FTEs to 1) at a time when the Interpreter Bank is turning down requests due to underfunding
- Loss of non-legal support staff including social workers and outreach staff
- Many funded providers rely on Initiative funding for 30-50% of their total staffing organization-wide; over half of projects (35 projects across 12 providers) rely on the Initiative for 75% or more of their funding

#### Expanded Projects in Jeopardy

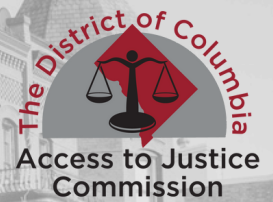
- Gutting recent expansions in the availability of future planning and probate legal services by four providers - despite longstanding unmet needs in this area in the community
- Dramatically shrinking family law services that offer stability and financial security for District families and children
- Jeopardizing expanded community partnerships and outreach, and **300+ fewer trainings** for community members
- Reductions in the number of remote and in-person legal clinics

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# IMPACT ON ECONOMIC SECURITY

## ACCESSING JUSTICE in D.C.



### The Access to Justice Initiative Promotes Economic Security

The proposed FY25 budget reduces the Access to Justice Initiative by 67% to \$10.457 million. This will have catastrophic consequences for economic security and opportunity for almost 40,000 District residents who receive life-changing civil legal services through the program each year. We urge the D.C. Council to restore FY24 funding of \$31.7M to ensure these services continue.

### *Highlights of Initiative work in promoting economic security include:*

#### **Protecting residents from fraud and illegal debt collection**

- Fighting predatory lending and debt collection schemes, including fraud perpetrated against people with disabilities and undocumented immigrants
- Averting negative court judgments and adverse credit reporting that would limit future housing and employment opportunities
- The DC Debt Collection Hotline has served thousands of residents, and the number is provided by the D.C. Superior Court to all litigants facing debt collection lawsuits.
- One grantee program alone kept \$1.4 million in the pockets of 767 families facing debt and consumer cases last year.

#### **Protecting wages and jobs**

- Ensuring District residents know their rights and receive the wages and benefits they have earned and fighting to recover stolen wages
- Fighting employment-related discrimination and harassment so that residents can stay employed
- Providing specialized services for working mothers, immigrants, trafficking survivors, returning citizens, and other vulnerable populations at higher risk of unemployment and economic exploitation

#### **Maintaining stable income and benefits:**

- Helping District residents navigate vital public benefits matters (unemployment insurance, paid family leave, TANF, SNAP, rental subsidies, shelter services, and health benefits) - often without litigation
- Representing people with disabilities and domestic violence survivors to protect their benefits from being mismanaged or stolen

#### **Preserving intergenerational transfer of homes and assets**

- Heirs property and other probate-related work to help families transfer assets, especially homes - allowing families to stay in multigenerational in the District, and promoting Black homeownership.
- Assisting District low- and moderate-income residents and seniors with financial and future planning

#### **Reducing healthcare costs**

- Addressing health-harming problems through legal solutions - one grantee addressing housing code violations found community savings of over \$14 million in Medicaid costs avoided over three years by keeping children out of hospitals and emergency rooms.

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# IMPACT ON HOUSING

# ACCESSING JUSTICE

in D.C.



## The Access to Justice Initiative Promotes Housing Stability

The proposed FY25 budget reduces the Access to Justice Initiative by 67% to \$10.457 million. By eliminating access to critically needed legal services, this cut will put the safety, health, housing, and economic stability of some of the District's most vulnerable populations at risk. We urge the D.C. Council to restore FY24 funding of \$31.7M to ensure these services continue.

## How the Initiative Helps D.C. Tenants

### A Growing Housing Crisis in DC

- DC ranks among the most expensive rental markets nationally; more than 1/3 of tenant households have a high housing cost burden
- The soaring need for affordable housing stands in stark contrast to available supply: 40,000 people were on the waitlist for housing vouchers in FY23. In FY24, the median time from application to lease in Public Housing was 11 years
- Scheduled evictions increased 250% between January 2022 and January 2023, and rates in 2024 are double for the same period in 2023
- Tenant requests for legal help with housing matters increased 225% between January 2022 and January 2023, and providers reported additional increases of 19-45% through 2023
- The monthly average of eviction filings in DC Superior Court grew by 42% in 2023.



### Expanded Funding = Real Results

- Since September 2021, Initiative-funded canvassers have contacted tenants with a scheduled eviction to connect with legal, social services
- For tenants served in FY23:
  - **87% of tenants** who wanted to stay in their unit were able to do so
  - **Only 5%** of cases resulted in an eviction judgment against a tenant
  - **89%** of those facing voucher termination had a **favorable result**
- **8,200+ DC residents** got help between August 2019 - September 2023
- [Read FY24 eviction project report](#) →



### Did you know?

- **More than 1/2 of Initiative funds** help keep District residents in their homes through eviction defense and diversion, foreclosure prevention, and affordable housing preservation
- **The Landlord Tenant Legal Assistance Network**, a coordinated phone and online intake system, streamlines legal services access by providing tenants with an efficient, centralized service to connect them to one of 6 legal aid providers. **10,300+ District residents have contacted this line since it was created in June 2020.**



### Initiative's Eviction Diversion Model Fosters Community Solutions

FY22, FY23, & FY24 funding enabled legal services providers to partner with community-based organizations and canvassers for intensive outreach to identify, support, & train community members and leaders, including in FY23:

6,858 doors knocks

5,609 outreach letters

664 "Know Your Rights" Trainings with 12,105 attendees

To learn more

visit us at [dcaccesstojustice.org](https://dcaccesstojustice.org)

or go to <https://www.dcbfoundation.org>



# IMPACT ON PUBLIC SAFETY

## ACCESSING JUSTICE in D.C.



### The Access to Justice Initiative Promotes Public Safety

The proposed FY25 budget reduces the Access to Justice Initiative by 67% to \$10.457 million. This will have catastrophic consequences for economic security and opportunity for almost 40,000 District residents who receive life-changing civil legal services through the program each year. We urge the D.C. Council to restore funding to the FY24 level of \$31.7M to ensure these services continue.

### Highlights of Initiative work in promoting public safety include:

#### Promoting Stable, Resilient Communities

- **Increasing education opportunities for youth** by ensuring students have access to special education and related services, language access, and other required supports to keep them invested in their education. Other legal services specifically target court-involved youth or youth at risk of court involvement.
- **Achieving family stability** through legal services to prevent children from entering the foster care system by supporting families at risk and legal supports to relatives seeking to care for children whose parents are unable; and legal services to reduce family conflict and resolve custody and child support disputes.
- **Helping Seniors aging in place** through legal services to maintain housing, protect in-home support services, and assist with financial planning to ensure inter-generational transfer of homes and property
- **Protecting the District's growing immigrant population** from fraud and provide culturally specific legal services that focus on the safety, security, and holistic well-being of migrant and immigrant communities
- **Promoting economic opportunity** and stability for District residents, including those with disabilities, experiencing medical crises, re-entering citizens, low-wage workers, and others at risk of financial or commercial exploitation

#### Keeping Abuse Survivors Safe

- Trauma-informed services to survivors of domestic and gender based violence in all 8 wards, including emergency legal services, crisis safety planning, and expanded walk-in clinics and virtual clinics at the courthouse and in the community
- For one organization, 1,200 free legal consultations in 2023 for low-income victims of domestic violence, immigrants, and at-risk children - - double the number provided in 2022.
- Holistic legal support for crime victims and survivors of sex trafficking and exploitation, and training community providers on identifying trafficking survivors - with one provider receiving 445 calls from crime victims seeking services in FY23

#### Decreasing recidivism

- Ensuring individuals transitioning back to the community after being detained in local or Federal juvenile, residential, or adult facilities have necessary legal supports for education, custody, child support, employment and consumer matters and other post-incarceration issues so that they can successfully reintegrate into their communities.
- One funded provider working with adolescents has cut recidivism in half through legal advocacy for well-tailored reentry plans and community supports.

**To learn more:** visit us at <https://dcaccesstojustice.org/access-public-funding/> or go to <https://www.dcbafoundation.org/>

# LEVERAGING RESOURCES

## ACCESSING JUSTICE in D.C.



### Restore \$31.7M in Funding for Access to Justice

The proposed FY25 budget reduces the Access to Justice Initiative by 67% to \$10.457 million. Robust public funding allows legal services organizations to leverage every public dollar of funding into additional pro bono services, private financial support, and community knowledge-building. These cuts put the safety, health, housing, and economic stability of the District's most vulnerable populations at risk. We urge the D.C. Council to restore FY24 funding of \$31.7M to ensure these services continue.

### *How the Access to Justice Initiative Leverages Other Resources*

#### Supporting Pro Bono Service

Legal service providers magnify the impact of every public dollar through the recruitment, training, and support of private lawyers and law firms in the District. For FY23, Initiative funding supported:

- **926 cases placed with pro bono attorneys**  
**449 cases co-counseled with pro bono attorneys**

Grantees report the equivalency of at least **\$50.5 million in donated legal services**. These pro bono services are only made possible when there is a stably-funded legal services network to identify cases, develop resources, and provide ongoing training and mentorship.

#### Educating and Empowering Residents

For FY23, Initiative funding supported:

- **1,134 “Know Your Rights” Trainings** delivered to renters, caregivers, caseworkers, recently arrived migrants, youth, law enforcement, reentering citizens, and other District residents
- **12,105 community attendees** to eviction prevention “Know Your Rights” trainings
- District residents got information at community events and partners, including food distributions, public libraries, schools, and medical providers
- One grantee alone held 78 community events, **reaching over 15,000 District community members** in 2023

#### Additional Private Financial Support

- Private support has been **greatly incentivized** by the District's leadership in establishing and funding the Access to Justice Initiative, signaling its vital importance to the community. The District's legal services providers work aggressively to raise money from many other sources.
- The Commission recognizes law firms that provide a qualifying level of financial support to local legal services providers through its [Raising the Bar in D.C. campaign](#). Between 2011 and 2022, participating law firms donated over **\$56 million**. While this number does not capture all law firm giving, or individual giving, private giving simply cannot make up the proposed funding cut.

Without the District's leadership in appropriating these public funds and the stable legal services infrastructure they assure, these important private resources might go untapped, and thousands more clients denied access to legal help.

To learn more visit us at [dcaccesstojustice.org](https://dcaccesstojustice.org) or go to [dcbfoundation.org](https://dcbfoundation.org)





# District of Columbia Courts



**Before the Council of the District of Columbia  
Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety**

**Written Statement of Hon. Anna Blackburne-Rigsby Chief Judge, D.C. Court of Appeals  
and Hon. Anita Josey-Herring, Chief Judge, D.C. Superior Court**

## **In Support of the Access to Justice Initiative**

The District of Columbia Courts are pleased to testify in support of the Access to Justice Initiative (“Initiative”) once again. The D.C. Courts are confronted every day by the significant civil justice gap that persists in our community. One significant obstacle to closing this gap is the vast number of litigants who must navigate their cases alone in both the D.C. Superior Court and the D.C. Court of Appeals because they cannot afford counsel. The Initiative is a fundamental and essential part of any effort to provide equal justice for District residents facing significant civil legal challenges because it is a critical tool in securing legal representation for the thousands of litigants who seek redress in our tribunals each year. The Initiative increases the opportunity for residents who are in legal crisis to have an advocate at their side when the things they most value – their children, their livelihood, their safety, their homes – are at risk. That is why it is critical to maintain consistent and adequate funding to support legal services providers that offer free legal help to low-income District residents experiencing these problems in civil cases.

As judges, we see first-hand how important legal services providers are to the administration of justice. The Court partners with local legal services organizations to host court-based projects that make free legal services more readily available to court users. The assistance provided involves a range of legal help such as legal information, advice, brief service, limited representation, or full representation, provided at the time the litigant is in court with an opportunity to secure longer-term representation. We and our colleagues are grateful to be able to direct court users with questions and legal needs to these valuable resources. Each year thousands of court litigants are served through these projects.

## D.C. Courts Statement on the Access to Justice Initiative, page 2

Most importantly, the Initiative has provided a greater opportunity for court litigants to have the benefit of full, legal representation. The legal issues confronted by litigants are complex, and many struggle to understand the relevant statutes and rules, effectively raise complicated defenses, and present their evidence and arguments persuasively. For the high percentage of litigants who also struggle with other challenges like physical disabilities, low literacy, lack of internet and technology access, or histories of domestic violence or trauma, navigating the process without counsel can seem, and in practice be, impossible. For these litigants, counsel is indispensable.

We also recognize that a well-funded and stable legal services network helps advance our goal of expanding the level of other *pro bono* representation in our courts. Legal services providers ensure that the cases placed with volunteer lawyers are properly screened, and that these lawyers receive the training, mentoring, and support that they need to take on cases that may be outside their area of expertise. The Courts are pleased to recognize this community of *pro bono* lawyers each year through the *Capital Pro Bono Honor Roll*. Legal service providers are essential to harnessing this resource for the benefit of District residents.

Having access to counsel also advances the efficient operations of our courts. Legal counsel present cases more efficiently, thereby reducing litigant wait times and freeing up judicial resources. They ensure that dispositive issues are raised early in the case, reducing time expended by parties and witnesses while also permitting judges to reach a just result in a timely manner. They also assist their clients in settlement negotiations and mediation to potentially resolve matters without the need for lengthy court procedures. Efficiency is now more important to the courts than ever as we continue to reimagine operations with a combination of virtual and in-person hearings. Self-represented litigants remain in dire need of representation to navigate the legal system, as well as understand and affect their rights.

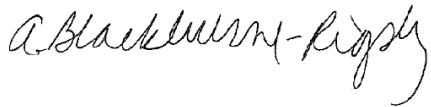
As court leaders, we are also charged with ensuring the fair administration of justice more generally. Public trust and confidence in the courts is essential in our democratic system. However, no matter how much the Courts do institutionally to enhance access to justice for unrepresented litigants, litigants feel they are treated more fairly when they have counsel by their side.

### **D.C. Courts Statement on the Access to Justice Initiative, page 3**

Legal services providers have long played an instrumental role in serving court litigants in partnership with the court. Their work during the pandemic is a good example. Legal services providers worked closely with the court to ensure access to justice even during the most acute phases of the crisis. Accessing the courts during this time presented new challenges for everyone, particularly litigants without counsel. The courts took numerous steps to ensure access to justice, including modifying operations to allow for remote access to court services and establishing six remote hearing sites throughout the District for litigants who otherwise lacked the ability to participate in virtual hearings. Legal services providers gave important feedback to court leadership on operational changes during this period, highlighting best practices for remote operations, and providing new resources to unrepresented litigants navigating the virtual court experience.

Important innovations that began during the pandemic continue to be offered to court litigants. The Court and the Bar provided remote access to court-based programs and resource centers in landlord-tenant, debt collection, small claims, child support, family law, and domestic violence cases, all areas that receive Initiative support. Legal services staff established centralized hotlines for unrepresented litigants seeking legal advice and representation in high-volume courtrooms. The courts also have partnered with legal services providers to share case information which enables attorneys to proactively reach out to litigants before hearings to offer access to civil legal services. These affirmative outreach efforts – the result of fairly recent funding – mean court litigants have access to legal support earlier in their cases.

The vision statement of the District of Columbia Courts is “Open to All, Trusted by All, Justice for All.” As judges, we are fully committed to achieving this vision. To do that, we rely on a skilled and adequately resourced legal services network to protect the rights of the District’s most vulnerable residents. The Access to Justice Initiative plays a significant role in providing that support. Thank you for the opportunity to submit our written testimony on behalf of the Access to Justice Initiative.



The Honorable Anna Blackburne-Rigsby  
Chief Judge, D.C. Court of Appeals



The Honorable Anita Josey-Herring  
Chief Judge, D.C. Superior Court

April 25, 2024





April 22, 2024

The Council of the District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20004

RE: FY25 Access to Justice Initiative Funding

Dear Chairman Mendelson, Judiciary Committee Chair Pinto, and Members of the D.C. Council:

On behalf of the District of Columbia Bar and its past Presidents, we write to express our ardent support for the Access to Justice Initiative (the "Initiative") and the D.C. Access to Justice Commission's call for restoration of program funding. We are grateful to the District government for its support of the Initiative and recognize that it is a model for the nation.

Given the transformative nature of the Initiative funding, we were alarmed to learn that the Mayor's proposed fiscal year 2025 budget reduces by 67% the \$31.668 million allocated for the Initiative in fiscal year 2024, leaving only \$10.457 million for this critical program. These funds provide essential legal assistance to low-income District residents. Drastic cuts to this effective program will lead to catastrophic consequences for District residents that will put their safety, health, housing, and economic stability at risk, placing the District's most vulnerable residents even further in jeopardy. **We urge the Council to prioritize the restoration of Initiative funding to the fiscal 2024 level of \$31.668 million.**

Reducing investment in the Initiative will be especially damaging when community need continues to increase. Even before the pandemic, there was a staggering demand for civil legal services, as detailed in the Commission's 2019 report "[\*Delivering Justice: Addressing Civil Legal Needs in the District of Columbia\*](#)." The Initiative proved critical to the District's pandemic response and recovery, with District legal services providers pursuing innovative approaches to address unmet demand for legal help. FY22 through FY24 budget increases positioned the District's legal services community to expand services to address unmet legal needs. This work is at serious risk if funding is drastically cut, to the detriment of District residents. Although the pandemic has waned, demand for legal services continues to grow, especially in the areas of housing and domestic violence.

Initiative grantees leverage this funding and its capacity to help District residents when they recruit our attorney members to do pro bono work. The D.C. Bar is the largest mandatory bar in the country, with more than 118,000 members nationwide and 66,000 members in the D.C. metropolitan area. Meaningful access to justice for every D.C. resident is one of the Bar's

core values and providing pro bono services is both an ethical obligation under our Rules of Professional Responsibility as well as a moral commitment for many members.

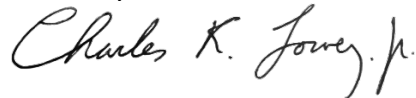
As Bar leaders, we continually encourage our D.C. Bar members to devote more time to pro bono work through volunteering with legal services organizations. But pro bono attorneys rely on the work of legal services providers in building trusting relationships with communities, screening cases, providing training, and offering mentorship, all of which take significant resources. Any cuts to funding for the Initiative's legal services grantees put at risk the multiplier effect of their capacity to support pro bono volunteers.

In addition to funding legal services for District residents, the Initiative supports student loan repayment for lawyers employed by nonprofit legal services providers. This relatively modest investment keeps highly qualified, experienced lawyers serving District residents and is a key recruitment and retention tool for nonprofit legal employers.

Access to legal assistance makes a real difference. Without the civil legal aid to help District residents navigate complicated issues and secure protections, our community's challenges will increase as unaddressed legal problems spiral into additional crises. Often, the consequences of these unmet needs ultimately will be borne by the government. An effective program like the Initiative that provides assistance early in the legal process is good for the community and relieves the burden on government institutions. Drastic cuts to the Initiative would place this benefit to the community and government in serious jeopardy.

We thank each of you for recognizing the importance of providing access to justice for the residents of the District of Columbia. Initiative funding is the engine that keeps our legal services provider network running and our pro bono partnerships thriving. Along with the listed Past Presidents of the D.C. Bar, we thank you for your consideration of this letter and our request that the Council again demonstrate leadership in this area by restoring funding for the Initiative.

Sincerely,



Charles R. Lowery, Jr.  
President, 2023-2024



Shaun Snyder  
President-Elect, 2023-2024

## Past Presidents of the D.C. Bar In Support of the Access to Justice Initiative

Charles R. Work	1976-77
Robert L. Weinberg	1978-79
Marna S. Tucker	1984-85
Hon. Paul L. Friedman	1986-87
Philip A. Lacovara	1988-89
Sara-Ann Determan	1990-91
Jamie S. Gorelick	1992-93
Mark H. Tuohey III	1993-94
Pauline A. Schneider	1994-95
Robert N. Weiner	1995-96
Myles V. Lynk	1996-97
Carolyn B. Lamm	1997-98
Andrew H. Marks	1998-99
Joan H. Strand	1999-2000
John W. Nields Jr.	2000-01
Shirley Ann Higuchi	2003-04
John (Jack) C. Keeney	2004-05
John C. Cruden	2005-06
James J. Sandman	2006-07
Melvin White	2007-08
Robert J. Spagnoletti	2008-09
Kim Michele Keenan	2009-10
Ronald S. Flagg	2010-11
Darrell G. Mottley	2011-12
Andrea Ferster	2013-14
Brigida Benitez	2014-15
Timothy K. Webster	2015-16
Annamaria Steward	2016-17
Patrick McGlone	2017-18
Esther H. Lim	2018-19
Susan M. Hoffman	2019-20
Geoffrey M. Klineberg	2020-21
Chad T. Sarchio	2021-22
Ellen M. Jakovic	2022-23

**District Law Firms Urge Consistent Funding for Civil Legal Services**

May 1, 2024

The Council of the District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20004

RE: FY25 Access to Justice Initiative Funding

Dear Chairman Mendelson, Judiciary Committee Chair Pinto, and Members of the D.C. Council:

We are writing as leaders of twenty-eight of the District's largest law firms to express our support for the Access to Justice Initiative. We recognize that the D.C. Council is a model for the nation in its creation and robust support of the Initiative, which provides critical legal assistance to low-income District residents. We are grateful for this support.

That is why we were alarmed to learn that the Mayor's proposed fiscal year 2025 budget reduces 67% of the \$31.7 million allocated for the Initiative in fiscal year 2024, leaving only \$10.457 million in funding. Chairman Mendelson has rightly sounded the alarm about this drastic proposed decrease, which would have devastating consequences for District residents, and erase significant progress made in the past three fiscal years to address chronic justice gaps in high-need areas. **We urge the Council to prioritize the restoration of FY24 funding of \$31.7 million.**

By eliminating access to critically needed legal services, this cut will put the safety, health, housing, and economic stability of some of the District's most vulnerable populations at risk. Initiative funds help District residents maintain affordable housing, protect their wages and jobs, stabilize credit, aid children and families get healthy, guard against abuse, and protect District elders – all of which ultimately promote community resiliency, stability, and public safety. Eliminating historic investments made in the program in the past three fiscal years is especially damaging when community need for these vital services continues to increase.

Initiative funding is further leveraged by its grantees when they recruit pro bono volunteers at our firms to represent clients they lack the capacity to help. Though some of our firms have a larger national and even international presence, we recognize our responsibility to our local community in the District and are committed to meeting our professional responsibilities towards those unable to afford legal services. But the fact that our attorneys contribute thousands of hours of pro bono services annually to District residents is entirely dependent on the relationships we share with local legal services providers. Pro bono service



simply could not fill the drastic gap in services that would be created by the proposed funding cuts to the Access to Justice Initiative – and to the contrary, the cut would dramatically diminish our ability to provide pro bono support at current levels. Our attorneys rely on the work these providers and their staff do in building trusting relationships with communities, screening cases, providing training, and offering mentoring. Any cuts to the Initiative’s legal services grantees put at risk the multiplier effect when legal services providers have the capacity to support pro bono volunteers.

The District’s leadership in increasing public funding for the Initiative also serves as a powerful reminder to us of the critical need for our institutions to provide financial support to organizations that offer these services. Your leadership and example incentivize us to do more. Both these examples demonstrate a strong, public-private partnership facilitated by Initiative funding.

Again, we thank the District government for its recognition of the importance of providing access to justice for the residents of the District of Columbia. We thank you for your consideration of this letter and our request that the Council again demonstrate leadership in this area by restoring funding for the Initiative to FY24 levels.

Sincerely,

**Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP** - Anthony T. Pierce, DC Office Managing Partner

**ArentFox Schiff** - Brian Waldman, Firmwide Managing Partner

**Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP** - Richard M. Alexander, Chair

**Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP** - Michael A. Gerstenzang, Managing Partner

**Covington & Burling LLP** - Douglas G. Gibson, Chair

**Crowell & Moring LLP** - Philip T. Inghima, Chair, Management Board

**Dechert LLP** - David Forti and Mark Thierfelder, Co-Chairs

**DLA Piper** - William H. Minor, DC Office Managing Partner

**Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner LLP** - Erika Arner, Managing Partner

**Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP** - Michael J. Alter, DC Office Managing Partner

**Hogan Lovells** - Ajay Kuntamukkala, DC Office Managing Partner

**Jenner & Block LLP** - Lindsay Harrison, DC Managing Partner

**Kirkland & Ellis LLP** - Leslie M. Smith, Pro Bono Committee Chair

**Latham & Watkins LLP** - Amanda Reeves, DC Office Managing Partner

**Lowenstein Sandler LLP** - Zarema Jaramillo, DC Office Managing Partner

**Mayer Brown LLP** - Elizabeth Espín Stern, DC Office Managing Partner

**McDermott Will & Emery LLP** - Paul M. Thompson, DC Office Managing Partner

**Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP** - Jami Wintz McKeon, Chair

**Morrison & Foerster LLP** - Natalie Fleming Nolen, DC Managing Partner

**Nixon Peabody LLP** - Colette A. Dafoe, Office Managing Partner, DC Office

**Perkins Coie LLP** - Vivek Chopra, DC Office Managing Partner

**Shook Hardy & Bacon LLP** - Madeleine McDonough, Chair

**Sidley Austin LLP** - Kristin Graham Koehler, Management Committee Member & DC Office Managing Partner

**Skadden, Arps, Meagher, & Flom LLP** - Pankaj K. Sinha, DC Office Managing Partner

**Squire Patton Boggs** - Michael A. Curto, Managing Partner

**Steptoe LLP** - Gwendolyn Prothro Renigar, Chair

**Wiley Rein LLP** - Peter Shields, Managing Partner

**Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP** - Kimberly Parker, Partner & Co-Chair of Firmwide Pro Bono Committee