transforming
**GRANTS**

The DC Bar Foundation assists our grantees with community project funds through our Civil Legal Counsel Projects Program and our Access to Justice Program, and operating support through our General Support Grants Program. In 2021, we awarded over $10.9 million in funding, which kept families in their homes, protected people in the marketplace and workplace, and amplified the voices of those in need. Since 1977, the DC Bar Foundation has awarded more than $103 million in grants.

**LOAN REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

The DC Bar Foundation’s Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) makes it more possible for District legal services providers to hire and retain top-notch legal talent to better serve their clients in need. LRAP provides eligible attorneys a forgivable, one-year loan to help pay their significant educational debt. LRAP allows legal aid attorneys to manage their student debt without compromising their desire to work in the civil legal aid sector.

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**WHAT WE DO**

The DC Bar Foundation (DCBF) works hand-in-hand with the civil legal aid community to better understand and address the legal issues facing District residents, identify unmet civil legal needs, and make strategic investments to strengthen and expand legal services for disadvantaged District residents.

We are committed to the vision that District residents have equal access to justice, regardless of wealth, knowledge, or power. In 2019, we adopted an exciting strategic vision to “transform DC’s civil legal aid network, working closely with all stakeholders, so District residents have a fair and equal legal experience.”

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**TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

The DC Bar Foundation invests in the capacity and vitality of the civil legal aid network through ongoing professional and organizational development opportunities. We provide training for organizations and legal aid attorneys on topics such as eviction defense, trial advocacy, and anti-racism.
Two years ago, the DC Bar Foundation (DCBF) boldly committed “to transform the civil legal aid network, working closely with all stakeholders, so District residents have a fair and equal legal experience.” The 2021 Annual Report highlights significant strides toward achieving that ambitious goal. While there is still a long way to go, we marked major milestones in 2021.

We centered community voices through several listening sessions and a participatory grantmaking pilot in Anacostia.

We convened and mapped a broad array of legal aid organizations, social services providers, funders, and others, leading to the creation of the DC Legal Aid Transformations Network. The purpose of this diverse network, which plans to meet quarterly, is to advance a user-centered system grounded in well-being, anti-racism, and anti-poverty. The initial focus will be creation of a Coordinated Intake and Referral System that enhances access to justice for all District residents with civil legal issues.

We also continued to support several issue-specific networks — the Family Law Learning Network and the Landlord-Tenant Legal Assistance Network — to improve collaboration among our grantees in order to better serve those seeking assistance for domestic and housing law issues.

We conducted a grantee diversity survey in April 2021 to collect demographic data on staff, leadership, and board composition. And we continued to offer racial equity training for our entire grantee community.

We commissioned racial equity assessments of the Foundation’s grantmaking processes, operations, and overall structure, resulting in a draft racial equity roadmap that outlines specific recommended actions and timelines to continue advancing DCBF’s racial equity priorities within our Strategic Framework. This process is monitored by members of the Foundation’s Racial Equity Work Group, who have been gathering quarterly to determine priority actions among the recommendations and realistic timelines for each action.

You can read about this and much more on the following pages. These efforts are made possible with increased public funds from the District and private donations. Thank you! We hope you will partner with us again in 2022 as we continue to expand our reach and widen our impact.

Kirra L. Jarratt  
Chief Executive Officer

David W. Ogden  
Board President
☑ **$10.9M Awarded** in grants to 31 legal aid organizations to amplify the voices of those in need, keep families in their homes, and protect people in the workplace.

☑ **64 Attorneys Enrolled to Receive Loan Forgiveness** through LRAP.

☑ **280 Persons Watched Avenues To Justice**, an event featuring a DCBF grantee panel and Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff, hosted by the Young Lawyers Network Leadership Council.

☑ **$50K Awarded** to three organizations in a participatory grantmaking pilot.

☑ **82 Mapped Relationships** between stakeholders who are part of the District’s civil legal aid network.

☑ **20+ Diverse Organizations And Individuals** provided feedback and input on our anticipated Coordinated Intake and Referral System structure and design.

☑ **$867K Received** from individual and corporate donors support civil legal aid.

☑ **78 Legal Aid Attorneys From 24 Organizations Participated** in a four-part racial justice training series hosted by DCBF.
**IDENTIFY UNMET CIVIL LEGAL NEEDS**

We will work with stakeholders to identify barriers to access for those in need while launching a data-driven intake and referral system to improve access to civil legal aid services.

In July 2021, the DC Bar Foundation offered technical assistance and training to help grantees effectively capture client outcomes and relevant data to showcase the impact and strength of their work and identify gaps in service provision.

In July and August 2021, we partnered with Bread for the City to host community listening sessions. Anacostia residents provided feedback on community priorities, issues facing the community, and their experience accessing support for those issues. A subset of the group decided how to award $50K to local organizations through a participatory grantmaking pilot made possible by support from the Momentum Fund.

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**ENGAGE ALL STAKEHOLDERS IN THE WORK**

We will work with partners to support the civil legal aid network by studying outcomes, providing data, identifying needs, sharing observations, and serving as a sounding board to develop better solutions to meet community needs.

In June 2021, the DC Bar Foundation conducted the first-ever mapping of the District’s civil legal aid network to transform the delivery of services. Network members aren’t just legal aid organizations. Other participants included social service providers, philanthropists, government agencies, businesses, technology, media, and other stakeholders. This specific type of network data shows us how members of DC’s civil legal aid network currently interact and where there are opportunities to increase collaboration.

In June, September, and December 2021, we convened nearly 60 legal aid providers, funders, community activists, social service providers, and other stakeholders to reimagine a more equitable civil justice system in the District. The DC Legal Aid Transformations Network (DC LATN) emerged from these convenings.
INFUSE RACIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY IN OUR WORK

We will continue to integrate racial justice and equity initiatives to evolve our practices in pursuing justice.

In April 2021, the DC Bar Foundation conducted a grantee diversity survey to collect demographic data on staff, leadership, and board composition. Once again, we offered grantees a four-part training on racial equity and justice.

We also commissioned racial equity assessments of the Foundation’s grantmaking processes, operations, and overall structure, with the ultimate goal of developing a Racial Equity Roadmap that outlines specific steps and timelines to continue advancing DCBF’s racial equity priorities.

FUND WITH INTENTION

We will make strategic and community-informed grantmaking decisions.

In July and August 2021, the DC Bar Foundation piloted its first participatory grantmaking program. Participatory grantmaking is a philanthropic approach that engages constituencies in the grantmaking process.

We invited participants from the community listening sessions to become grant reviewers. The reviewers chose to split the $50,000 funds available between three organizations: The Safe Sisters Circle, Lydia’s House, and Open City Advocates.
DEMONSTRATE HOW PEOPLE WHO NEED SERVICES ARE GETTING THEM

We will position the Foundation to describe how it is changing and improving the lives of District residents and identify areas in need of improvement by integrating evaluation into every aspect of our work.

From September through November 2021, the DC Bar Foundation gathered feedback and input from more than twenty diverse organizations and individuals on the structure and design of an anticipated Coordinated Intake and Referral System, which will make it possible for clients to access legal assistance with a single phone call.

From July through November 2021, our consultant NPC Research worked with the DCBF-supported Family Law Learning Network to survey litigants’ experiences with remote hearings during the pandemic. Overall, both litigants and their attorneys saw a considerable benefit to remote hearings and agreed that virtual platforms increased access and reduced barriers for many litigants with low incomes.
WHAT JUSTICE LOOKS LIKE

IMPACT STORY 1

The DC Bar Foundation is committed to keeping District residents in their homes, especially when facing challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. D, a single mother of seven, came to DC Bar Foundation grantee Christian Legal Aid of DC (CLADC) when her landlord began pursuing an eviction during the pandemic. Ms. D had gotten behind on rent. Because she was already bound to a consent agreement from previous legal action, hearings on her case moved forward despite the eviction moratorium in place in the District.

Not only was she asked to leave her home during such a difficult time, but the back rent she was said to owe was also much higher than it should have been because her household’s income was not reported accurately. This unjust financial burden was too much for Ms. D to take on. CLADC was able to step in and renegotiate the consent agreement on behalf of Ms. D, keeping her and her seven children in their home. The amount she owed on her back rent was also recalculated, and the payment schedule was revised to an amount that was manageable for Ms. D to pay.

IMPACT STORY 2

Centering community voices is integral to the DC Bar Foundation’s efforts to transform the District’s civil legal aid network. In August, the Foundation kicked off a participatory grantmaking pilot project — a collaboration between DCBF and Bread for the City, made possible by a $65,000 Momentum Fund grant from United Philanthropy. Together, Bread for the City and DCBF hosted two community listening sessions with residents in Wards 7 and 8 who shared their experiences accessing help from legal services providers and insights on priorities and issues facing their communities.

From those sessions, we offered the participants an opportunity to decide which neighborhood organizations would receive a total of $50,000 in grant funding. Grant reviewers Vivian Mercer, Jeronda Hilton, Cynthia Smith, Leonard Edwards, Beatrice Evans, and Latoya Hackett ultimately decided to split the $50,000 between three organizations: The Safe Sisters Circle, Lydia’s House, and Open City Advocates.

In a post-project survey, our grant reviewers shared that they valued having their ideas and concerns considered. As grant reviewer Vivian Mercer shared, she wanted to “participate in a very important process of providing valuable resources to organizations that help people in their communities.”

This project was an essential first venture for the Foundation into participatory grantmaking, and it will not be the last. The Foundation is committed to expanding our participatory grantmaking efforts in 2022 and beyond.
President’s Reception
The Foundation hosted its annual President’s Reception virtually for 77 Society members on May 6, 2021. We spent the evening honoring our most generous donors, thanking them for supporting access to justice in the District.

The live-streamed event featured remarks from Kirra Jarratt and David Ogden, the Foundation’s CEO and President, respectively, and grantee members of the Foundation’s Landlord-Tenant Legal Assistance Network and Family Law Learning Network. Kelly Jarvis from NPC Research also updated attendees on the Foundation’s Civil Legal Counsel Projects Program evaluation.

We also took the time to honor the late Daniel Rezneck with a collection of tribute videos from his friends and colleagues. Dan was a former President of the DC Bar Foundation and a formidable force in the District’s legal community.

Avenues to Justice
The Foundation’s Young Lawyers Network Leadership Council (YLN LC) hosted its second virtual Avenues to Justice fundraising event on July 14, 2021. The discussion, facilitated by YLN LC members Ashley James and Mickey Herman, featured a panel conversation with four DCBF grantee representatives: Alana Brown of The Safe Sisters Circle, Laura Brown of First Shift Justice Project, Karen Newton Cole of Neighborhood Legal Services Program, and Keeshea Turner Roberts of Howard University School of Law’s Fair Housing Clinic.

The event concluded with thoughtful remarks from the Second Gentleman of the United States, Douglas Emhoff. In total, Avenues to Justice impressively raised over $71,000 for the District’s civil legal aid network, far surpassing its $45,000 goal.

Fall Reception and Scoutt Prize
The Foundation hosted its annual Fall Reception virtually on October 28, 2021. The reception brought together members of our network to update on the Foundation’s network building, coordinated intake, and participatory grantmaking efforts. We also highlighted the important work and support of our grantees, LRAP participants, donors, and volunteers. At the Fall Reception, the DC Bar Foundation presented the 2021 Jerrold Scoutt Prize to Rebecca Lindhurst, Managing Attorney with Bread for the City’s housing practice and Community Lawyering Project.

In addition to her current work, Ms. Lindhurst has helped direct Bread for the City’s participation in the Housing Right to Counsel Project. She is part of a leadership team that manages the Landlord-Tenant Legal Assistance Network. She was also previously instrumental in establishing the Landlord-Tenant Court-Based Legal Services Project, collaborating with colleagues at the Legal Aid Society of DC.

The firm of KMA Zuckert LLC (formerly Zuckert, Scoutt & Rasenberger LLP) established the Jerrold Scoutt Prize in 1992 in honor of the public interest commitment of one of its founding partners, Jerrold Scoutt, Jr. It is awarded annually to an attorney who has worked for a significant portion of their career at a nonprofit organization providing direct hands-on legal services to financially disenfranchised residents of the District of Columbia.
LAW FIRMS AND CORPORATIONS

Platinum ($25,000 and up)
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP
Alston & Bird LLP
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP

Gold ($15,000-$24,999)
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Finncegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner LLP
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Friends (up to $99)
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Jacobsen Holman PLLC
Staas & Halsey LLP
Wiley Rein LLP

Special thanks to these organizations

- Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP for their general counsel support and Perkins Coie LLP for their pro bono support.
- Bread for the City for hosting and supporting community listening sessions and our first participatory grantmaking effort.
- Bread for the City, DC Affordable Law Firm, First Shift Justice, and Legal Aid Society of DC for interacting with the DC Bar Foundation Board of Directors.
- Amara Legal Center, Bread for the City, DC Affordable Law Firm, DC Bar Pro Bono Center, DC Volunteer Lawyers Project, First Shift Justice, Howard University School of Law, Legal Aid Society of DC, Legal Counsel for the Elderly, Neighborhood Legal Services Program, and The Safe Sisters Circle for providing video content for DC Bar Foundation events—the Fall Reception, President’s Reception and Avenues to Justice.

- Legal aid organizations that identified clients for focus groups to give feedback on Coordinated Intake and Referral.
The Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts (IOLTA) Program, comprised of thousands of pooled bank accounts, is administered by DCBF and distributed within the community for legal aid. We are extremely grateful for our Prime Partners for going above and beyond by offering a higher interest rate on their IOLTA accounts and making civil legal aid more accessible in our community.

City First Bank of DC
Congressional Bank
United States Senate Federal Credit Union

77 SOCIETY MEMBERS

Named in honor of the year that the DC Bar Foundation was founded, the 77 Society recognizes the generosity of our donors, as well as the impact their support has on financially disenfranchised District residents in need of civil legal aid. Membership in the 77 Society is extended to individuals whose gifts to the DC Bar Foundation total $1,000 or more each fiscal year. Members are listed below by the year they joined the 77 Society.

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* Advocates of Justice
($2,500 - $4,999)
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($5,000 - $9,999)
*** Pillars of Justice
($10,000 and above)
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Amara Legal Center
Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center
Ayuda
Bread for the City
Capital Area Immigrants’ Rights Coalition
Catholic Charities Legal Network
Central American Resource Center
Children’s Law Center
Christian Legal Aid of DC
DC Affordable Law Firm
DC Bar Pro Bono Center
DC Volunteer Lawyers Project
First Shift Justice Project
Howard University School of Law
Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia
Legal Counsel for the Elderly
Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project
Neighborhood Legal Services Program
Network for Victim Recovery in DC
Quality Trust for Individuals with Disabilities
Rising for Justice
School Justice Project
The Safe Sisters Circle
Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition International
Tzedek DC
University Legal Services
Washington Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs
Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless
Whitman-Walker Health

Percentage of DC Residents Served by Ward*
Civil Legal Counsel Projects Program

* Data from August 2019 - June 2021
GRANTS  $10.9 Million invested in legal assistance in DC

Our grants provide support to organizations that invest in District residents with the greatest need. Our goal is to ensure that residents are being treated fairly in the workplace and marketplace; they are staying in their homes; and our most vulnerable or isolated neighbors are receiving specialized outreach and support.

Housing 46%

DCBF funds both general support and project-based grants in numerous categories. Examples of our project-based grants include medical-legal partnerships, court-based projects, and community law offices located in underserved neighborhoods. For more detailed information about our grant programs and the legal aid services that our grantees provide to DC residents, please visit our website at www.dcbarfoundation.org.
Effective management and efficient operations allow us to invest as much as possible in our programs.

While our grantmaking and other program activities continue to grow in size, the percentage spent on supporting services has stayed level.

For a complete copy of our most recent audited financial statements, please visit our website at dcbarfoundation.org.

* = Administration and Fundraising
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TD Bank
“2021 was a remarkable year. Because of your support and partnership, we made significant strides in strengthening the District’s civil legal aid network by increasing collaboration, centering community voices, and prioritizing racial equity. We hope you will join us in 2022 as we expand these efforts so that all District residents can have a fair and equal legal experience.”

Kirra L. Jarratt
Chief Executive Officer

DC BAR FOUNDATION STAFF:

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Director of Development and Communications

Nancy Gist
Director of Programs

Gloria Hames
Special Assistant to the CEO

Mark Johnson-Lewis
Evaluation and Impact Manager

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Kukua Osei-Gyamfi
Grants Specialist

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Arthur Smith
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