

DC BAR FOUNDATION

DCBF

WE INVEST IN JUSTICE

2019

ANNUAL REPORT



OCTOBER 1, 2018 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

OUR MISSION

The DC Bar Foundation's mission is to fund, support, and improve legal representation of people living in poverty and in vulnerable situations, or who are otherwise underserved in the District of Columbia. We work hand-in-hand with DC's legal aid community to understand the legal issues facing District residents in poverty, and to solve these issues so that every individual, regardless of income, has access to justice.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Jarratt'.

Kirra L. Jarratt
Chief Executive Officer



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul M. Smith'.

Paul M. Smith
Board President

LETTER FROM OUR CEO AND BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

What a monumental year for the DC Bar Foundation! In keeping with the Foundation's mission and 42-year history to fund, support, and improve legal representation of people living in poverty and in vulnerable situations, or who are otherwise underserved in the District of Columbia, our accomplishments in 2019 further served to strengthen the civil legal aid network for District residents. We are excited by what was accomplished, and we hope you are too.

One of those accomplishments was launching an evaluation of the Civil Legal Counsel Projects Program, the Foundation's first-ever outcomes-based evaluation, to ensure more focused grantmaking that will lead to better results. This evaluation includes the participation of six grantees specifically serving clients facing evictions. Our goal is that the data collected will provide more accurate numbers of who is actually being served in the District and how. We look forward to releasing preliminary data reports on eviction in DC in 2020.

Second, the DC Bar Foundation awarded \$9 million to 26 DC legal aid organizations providing free legal assistance to thousands of DC residents with low incomes. This funding — in part made possible through more than \$2.0 million in revenue from Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts funds — makes a significant and measurable impact in the lives of underserved District residents. From keeping people in their homes, to parents maintaining custody of their children, these funds are delivering justice to those who otherwise could not afford legal counsel. Additionally, we supported more than 80 legal aid attorneys through our Loan Repayment Assistance Program (see page 5).

Third, we adopted a bold new strategic goal for the next three fiscal years: "To transform the civil legal aid network, working closely with all stakeholders, so District residents have a fair and equal legal experience." This is a major shift from our previous strategic plan, which focused internally on financial growth, program efficiency, and becoming a model nonprofit. We are now moving toward an externally-focused goal that calls for transforming the legal aid network through increased engagement, greater collaboration, and measuring impact and outcomes.

We know that this work takes time and requires partnership. Nothing happens overnight, and nothing great can be done alone. Over the Foundation's 42-year history, many of you have stepped up and joined us in the work, whether from the very beginning, midway, or more recently. We thank you, for we could not do this work without you.

Although we have achieved much together, let us not become satisfied with things as they are. Many underserved District residents still do not receive the access to justice they deserve. This is our time to deliver more impact to those in our community who need us the most. Let's explore what more we can do together.

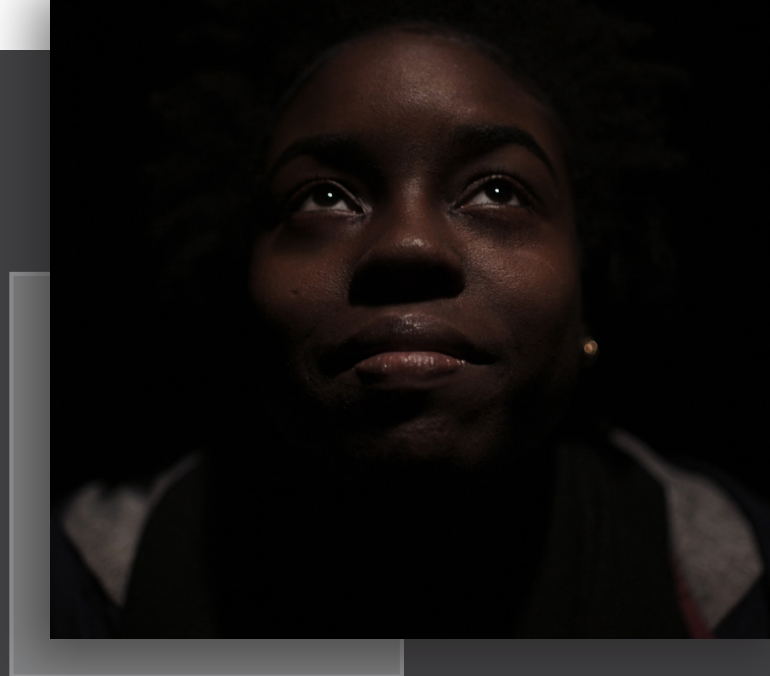
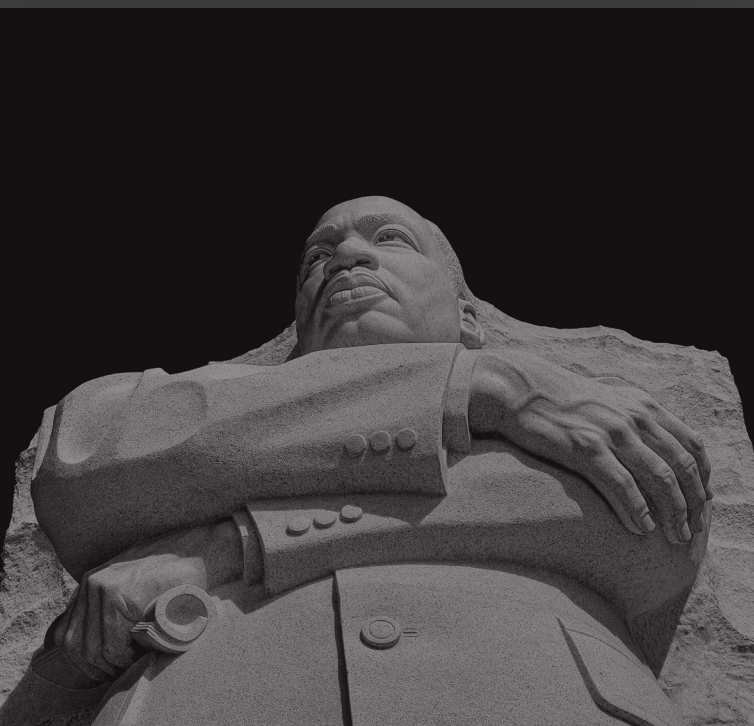
A FULL CIRCLE OF SUPPORT

AN OVERVIEW OF 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 income.

GRANTS

The DC Bar Foundation assists our grantees with operational support funds as well as project funds. In 2019, we awarded **\$9.3 million** in funding which kept families in their homes, protected people in the marketplace and workplace, and amplified the voices of those in need. With this funding the Foundation supported a range of collaborative projects, including a shared legal interpreter bank and a coordinated intake and referral network for victims of crime.



LOAN REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The DC Bar Foundation's Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) is a pivotal recruitment tool for nonprofit legal aid organizations located in the District. LRAP provides eligible attorneys a **forgivable, one-year loan** to help pay their significant educational debt. LRAP makes it possible for poverty law attorneys to work in the legal aid sector, serve low-income District residents, and manage their student loan debt.

TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The DC Bar Foundation invests in the capacity of the civil legal aid network through ongoing professional and organizational development opportunities such as eviction defense and trial skill building trainings for civil legal aid attorneys. For the first time, DCBF also **sponsored a racial justice training** for legal aid attorneys to advance racial equity in their work.

EVALUATION

The DC Bar Foundation partnered with the nationally renowned NPC Research to **launch DCBF's first outcomes-based evaluation**, focused on the Civil Legal Counsel Projects Program, our eviction defense grant program. The evaluation will quantify the program's impact in eviction defense, as well as recommend improvements to service delivery.

OUR STRATEGY, AT A GLANCE

The DC Bar Foundation spent much of 2019 developing our strategic plan for the next three years. With the support of SHG Advisors, we interviewed every DCBF Board member, surveyed our grantees, interviewed similar organizations, and conducted multiple staff-level meetings as well as a full day retreat with the Board of Directors. At its September 2019 meeting, DCBF's Board approved our new strategic goal:

Transform the civil legal aid network, working closely with all stakeholders, so District residents have a fair and equal legal experience.

To achieve this goal, the Foundation will employ the following strategies:

Engage all stakeholders in the work. We will facilitate increased collaboration between legal aid providers and the wider network of community-serving organizations. We know that people with low incomes experiencing a legal issue need services and support beyond just legal help.

Identify the unmet civil legal needs. We need to work directly with community members to identify their legal needs and with other organizations to ensure that the community knows where to go to get the legal help they need.

Infuse racial justice and equity in our work. We will evolve our practices to build a race equity culture within our organization and support our grantees as they go through their own journeys to become more equity-focused, all while advocating and partnering with organizations that promote racial justice in Washington, DC.

Fund with intention, making strategic investments to strengthen and expand legal services in DC. We will prioritize unmet civil legal needs and deliver more measurable value to those who need it, when they need it the most.

Demonstrate that people who need services are getting them. We will continue to build our – and our grantees' – capacity to use data to inform decision-making.

In 2019, our emerging strategy was most evident in the launch of the evaluation of the Civil Legal Counsel Projects Program. DCBF's first outcomes-based evaluation focuses on our eviction defense grantees. While intended to measure the impact of our grantmaking, it has also created a learning community – a network – of the CLCPP grantees. In partnership with NPC Research, a nationally renowned company based in Portland, OR, we are building our grantees' capacity to use data to learn about their clients, improve their service delivery, and strengthen their partnerships with each other.

These are big first steps in moving DCBF to be a different kind of grantmaker. If we want to go far, we must go together. With your support, we can and will do better for all residents of the District.



OUR IMPACT

2019, BY THE NUMBERS:

\$9.3 M

Awarded \$9.3 million in grants to amplify voices of those in need, keep families in their homes, and protect people in the marketplace



\$459K

Awarded more than \$459K to 81 legal aid attorneys through the Loan Repayment Assistance Program

59%

More than 59% of DC residents served live in Wards 5, 7 and 8



157

Sponsored 157 scholarships for legal aid attorneys to participate in 12 eviction defense, litigation, and trial skill building trainings

86

Hosted two of a four-part racial justice training series for 86 legal aid attorneys in DC

68%

68% of our grantees have staff attorneys supported by the Loan Repayment Assistance Program





OUR COMMUNITY, THEIR STORIES



THOSE WHO SERVE — 2019 JERROLD SCOUTT PRIZE

In March, 2019, the DC Bar Foundation awarded the annual Jerrold Scoutt Prize to Daniel M. Clark, the Director of Rising for Justice's (formerly DC Law Students in Court) Civil Division and Co-Director of their Eviction Defense Services. Dan has dedicated over 20 years to DC's legal aid community, serving our underrepresented neighbors while teaching and mentoring the next generation of legal aid attorneys.

Throughout his career, Dan has held positions at the DC Bar Pro Bono Center's Bankruptcy Clinic and Landlord Tenant Resource Center, AARP Foundation, and the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law. In his current position with Rising for Justice, he directs their Civil Division as well as their Eviction Defense Services, where he has expanded the organization's services to several thousand more individuals.

The Jerrold Scoutt Prize was established by the firm of KMA Zuckert LLC (formerly Zuckert, Scoutt & Rasenberger LLP) 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 his or her career at a nonprofit organization providing direct hands-on legal services to the needy in the District of Columbia. Dan embodies the mission of the DC Bar Foundation. In the words of Seth A. Rosenthal, partner at Venable LLP and Chair of the Scoutt Prize Committee:

“Dan is a great lawyer who has spent nearly a quarter of a century working in the trenches to make a difference in the lives of District residents in need... He represents the best of our profession.”



THIS IS WHAT JUSTICE LOOKS LIKE

It is extraordinary how one moment can change your whole life. For Rhonda, a former paralegal in Washington, DC, a routine trip through the city's notorious traffic catalyzed events that would make her a defendant in a lawsuit against a corporate giant.

"I was making good money. I was working two jobs. I was going back to school. I could afford to pay my monthly payments. I had a plan," she said. She was not financially wealthy, but she was content and comfortable.

Then, as she was driving, another car blindsided and injured her, forcing her out of work and into physical therapy. She was taking care of her mother at the time, so with her regular salary gone and her savings obliterated, Rhonda's bills were the Goliath to her very David income. In just months, she was notified that one of her creditors was suing her for \$10,000, the balance on a credit card plus exorbitant fees.

To fight the lawsuit, she knew she needed legal representation. Research shows that 90% of respondents who retain an attorney are more successful in legal proceedings. Rhonda contacted the Neighborhood Legal Services Program, a DC Bar Foundation grantee that provides free legal advice and representation to DC residents with low incomes. Attorney John Blake drafted a motion to dismiss and referred her to Tzedek DC, another DCBF grantee serving DC residents with low incomes.

Ariel Levinson-Waldman, Tzedek's president and director-counsel, represented Rhonda in court. He established that the creditor's attorneys had failed to comply with DC's service of process requirements and, in the end, the judge dismissed the case. The victory was an instant stress reliever for Rhonda.

"I felt hopeless. Fear stopped me from getting the help I needed right away," she explained. "I was so thankful to John and Ariel. They were very understanding and made me feel comfortable."



THOSE WHO GIVE

We are fortunate to have many steadfast donors and supporters who share our mission to provide access to justice for the District's poor and underserved. In 2019, we lost one of those supporters, and Washington DC's legal community lost a legend. Donald R. Dunner, partner at Finnegan Henderson Farabow Garrett & Dunner LLP, passed away at age 88.

In addition to his storied and successful career as a renowned patent attorney, Don was a lifelong friend and advisor to the DC Bar Foundation. He served on the Foundation's Advisory Committee since 1992, and as Chair of the Committee for the past 10 years. Don was also an active member of our Development Committee and was among the most dependable of our Volunteer Solicitors for our annual Call to Action campaign. On top of his service to the Foundation, Don was a steadfast financial supporter of our work for more than 25 years.

Paul Smith, President of the DC Bar Foundation, shared these words about Don: "He was absolutely dedicated to making sure the Foundation had the funds it needed to help fund legal services for the poor in DC. We will miss his cheerful enthusiasm."

We are extremely grateful for Don's support of the Foundation and DC's civil legal aid community as a whole. Most importantly, however, we are grateful for his loyalty and friendship and will miss him dearly.



The DC Bar Foundation has made every effort to assure the accuracy of this listing. If we have made an error or an omission, please accept our apology and let us know so that we can correct our records.

DONORS AND PRIME PARTNERS

The DC Bar Foundation would like to thank the following donors who contributed during fiscal year 2019. Their generous support continues to help bridge the gap between available resources and the ongoing need for civil legal aid in the District. As a result, thousands of DC residents are able to access the legal representation and resources they desperately need, regardless of their ability to afford it.

LAW FIRMS AND CORPORATIONS

PLATINUM

\$25,000 and UP

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP
Alston & Bird LLP
Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP
Eversheds Sutherland (US) LLP
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
The Sidley Austin Foundation

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Ain & Bank PC
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\$0 - \$999

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Mitchell Austin	Lindsay Holmes	Tiana Russell
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Kenneth Epps	Loree Lipstein	Weadom Weadom
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Karen Gardiner	Patrick McDermott	Seth Weissman
Paige Gentry	Jennifer McLain	Brian Whittaker
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Sara Gibson	Theresa Meyers	Thomas Widor
Laura Golden	Elizabeth Miller	Kirsten Wilkerson
Starlynn Gornail	Candace Moss	Alexander Wilkins
Melvyn Greene	Elizabeth Nellums	Samuel Williams
Felecia Greer	Lindsey Nelson	Kimberly Woodard
Meryl Grenadier	Kenneth Nichols	Alice Yang
Brenda Gruss	Bernard Nolan	Debra Zusin
	Joseph Oliveri	
	Heather Peeler	

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 low-income 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.

Murray J. Belman	2017
Maureen F. Del Duca	2017
Donald R. Dunner	2017
Marc L. Fleischaker	2017
Nathalie F.P. Gilfoyle	2017
Susan M. Hoffman	2017
Philip W. Horton	2017
Ellen M. Jakovic	2017
Kirra L. Jarratt	2017
Stuart J. Land	2017
Andrew H. Marks	2017
Vonya B. McCann	2017
Mary E. McClymont	2017
Patrick McGlone	2017
John M. Nannes	2017
David W. Ogden	2017
Carter G. Phillips	2017
Stephen J. Pollak	2017
*Daniel A. Rezneck	2017
Stanley O. Sher	2017
Paul M. Smith	2017
Bruce V. Spiva	2017
Janet R. Studley	2017
Kelly V. Darnell	2018
Ronald S. Flagg	2018
Jamie S. Gorelick	2018
Anthony Herman	2018
Shirley A. Higuchi	2018
Hartmut Schneider	2018
Joseph M. Sellers	2018
Marsha E. Swiss	2018
Michael Ward	2018
J. Daryl Byler	2019
Kyle E. Chadwick	2019
John C. Cruden	2019
Darrell Darnell	2019
Mark E. Herzog	2019
L. Charles Landgraf	2019
Ralph I. Miller	2019
Adam C. Pollet	2019
John P. Relman	2019
Michael P. Rogan	2019
James J. Sandman	2019
Matthew S. Watson	2019
Melissa Weberman	2019

* 77 Society Chair

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PRIME PARTNERS:

The interest gathered from 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 on their IOLTA accounts and making civil legal aid more accessible in our community.

- » City First Bank of DC
- » Congressional Bank
- » Industrial Bank
- » Premier Bank
- » US Senate Federal Credit Union

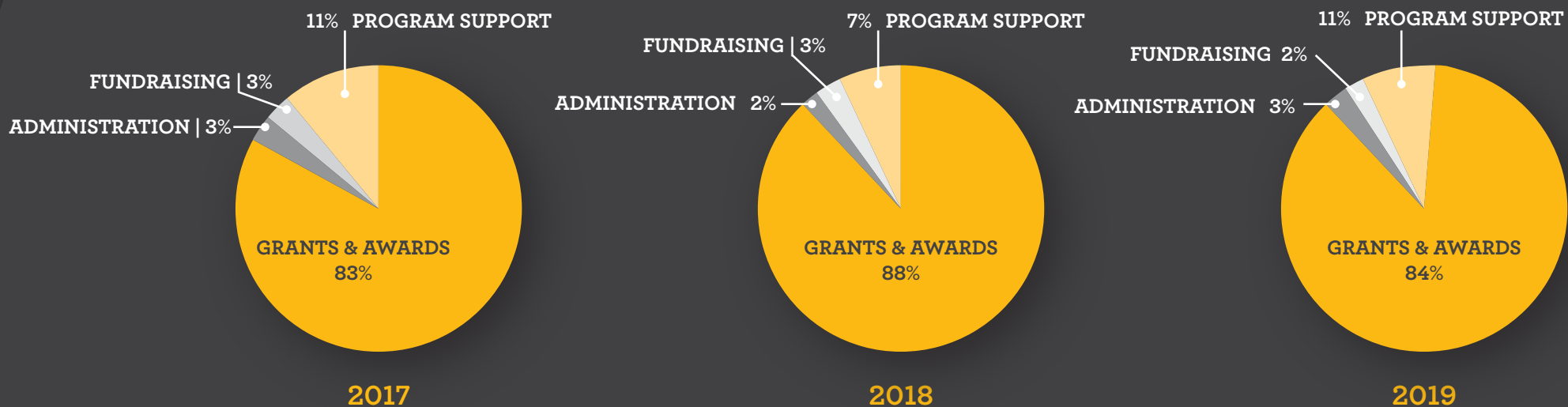


THANK YOU TO OUR PRO BONO PARTNERS

- » AARP Foundation, Alston & Bird LLP, Arnold & Porter, Sidley Austin LLP, Sprint Corporation, Venable LLP, and WilmerHale for hosting DCBF board and committee meetings.
- » African Communities Together, Children's Law Center, and Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP for hosting LRAP information sessions.
- » Sidley Austin LLP for hosting our racial justice training series, our Civil Legal Counsel Projects Program grantee meeting and grants information session.
- » Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP for helping us conduct the LRAP review.
- » Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP for their many hours of general counsel support.

FINANCIALS

PROGRAM EXPENSES VS TOTAL EXPENSES



YOUR INVESTMENTS AT WORK

Effective management and efficient operations allow us to invest as much as possible in our programs. While our grant programs continue to grow in size, the percentage spent on administration and fundraising has stayed level.

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

LEADERSHIP

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GO CASUAL FOR JUSTICE PARTICIPATING WORKPLACES

The following organizations participated in the Go Casual for Justice campaign. Their involvement, and the generosity of their employees, continues to strengthen DC's civil legal aid network.

\$5,000–\$9,999

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\$2,500–\$4,999

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\$1,000–\$2,499

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EVENTS



FALL RECEPTION

The Foundation held its annual Fall Reception on October 10, 2018. Generously hosted by Alston & Bird LLP since 2012, the evening served as an opportunity to highlight the important work of our grantees and LRAP participants, and to thank our loyal donors and volunteers for their ongoing support. Ariana Gibbs and Lucy Newton, Law Clerk and Co-Director of Eviction Defense at Rising for Justice (formerly DC Law Students in Court) spoke about the expansion of their organization's work in Landlord Tenant Court as a result of the new Civil Legal Counsel Projects Program, which is administered by the DC Bar Foundation.



PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION

The Foundation hosted its second annual President's Reception for 77 Society members and other distinguished guests on May 14, 2019 at the Cosmos Club. The evening featured light hors d'oeuvres and refreshments as we honored our most loyal donors and thanked them for their belief in the Foundation's mission of equal access to justice for all District residents. Speakers included DC Bar Foundation Board President Paul M. Smith and Chief Executive Officer Kirra L. Jarratt.





LIP SYNC FOR JUSTICE

The DC Bar Foundation's Young Lawyers Network Leadership Council held its third annual Lip Sync for Justice event on June 6, 2019. Hosted by Arnold & Porter, this year's Lip Sync for Justice brought together over 150 young lawyers and professionals for an evening of karaoke, lip sync, networking, and fun. More importantly, we beat our fundraised amount from last year's event, bringing in nearly \$35,000 for the District's civil legal aid network! Participants sang and danced the night away, with performances judged by the Honorable Julie Becker, Associate Judge at the District of Columbia Superior Court, James Sandman, President of Legal Services Corporation, and Paul M. Smith, President of the DC Bar Foundation.



LIP SYNC CORPORATE SPONSORS

HOST & HONORARY SPONSOR

Arnold & Porter

TITANIUM (\$5,000)

Alston & Bird LLP

PLATINUM (\$3,500)

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SILVER (\$1,000)

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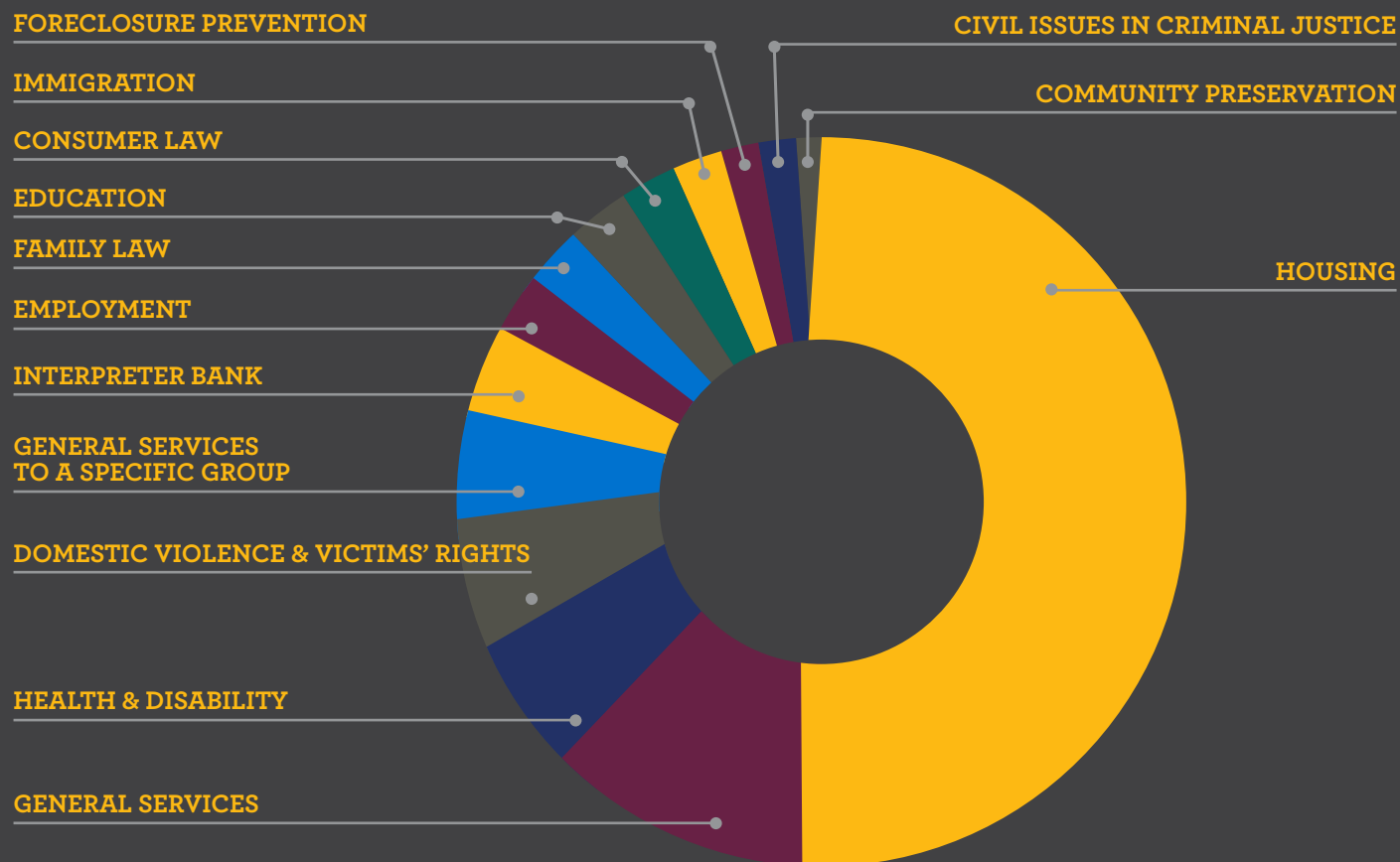
TD Bank

Trustpoint International

GRANTS

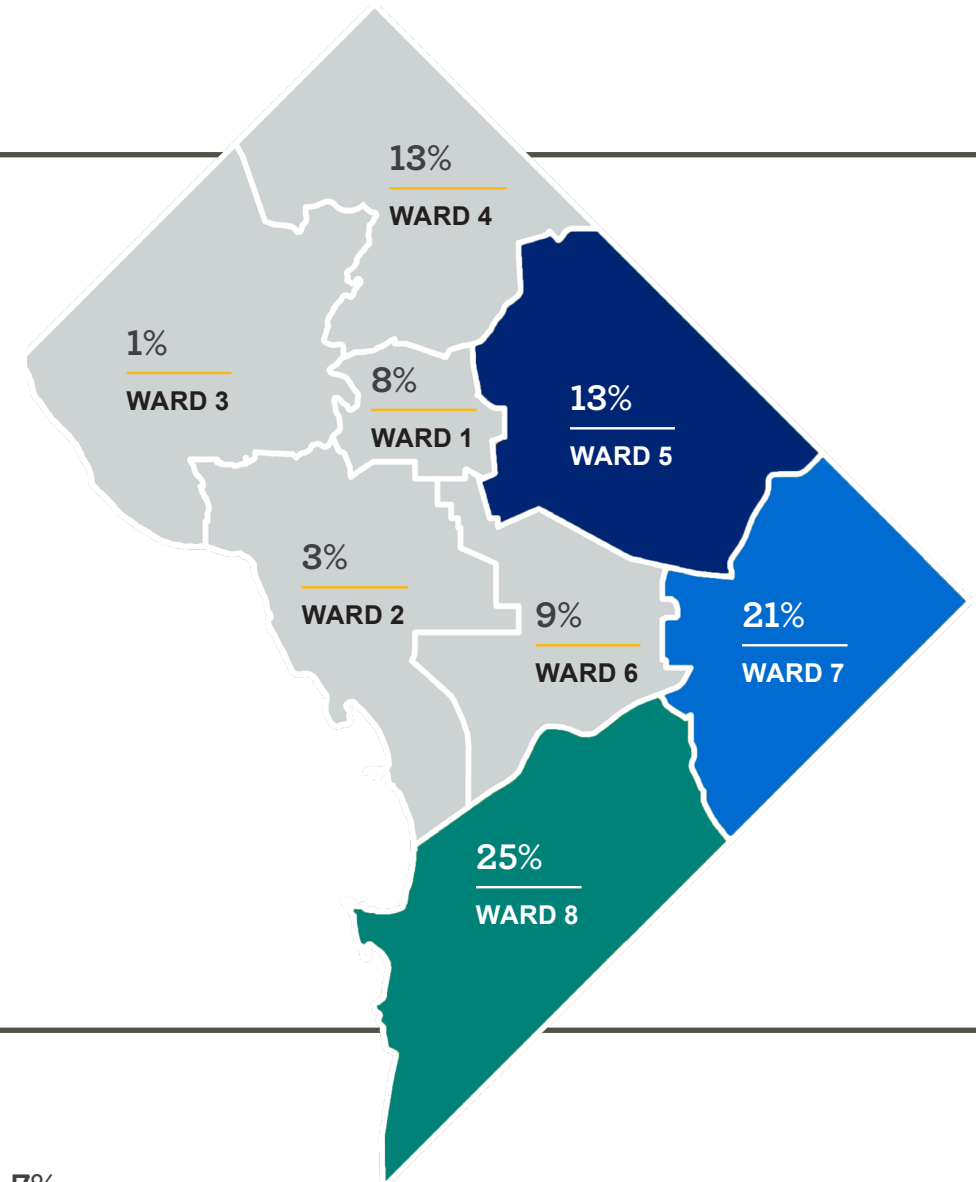
Our grants provide support to organizations that invest in District residents with the greatest need. Our goal is to ensure that residents are being treated fairly in the workplace and marketplace; they are staying in their home; and our most vulnerable or isolated neighbors are receiving specialized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

IN 2019 \$9.3 MILLION IN LEGAL ASSISTANCE INVESTED IN DC



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.dcbfoundation.org.

PERCENTAGE OF DC RESIDENTS SERVED BY DCBF GRANTS BY WARD



7%

WARD UNKNOWN—HOMELESS/FEDERAL INMATE

2019 GRANTEES

Advocates for Justice and Education
 African Communities Together
 Amara Legal Center
 Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center
 Ayuda
 Bread for the City
 Break the Cycle
 Capital Area Immigrants' Rights Coalition
 Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington, Inc
 Children's Law Center
 Christian Legal Aid of DC
 DC Bar Pro Bono Center
 DC Volunteer Lawyers Project
 Domestic Violence Legal Empowerment and Appeals Project
 First Shift Justice Project
 Howard University School of Law
 Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia
 Legal Counsel for the Elderly
 Neighborhood Legal Services Program
 Network for Victim Recovery of DC
 Rising for Justice
 School Justice Project
 Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition International
 Tzedek DC, Inc
 University Legal Services
 Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs
 Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless
 Whitman-Walker Health



With strong partnerships and your support,
we can bring about a change in our local civil
justice system so that everyone has a fair
and equal experience, and not just those with
wealth, knowledge and power.



— **Kirra L. Jarratt**
Chief Executive Officer

DC BAR FOUNDATION STAFF

Kirra L. Jarratt
Chief Executive Officer

Berlaunder M. Barnes
Operations Manager

J. Daryl Byler
Director of Development and Communications

B.A. Cockburn
Programs Officer

Mark Johnson-Lewis
Evaluation and Impact Manager

Elizabeth Nellums
Programs Officer

Greer Richey
Development and Communications Assistant

Calvin Robinson
Programs Officer

Imoni Washington
Director of Programs

202-467-3750

www.dcbarfoundation.org

@DCBarFoundation

