



LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

# 2021 Annual Report

## Toward a More Just and Equitable DC

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Dear Friends of Legal Aid:

The COVID-19 pandemic, now entering its third year, has laid bare the racial, social, and systemic inequities that have always existed in our community. Viruses aren't racist, yet 88% of the DC residents who have lost their lives to COVID are Black or Hispanic (thankfully, vaccination rates for Black and white DC residents over 18 are now equally high, and deaths from the virus are steadily decreasing). A staggering 250,000 DC workers have filed claims for unemployment since the beginning of the pandemic, and the Black unemployment rate in the District is currently the highest in the country.

That isn't to say there has been no cause for hope. No DC residents have lost their homes through lawful eviction or foreclosure process between March 2020 and August 2021, thanks in large part to the individual legal assistance provided by Legal Aid and the systemic advocacy by Legal Aid and our partner organizations. This, in a city where some 30,000 tenants are sued for eviction in a typical year, is nothing short of miraculous.

And there is no greater cause for hope in the face of inequity than the fortitude of our clients themselves. Despite oppressive challenges, they continue to strive to overcome the issues they face. Our clients seek legal assistance to save their homes from foreclosure, demand safe housing conditions as tenants, secure court protections against domestic violence, secure the public benefits they are entitled to receive, and so much more. They have testified before Council, they have adapted and attended remote Court hearings, and they continue to persevere, despite the near-impossible challenges and compounding inequities laid before them.

Yet, we are still very much on a knife's edge. Eviction filings for non-payment of rent resumed in October for the first time since the start of the pandemic. The foreclosure moratorium ends in February 2022. Meanwhile, DC residents – especially Black residents and other residents of color – continue to struggle to access unemployment insurance, food stamps, social security, and other programs intended to help alleviate poverty. If we do nothing, we risk another wave of displacement, in a city that has already lost tens of thousands of Black residents.

As one of Legal Aid's former clients, Chakyya Harrison, who was profiled in the Washington Post earlier this year, said: "Every year with my tax return money, it's the same thing, too — boom, it goes to the rent," Harrison said. "Now with the little stimmy we got — boom, goes to the rent."

At the beginning of the pandemic, we at Legal Aid heard dire warnings that we would face serious revenue problems as donors focused on their own financial concerns. Just the opposite happened. Since March 2020, the DC legal community has come together to contribute more than \$10 million to support our work – more than any two-year period in the organization's 90-year history.

We know that, when it comes to ensuring a just and equitable recovery, we have a long, long road ahead of us. We also know that \$10 million, or even \$100 million, isn't going to solve racial injustice in the District. But I can tell you that, when it comes to making a real difference in the lives of our neighbors here in DC, there is no better investment than Legal Aid. I am so proud and inspired by the work and accomplishments of our staff over this past year.

As you read through this year's annual report, I hope you have a chance to reflect not only on the struggles of Legal Aid's clients, but also their tenacity and courage and, truthfully, their optimism, in believing that they can change their lives for the better. Yes, we at Legal Aid provide the legal advice and representation, and we advocate at the DC Council, and work with our partners in the Courts and in government. But it is our clients who are standing up for themselves and their community and, as we say, *making justice real*.

Thank you for all your support, in the past, and in the future, and thank you for being with us on this journey towards a more just and more equitable DC.

Sincerely,



Joan McKown  
President, Board of Trustees

P.S. We are so appreciative for our clients who, after fighting difficult legal challenges, agreed to be photographed for this report. In addition, we are grateful to Alison DeSilva, who contributed her outstanding photography pro bono to this virtual annual report for the second year.

# RACIAL INEQUITY IN THE DISTRICT

Legal Aid firmly believes that our mission to "make justice real" – in individual and systemic ways – for persons living in poverty in DC is inextricably linked to our commitment to racial justice.

America's long history and enduring legacy of systemic racism has led to policies and practices that have both created and exacerbated the racial wealth gap, significant health disparities (such as lack of access to care and poorer health outcomes), housing insecurity, and more for Black communities and communities of color. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to deepen existing racial and economic disparities in our community. Across the District, not only are Black residents and residents of color dying from the pandemic at roughly three times the rate of white residents, they are also more likely to fall into further debt, have child custody disputes, lose their jobs, lose their homes, and face obstacles to obtaining much-needed financial assistance and other safety-net benefits.

## RACIAL INEQUITIES IN LEGAL AID'S PRACTICE AREAS

As a result of systemic racism, Black DC residents and other residents of color experience economic and other disparities that fall along racial lines.

More than 90% of the **7,000 DC homeowners** and **19,000 families** who are behind on rent or mortgage payments are Black residents or residents of color

Almost **50% of Black DC residents** rely on Medicaid for health care coverage

**More than 40%** of Black women in the District will experience domestic violence in their lifetime

**44% of respondents** contacted about debt in collections are people of color

Over **50% of SNAP recipients** live in Wards 7 and 8 which are more than 90% Black

Through our work, Legal Aid is helping to prevent displacement of low-income residents of color by helping them fight eviction, large rent increases, and foreclosure; protecting the rights and assets of Black individuals and individuals of color by standing up with them in court on immigration, domestic violence, and debt collection issues; and increasing

economic stability for families by securing unemployment benefits, food stamps, and child support orders.

Our systemic advocacy efforts are informed by our clients' experiences and the needs of our client community. Throughout the year, Legal Aid has continued to pursue important legislative reform, targeting policies that will have the greatest impact on reducing racial and economic injustice and inequity in our community. This has included, among other efforts, advocating for extended moratoria and other protections after the end of the District's Public Health Emergency to protect residents from eviction, foreclosure, and debt collection during these precarious times.

Legal Aid continued to collaborate closely with our clients and Community Advisory Council (CAC) this year on important efforts aimed at improving agency policies and procedures for communities of color. Many provided important testimony – firsthand accounts from those who needed help but for whom the system failed – to DC agencies and the DC Council this year on issues ranging from accessing unemployment benefits to health care coverage, emergency housing, and more.

Most recently, Legal Aid, our community partners, and countless affected community members came together to advocate with the DC Council for fairer healthcare recertification requirements for our undocumented neighbors. As a result of this effort, which has been years in the making, thousands of undocumented residents who had been terminated from the DC Healthcare Alliance and Immigrant Children's Program will be reinstated until the Department of Human Services can work through its paperwork backlog.

As we continue to navigate the changing landscape of the pandemic and eventual recovery, Legal Aid strives to ensure that our practice model supports deep and meaningful community engagement as we reaffirm our unwavering commitment to racial justice and equity through our work.



**“You all make it possible for mine and other’s voices to be heard. I am forever grateful for you all.” – Tangelia Hicks**

*CAC member **Tangelia Hicks** provided written and oral testimony in four DC agency oversight hearings in a span of two weeks which resulted in several personal victories that will also benefit hundreds, perhaps thousands, of others.*



## Ensuring Family Stability

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The number of domestic violence survivors reaching out for help citywide has nearly doubled since the start of the pandemic, and new referrals are also up over 50%. This disturbing documented increase does not even reflect the many survivors who have been unable to access help. At the same time, hundreds of parents have waited (and continue to wait) during the pandemic for their child support cases to be heard as DC Superior Court makes its way through the backlog of cases.



Legal Aid's Family Law Unit has been able to provide critical assistance in child support, child custody, domestic violence, and immigration matters to help keep hundreds of families together, stay safe, and obtain the necessary financial support they need to make ends meet.

## HARRY BROWN

Harry Brown won permanent sole legal and physical custody of his son, Harry Brown Jr., with Legal Aid's help after a two-year custody dispute with his ex-wife. Mr. Brown, who is legally blind, had also experienced emotional abuse and threats from Harry Jr.'s mother for years. They struggled to co-parent and ultimately Harry Jr. was removed from his mother's care over concerns of medical neglect and placed with Mr. Brown by the Child and Family Services Agency.



*Legal Aid client Harry Brown found himself in a years-long custody battle against his abuser*

Over a period of two years, including many delays due to COVID-19, Legal Aid assisted Mr. Brown with domestic violence cases, custody, and Harry Jr.'s benefits. Legal Aid advised Mr. Brown on his Civil Protection Order, which he was able to obtain for one year. Mr. Brown's ex-wife also filed numerous meritless Civil Protection Orders against him, bringing him back and forth to Court. Legal Aid assisted with Mr. Brown's defense to secure his safety and to provide him with support through these legal attacks.

**“I was homeless for a minute. I was living with my brother and then when [Harry Jr.'s mother] wanted to do full custody of my son and she had threatened to take him out of my life for good, that's when I went to Legal Aid because I started receiving death threats [from her].”**

**HARRY BROWN**

Legal Aid was also able to assist Mr. Brown with getting Harry Jr.'s name added to his Medicaid to ensure he had medical insurance. He faced numerous challenges to getting access to Harry Jr.'s medical insurance, including the mother's refusal to share information and errors and delays within the Department of Human Services.

Legal Aid continued to assist Mr. Brown with his ongoing custody dispute between the parties. After Harry Jr. was placed in his care, he filed a motion to modify the permanent custody order. Legal Aid represented Mr. Brown at his hearing to modify the order, after

which he was granted permanent sole legal and sole physical custody of his son. Mr. Brown had waited for years for this outcome.



**“It felt emotional, [I was] overwhelmed with joy. [I remember] jumping up and down, hugging my son and everything.”**

**HARRY BROWN (pictured with his son Harry Brown Jr.)**

## **ANITA GANS**

Anita Gans initially came to the Domestic Violence Intake Center seeking help in obtaining a Civil Protection Order (CPO) against her ex-boyfriend, whom we will call Mr. Miller (name changed), alleging multiple counts of relentless stalking behavior. After breaking up, Mr. Miller sent Ms. Gans disturbing emails, showed up multiple times to her family’s home without permission, and discovered her place of employment by following her to the day care center where she worked. He then appeared multiple times at the day care center, causing Ms. Gans to get fired.



*Legal Aid client Anita Gans found herself in a contentious custody battle with her abuser. She ultimately won full custody of her daughter.*

**“I was in a custody battle and needed a protection order because I was being stalked. I felt relieved that I was about to connect with someone to get help with the situations.”**

**ANITA GANS**

After a two-day trial, the CPO Judge found that Mr. Miller had stalked Ms. Gans on several occasions with the intent to cause her fear, alarm, and emotional distress. The judge granted Ms. Gans a CPO and temporary custody of her child.

Mr. Miller also filed a custody case against Ms. Gans. While the case was pending, Mr. Miller kidnapped their daughter to a different jurisdiction during a daytime visit. After litigating the custody case for two years, Legal Aid helped Ms. Gans obtain sole custody of their daughter in an order that made detailed findings against Mr. Miller. He was restricted to visitation at the Court’s Supervised Visitation Center and was also ordered to pay both future and retroactive child support. Upon learning that she had won sole custody of her daughter at last, Ms. Gans said she was, “overjoyed and relieved at the same time.”

**“Legal Aid is very helpful and professional. They really make sure they take care of the people they are working with in each case.”**

**ANITA GANS**

## **FAMILY LAW ASSISTANCE NETWORK**

This year, we celebrated the one-year launch of the Family Law Assistance Network (FLAN), a joint initiative created by Legal Aid, DC Bar Pro Bono Center, and DC Affordable Law Firm to provide same-day limited scope services to unrepresented litigants in DC Superior Court's Domestic Relations Branch (one of the court's busiest branches).

The project was first conceived in 2019 to fill a gap in services in Family Court. In 2020, FLAN was poised to open its physical court-based office when the COVID-19 pandemic hit. Instead, FLAN partners quickly pivoted to all virtual services and began tackling high-stakes emergencies that arose in the early days of the pandemic. We have continued to serve litigants with custody, visitation, and divorce needs since that time. This has included representation in virtual emergency hearings and assisting many litigants in a limited scope capacity who lack access to technology to file motions online.

### **Helping a Teen Mother**

*Earlier this year Legal Aid helped a teen mother who was forced to flee her home due to years of abuse by extended family members. Even when she and her baby were physically safe, the abuse continued in the form of litigation abuse. The extended family members filed a custody case, seeking to take custody of our client's baby. Fortunately, she found Legal Aid and was able to apply for services remotely. A Legal Aid attorney was able to meet with her, help her participate in her hearing, and eventually got the family's case dismissed, all from a safe location.*

Your support allowed us to launch this important project in the midst of a pandemic. As of August 31, 2021, FLAN has received over 1,200 referrals for help, and Legal Aid alone has served over 200 clients in custody, divorce, and child support matters. However, that is a fraction of DC residents who need help with family law matters. Legal Aid is committed to remaining nimble and client-centered as we determine the best way to serve the community through this project in the coming months and years.



## Increasing Economic Stability

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The high demand for services from our Public Benefits Unit has increased throughout the pandemic. A staggering 250,000 Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims have been filed in the District since March 2020. UI benefits are administered by the DC Department of Employment Services (DOES). These weekly benefits provide crucial lifelines to unemployed workers by enabling them to continue paying for basic necessities – such as food, shelter, and medical care – after losing their jobs.

Yet every day, Legal Aid meets individuals who, through no fault of their own, are unable to access such vital benefits. Agency delays and errors continue to jeopardize the already fragile financial state of low-income families and, as a result, far too often we see clients having to make choices between getting food and medical care or paying their bills.



In addition to tackling a high volume of UI cases, Legal Aid has continued its longstanding work to improve the delivery of other essential public benefits, including stimulus payments, Social Security, SNAP, TANF, Alliance, and Medicaid to individual clients. We have also continued to advocate with the DC Council and other agencies to improve programs and eliminate barriers to benefits to ensure that DC residents can access the benefits they need and are entitled to.

The end of the District's Public Health Emergency, however, also means that many benefits are being terminated or phased out, including the end of "emergency allotments" that bolstered SNAP benefits during the pandemic. Our clients will also potentially face the termination of their Medicaid and Alliance benefits, including those who receive home health services that help them live at home. Our work of shoring up the safety net for our client community will be even more essential over the coming year.

### **LATASHA ROBINSON**

LaTasha Robinson, a resident of Northeast DC, is one of the hundreds of thousands of District workers who lost their jobs due to the COVID-19 pandemic. After her job loss, Ms. Robinson applied for unemployment compensation and was approved for benefits in August 2020.



*Legal Aid client LaTasha Robinson was among the tens of thousands of DC residents who lost their jobs during the pandemic and needed to secure Unemployment Insurance to support their families.*

However, despite being approved, she did not receive any payments. As time passed, Ms. Robinson repeatedly contacted DOES yet never received any payments or a satisfactory explanation for the delay. After waiting seven months without any unemployment payments, Ms. Robinson connected with Legal Aid in March 2021.

Ms. Robinson began working with Legal Aid attorney Satcha Robinson. Satcha, who works with Legal Aid's Reentry Justice project but began taking UI cases during the pandemic to help with the surge in need, advocated on Ms. Robinson's behalf with DOES through an urgent escalation process. After Legal Aid intervention, DOES made an initial partial payment to Ms. Robinson.



*With Legal Aid's representation, Ms. Robinson received over \$17,000 in unemployment compensation.*

Unfortunately, the partial payment was a lower, incorrect amount than what was owed to Ms. Robinson. Satcha brought this to the attention of DOES and, as a result, DOES corrected the payment amount and issued payments for all missing weeks.

## **ZENABA AMADOU**



*Legal Aid client Zenaba Amadou (pictured with her children) dealt with over a year of agency delays from DOES in trying to obtain the correct benefits she was entitled to.*

Zenaba Amadou, a mother of five, had also applied for UI in the District when she lost her job in the hospitality services industry due to COVID-19. Ms. Amadou had tried to apply for UI when her job ended in March 2020, but she was not able to successfully submit her claim until a month later. When Legal Aid attorney Zenia Laws began working with Ms. Amadou, she learned that DOES had not paid Ms. Amadou UI for four weeks.

Due to the high volume of new UI applicants, DOES phone lines were jammed, and the agency's website frequently crashed. This delay meant that Ms. Amadou would not receive about \$2,400 in UI, including \$600 per week of supplemental federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), for the weeks when she could not file her application. Without employment income, Ms. Amadou needed to rely on her weekly UI and the federal PUA to support her family.



**“When I got connected with Legal Aid, I felt safe, and I trusted them with my life. They helped me and got all my money to support my family.”**

**ZENABA AMADOU**

After Legal Aid’s continued weekly emails to DOES, the agency finally changed the start date of the UI claim and paid Ms. Amadou about \$4,000 in UI that she was owed. However, changing the UI start date caused DOES’ computer system to think that Ms. Amadou owed DOES money, and her payments stopped altogether. Legal Aid attorney Marcia Hollingsworth, who had taken over Ms. Amadou’s case, had to contact DOES weekly to resolve this new issue. When DOES was not responsive to the weekly emails, Marcia filed an appeal on Ms. Amadou’s behalf to challenge the false overpayment. After a phone hearing, an administrative law judge reversed the overpayment and DOES paid Ms. Amadou over \$8,000 in UI that had been withheld, in error, for three months.

Unfortunately, this was still not the end of Ms. Amadou’s challenges. Legal Aid had to contact DOES again when Ms. Amadou could no longer file her weekly UI claims online. This caused a delay in DOES paying her weekly. After working with Ms. Amadou for over a year, Legal Aid finally closed her case in September 2021.



## Stopping Evictions in DC

For nearly 18 months, DC renters did not have to worry about being evicted. The District's local moratorium prevented all evictions and nearly all new eviction cases thanks in large part to the advocacy of Legal Aid and other organizations. It was a more powerful set of protections than in most other jurisdictions across the country. However, when the District's Public Health Emergency (PHE) ended in July, so did the moratorium on evictions. Legal Aid and other legal services providers had to act quickly to extend protections for renters as well as ensure assistance programs were in place to avoid an eviction crisis.

Overnight, tenants in nearly 500 eviction cases filed before the pandemic were at risk of having their locks changed, and another roughly 1,000 tenants also faced eviction if their pre-pandemic cases went to judgment.

In the face of this crisis and shifting laws, Legal Aid organized and formed critical new partnerships with tenant organizers, one of DC's rental assistance providers, and District agencies to ensure that we could reach as many members of our client community as possible.



The first evictions since the start of the pandemic began on September 13, but Legal Aid and our partners have successfully stopped 279 evictions as a result of our joint outreach efforts.

## **KOFI ROSS MINOR**



*Legal Aid client Kofi Ross Minor had an eviction case that went on for nearly two years.*

At the same time that we were doing this emergency work to stop evictions, Legal Aid continued representing tenants who had pending eviction cases before the pandemic. **Kofi Ross Minor** first sought assistance from Legal Aid in 2018 when her landlord filed a case against her alleging that she was behind on her rent, and that she had violated the obligations of her tenancy by consistently paying her rent late.

With the assistance of Legal Aid attorney Matt Boucher, Ms. Ross Minor filed an answer and jury demand asserting several defenses including significant housing code violations in her unit. After several court appearances, Matt filed a motion for summary judgment on her behalf. The judge granted it and dismissed the landlord's claims. However, because of the way the judge dismissed the claims, the landlord was permitted to re-file the nonpayment of rent case.

**“But at the end of the day [Matt was] always honoring what my choice was and always making sure that I was clear and that I understood what I was getting into. The way that he helped me, I couldn’t even quantify how helpful he was, how patient, how he made sure to explain everything, so that everything was super transparent. Yeah, it’s been a great experience.”**

## **KOFI ROSS MINOR**

The landlord did just that a few months later, and Matt agreed to represent Ms. Ross Minor again. The case ultimately went on for almost two years, and Ms. Ross Minor's rental balance grew significantly during that time. The landlord filed numerous motions to try to get the upper hand, and even asked the Court to take away Ms. Ross Minor's right to a jury trial. After many contested court hearings, the Court denied all of the landlord's various motions.



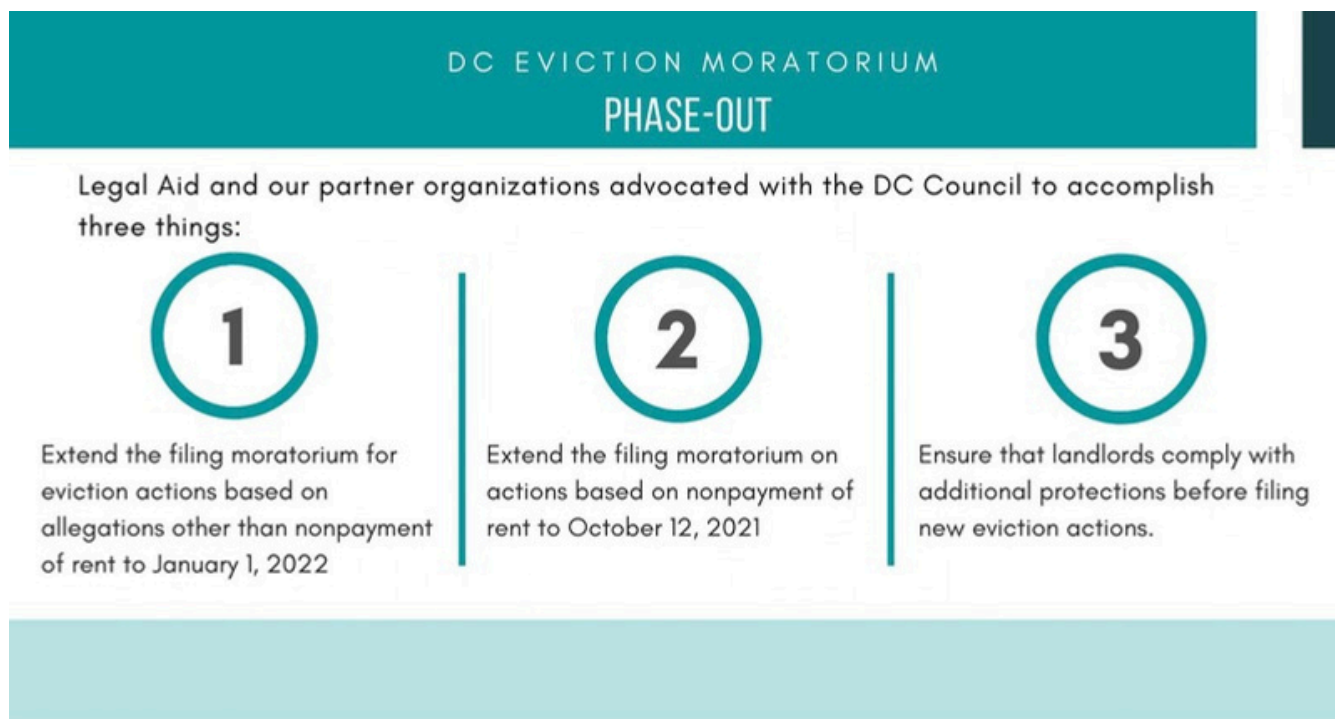
**“I just remember my son and daughter jokingly talking about him like he was a member of the family. They’d be like ‘oh Mr. Boucher is on the phone’ and that was a call you’d always take.” - Kofi Ross Minor (with her Legal Aid attorney Matt Boucher)**

As Ms. Ross Minor's case got closer to trial, she and Matt worked hard to prepare and file necessary motions. Then, her trial date was delayed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. During the delay, Ms. Ross Minor's landlord received a significant Housing Stabilization Grant from the government that eliminated a lot of her rental balance. Ultimately, Matt helped Ms. Ross Minor negotiate an agreement with the landlord that allows her and her children to keep their home, and even to receive a refund of some of the money she paid into the court registry due to the housing conditions she had to endure.

## PREVENTING AN EVICTION CRISIS

Once we knew that Mayor Bowser's Administration planned to end the Public Health Emergency at the end of July, Legal Aid and community partners worked quickly to advocate for a slow phase-out of the eviction filing moratorium, which otherwise would have abruptly ended leaving thousands of tenants facing an eviction crisis.

If landlords were immediately able to file new eviction cases, there might have been a deluge of tenants facing eviction. This was in part because when the District first rolled out STAY DC, the District's federal rental assistance program, in April 2021, it was plagued with problems. The online portal was cumbersome, hard to navigate, required tenants to upload many unnecessary documents, and was not easily accessible in languages other than English. Additionally, it was taking processors months and months to review applications, leaving tenants who were able to apply wondering what their status was.



Following our advocacy efforts, the Council passed legislation requiring landlords to serve 60-day notices for past due rent and to apply for rental assistance before suing any tenant for nonpayment. This meant that the first new eviction cases for nonpayment could not be filed until October 12. According to census data, nearly 19,000 households report being behind on rent as of the end of September 2021.

Given the financial hardships of so many DC residents, Legal Aid is still bracing for what is sure to be a surge in eviction case filings and tenants who will need representation in the coming year. Our attorneys are prepared to help individual clients and continue these critical systemic advocacy efforts to keep DC families in their homes.



## Preserving Homeownership

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Ongoing economic hardships in 2021 have left many individuals and families living in or near poverty unable to pay their mortgages and accumulating debt just to try to make ends meet. Unsurprisingly, this hardship has fallen starkly along racial lines. The unemployment rate in Ward 8 – where nearly 90% of the residents are Black – is more than double the District average, threatening to widen pre-existing racial wealth and income gaps. Over the course of the last year, our Consumer Law Unit has worked in conjunction with our policy team to blunt the worst of these impacts in individual and systemic ways.

### **EXTENDING THE FORECLOSURE MORATORIUM**

In October, Legal Aid celebrated a monumental victory when the DC Council extended the District's foreclosure moratorium to February 4, 2022 after an advocacy push from Legal Aid and our partners. Previously, the moratorium was set to expire on November 5. In collaboration with our clients and partner organizations, Legal Aid had urged the District to extend the moratorium, highlighting that the District was slated to receive \$50 million in federal funds through the Homeowner Assistance Fund (HAF), a federal relief program designed to help homeowners catch up on missed payments and avoid foreclosure – but that the program had not opened yet and was in fact still awaiting Treasury approval. The DC Council's passage of the emergency extension prevented avoidable foreclosures from moving forward at a time when federal relief money remained in the pipeline and was critical to preserving Black and Brown homeownership in the District.

Our attorneys, clients, and community partners are continuing to work with the District to minimize barriers to homeowner assistance programs and ensure that HAF will be accessible to DC residents who most need it. We will continue our advocacy to try to ensure that foreclosures do not move forward before homeowners are able to meaningfully access assistance and that critical programs and policies are effectively designed to deliver relief to our client community.

### **JOSE RAUL SALAMANCA & ADELA GARCIA DE SALAMANCA**

Mr. Salamanca and Ms. Garcia de Salamanca began working with Legal Aid in March 2021 after Legal Aid identified them through targeted outreach as former clients that might be eligible for the District's recently reopened HomeSaver program. The HomeSaver program is a foreclosure prevention program that provides payment assistance to eligible DC homeowners who are behind on their mortgage or other housing-related payments.



*Jose Raul Salamanca and Adela Garcia de Salamanca with Legal Aid attorney Jenny Joseph*

The Salamancas, two monolingual Spanish-speaking homeowners, were severely impacted by the pandemic. Ms. Garcia de Salamanca was laid off from her job of almost 30 years as a housekeeper at a hotel in Dupont Circle at the start of the pandemic. Mr. Salamanca was retired and receiving modest Social Security Retirement benefits. Although Ms. Garcia de Salamanca was receiving unemployment insurance, their income was substantially reduced without her employment income. The couple managed to keep up with their mortgage payments for months, but they depleted their savings as a result. When they connected with Legal Aid attorney Jenny Joseph, they were about to default on their mortgage payments.

Jenny worked with the Salamancas to prepare an application for the HomeSaver program, a process that would have been difficult if not impossible for the Salamancas to complete on their own as the District's application was only available in English, and submitting the required documentation was a challenge for homeowners who had limited access to technology. With Legal Aid's assistance, the Salamancas were approved for HomeSaver funds to cover their mortgage payments, an immense relief for the family.

**“I thank God that I found Jenny and that she—with great specialty knowledge—resolved this case, that she could help me, you know, and relieve that pressure I was feeling when I felt that I could lose my house.”**

### **JOSE RAUL SALAMANCA**

The difficulties the Salamancas had in completing the HomeSaver application are just one of many client experiences that have informed Legal Aid's systemic advocacy this year surrounding the Homeowner Assistance Fund (HAF). With our partners at Legal Counsel for the Elderly, Legal Aid has urged the District to create a HAF program that prioritizes language access, has low barriers to entry, and meets the needs of DC's most vulnerable homeowners.



## Policy and Appellate Advocacy

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The pandemic and resulting economic depression disproportionately devastated our client community. Low-wage Black workers and workers of color throughout the District saw their incomes decimated and slow to recover, forcing them to make difficult choices between basic necessities like putting food on the table and paying their rents or mortgages. The District's COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) ended in July, putting DC residents at greater risk as critical protections tied to the PHE are being lifted.

At this unprecedented moment in history, Legal Aid, our partners, and – most importantly – DC residents from impacted communities, rose to the challenge to advocate zealously with the DC Council on a series of critical issues.

**PREVENTING AN  
EVICTON CRISIS**



**EXTENDING THE  
FORECLOSURE  
MORATORIUM**



**DC HEALTHCARE  
ALLIANCE VICTORY**



**ADVOCATING FOR  
RENTAL ASSISTANCE**



**STOPPING ABUSIVE  
DEBT COLLECTION  
PRACTICES**



## **BARBARA MCDOWELL APPELLATE ADVOCACY PROJECT**

Legal Aid's Barbara McDowell Appellate Advocacy Project provides appellate representation and participates in important appellate matters as *amicus curiae* before the DC Court of Appeals each year. The Project is currently focused on appellate issues created or exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Over the past year, Legal Aid has actively litigated numerous appeals regarding unemployment benefit claims, as well as handled cases involving housing conditions and subsidies, domestic violence, foreclosure and consumer credit, and public benefits beyond unemployment compensation. Earlier this year, Legal Aid successfully represented a coalition of legal services providers working to preserve the District's moratoria on eviction filings and actual evictions as amici curiae.

The Project also continues to serve as a resource to the broader legal services community on appellate issues more generally, and continues to pursue an affirmative anti-poverty law reform agenda, litigating cases that have the potential to influence the development of decisional law in a manner that will protect and advance the rights of low-income individuals.

## **AN IMPORTANT VICTORY AT THE DC COURT OF APPEALS**

In 2020, Legal Aid and our partners successfully advocated for a moratorium on all new eviction filings during the public health emergency, a critical lifeline for low-income tenants in the District whose financial lives were further decimated by the pandemic and the resulting economic depression. Not long after it went into effect, landlords challenged the constitutionality of the moratorium. Legal Aid and our partners joined forces as *amicus curiae* to assist the District in defending the law.

After an unfortunate loss in Superior Court – the Court found that the moratorium unconstitutionally interfered with landlords' right of access to the courts – the District appealed the lower court's ruling to the DC Court of Appeals. Legal Aid participated in the case's briefing and oral argument, arguing that the eviction filing moratorium easily passes constitutional muster. Only three weeks after the argument, the Court issued a ruling in record time, overturning the lower court's decision. The Court concluded that the landlord's right of access was not burdened at all. This means that, should the Council need to institute a filing moratorium in the future, it will still be available as a tool.

**“Because there is no constitutional right to eviction on a specific timetable, much less a fundamental one, we conclude that the temporary filing moratorium does not burden the right of access to the courts.”**

**- THE DC COURT OF APPEALS**

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**“Because there is no constitutional right to eviction on a specific timetable, much less a fundamental one, we conclude that the temporary filing moratorium does not burden the right of access to the courts.”**

**THE DC COURT OF APPEALS**



## Housing Partnerships

Legal Aid and our housing services partners have worked together over the past two years to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on District residents. Last year at the start of the pandemic, Legal Aid and our partners came together to form one central intake line — the Landlord and Tenant Legal Assistance Network (LTLAN) — for District tenants looking for legal advice and representation. We have continued this coordinated intake effort with our partners this past year.

This year, once the eviction moratorium was lifted, we worked with our legal services partners to begin new collaborations with tenant organizers. Legal Aid's team worked on compiling lists of tenants across the District scheduled for evictions, and then we worked with our legal services partners to coordinate with tenant organizers, who knocked on the doors of those tenants facing eviction to refer them directly to our shared intake line. In turn, we connected those tenants to rental assistance and represented them in filing Applications to Stay Writs, asking the Court to halt their evictions while waiting for relief money to come through.

In collaboration with our other legal services partners, we were able to reach out to more than 700 tenants to inform them about their rights and about rental assistance programs such as STAY DC, and to connect them with lawyers so we could prevent as many of these evictions as possible.



## ADVOCATING FOR RENTAL ASSISTANCE

At the same time the community was advocating for a slow phase-out of the eviction moratorium, Legal Aid, our coalition partners, and DC residents, pushed the Mayor to fix the most egregious problems with the STAY DC application process. Though still imperfect, the District made common forms easier to use, made the application more accessible in other languages, and began processing applications at a more reasonable pace.

However, STAY DC was still not making payments fast enough to help people with live writs avoid eviction. While legal services providers were able to help tenants who reached us file motions with the court to delay any scheduled evictions while they waited on rental assistance, we were concerned about all the tenants we never connected with. So, Legal Aid and our partners made another push to protect District renters, resulting in the DC Council passing a law that requires landlords to affirmatively check whether a tenant has a pending rental assistance application and, if so, cancel any scheduled eviction for a minimum of three weeks.

## MARIA JOHNSON



*Legal Aid client  
Maria Johnson  
with her attorney  
Rais Akbar*

**Maria Johnson\*** connected with Legal Aid attorney Rais Akbar through LTLAN. Ms. Johnson is a mother raising three children, ranging in age from three to six. Just before the pandemic, in March 2020, her landlord sued her for eviction alleging nonpayment of rent. Like so many of our clients, Ms. Johnson was living with uninhabitable housing conditions that her landlord would not repair, including a rodent and roach infestation.

**“He fought for the best outcome for me and actually got the situation sealed within the courthouse so I’m able to go apply for other apartments and houses now without that judgment held against me.”**

**MARIA JOHNSON**



After many pandemic-related delays, Ms. Johnson’s case began to move forward. Rais immediately filed a Motion to Dismiss the case, arguing that Ms. Johnson was not properly served. He also advised her to apply for STAY DC, the District’s new rental assistance program funded by federal COVID relief money. Before the Motion to Dismiss could be decided, Ms. Johnson was awarded nearly \$20,000 in rental assistance. The landlord’s attorney agreed that STAY DC covered Ms. Johnson’s balance and dismissed the case. Because the case was dismissed, it was subsequently sealed, which will aid Ms. Johnson in her goal to ultimately move – a process that is often made harder when a tenant has a publicly-available eviction case record.

\*Name changed

**“I like the fact that [Rais] actually took the time to actually show that he cared about working with me on my case and when he was working with me, I was his only priority.”**

**MARIA JOHNSON**



## Protecting Consumers

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Even before the Public Health Emergency, District consumers were already facing debt collection harassment and experiencing a dramatic increase in debt collection activities and lawsuits. The pandemic further compounded these issues and worsened the already disproportionate impacts of debt collection on communities of color.

Over the last year, our Consumer Law Unit has worked together with our Policy Advocacy team to stave off debt collection-related harms during the ongoing pandemic. We also advocated for longer-term systemic reforms to protect against unfair and abusive debt collection practices as consumers face new debt collection activity following the end of the temporary pandemic protections.

### **STOPPING ABUSIVE DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES**

When our clients' incomes plummeted at the start of the pandemic, Legal Aid and our partners successfully advocated for a moratorium on debt collection so that struggling District residents could preserve whatever income and savings they had for their most pressing needs. The moratorium temporarily staved off the spiraling impacts of debt collection for thousands of consumers during the District's Public Health Emergency. Still, Legal Aid and other advocates urged the District to use that time to enact much-needed protections and updates to the District's debt collection law before consumers were hit with the flood of debt collection activity waiting to resume once the moratorium ended.

Legal Aid and our partners' advocacy focused on the need to modernize the District's obsolete debt collection law. The Office of the Attorney General took up the cause as well, the DC Council passed The Protecting Consumers from Unjust Debt Collection Practices Emergency Amendment Act of 2021, introducing common-sense consumer protections just in time for the end of the moratorium.

## NEW PROTECTIONS FOR CONSUMERS

The Protecting Consumers from Unjust Debt Collection Practices Emergency Amendment Act of 2021:

- Expanded the scope of the law to apply broadly to consumer debt, including credit card debt and medical debt for the first time
- Protects consumers broadly from unfairness and harassment in the debt collection process
- Requires debt collectors to substantiate the debts they are trying to collect
- Creates a universal three-year statute of limitations for all covered debts, protecting consumers from "zombie" debt collection (the revival of years' old debt obligations)

Perhaps most importantly, the DC Council passed this bill on an emergency basis, meaning it was in place before debt collection cases picked up, and helped mitigate the impacts of the expired moratorium on our client community. In the coming year, we will fight to make sure these critical new protections become permanent law in the District.

## HELPING INDIVIDUAL CONSUMERS

At the same time our Consumer Law Unit has been working on systemic fixes to the current economic crisis, our attorneys have also been on the ground helping low-income litigants in court, staffing a virtual court-based legal services program for individuals with ongoing foreclosure cases and a debt collection hotline.

## SHANITA WOMACK



*Legal Aid client Shanita Womack was sued in an auto subrogation case involving a car accident that she was never in.*

In July 2021, Shanita Womack called the DC Debt Collection Defense Hotline after she had been sued by a national insurance company for over \$11,000 in an auto subrogation case for a car that was involved in a hit and run. This was surprising to her because she did not recall being involved in an accident.

Ms. Womack first learned that she was being sued when she received notice from the court about an ex parte proof hearing, after a default had already been entered against her. She sought Legal Aid's assistance because she was never served, did not receive notice of the prior hearing where a default was entered against her, and did not know how to defend herself. The process server claimed to have served an adult that was living at her house, but Ms. Womack did not recognize the name of the person the process server claimed to have served. The only adult living with Ms. Womack at the time was her mother.

**“This issue was one of my biggest worries, about it being on my background, and now that it’s gone it’s a big relief. I had a good feeling after talking to my attorney. She made me feel better because I was discouraged before I had started.”**

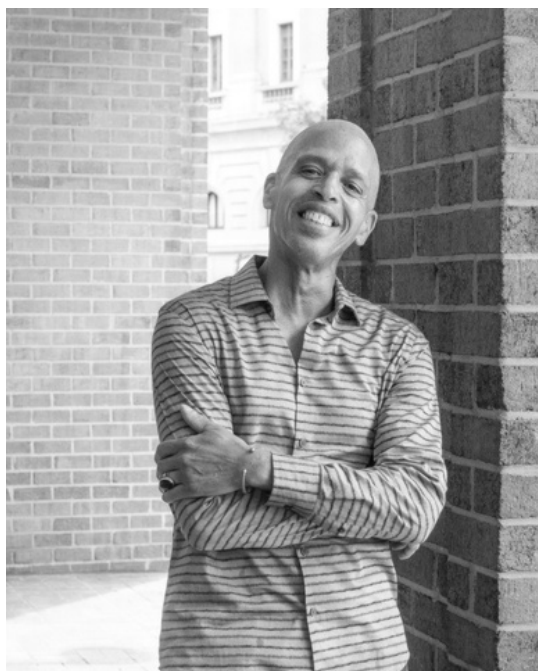
**SHANITA WOMACK**

After coming to Legal Aid, Ms. Womack began working with Legal Aid attorneys Zenia Laws and Sudi Tasissa. As they were working to help her challenge the claim that she had been served and vacate the default entered against her, they discovered that Ms. Womack was not the owner or even the driver of the car that was involved in the hit and run. Although Ms. Womack once owned the car in question, the accident she was being sued for took place in May 2017, and she had sold the car approximately three years earlier.

Ms. Womack's only connection to the 2017 accident was that the car was last registered in her name. However, this registration expired in 2014, long before the accident. With Legal Aid's assistance, the insurance company agreed to vacate the default entered against her and dismiss the case with prejudice.

## **RODNEY HAWKINS**

In May 2021, Rodney Hawkins called the DC Debt Collection Defense Hotline after all the money in his bank account was garnished based on a judgment from 18 years ago. Legal Aid attorney Zenia Laws investigated the case and learned the garnishment stemmed from a default judgment that expired in 2015. Even though the judgment was no longer legally enforceable, the creditor was somehow able to register it as a foreign judgment in the State of Maryland and issue a writ of attachment on Mr. Hawkins' bank account.



**“Legal Aid – y’all did it. You calmed me, soothed me, you gave me hope.”**

**RODNEY HAWKINS**

Mr. Hawkins was surprised because he never got notice about a collections case and didn't know the judgment existed prior to the garnishment. Sadly, he did recall the early 2000s as a rough period in his life when he faced addiction, eviction, and ultimately, homelessness. Having turned his life around, Mr. Hawkins was disheartened to see his rent and bill money taken away from him without any warning. With Legal Aid's help, the creditor agreed to return Mr. Hawkins' money, vacate the foreign judgment, and dismiss its case with prejudice.



*Rodney Hawkins with Legal Aid attorney Zenia Laws*

**“Ms. Zenia. She was a jewel. She took care of it, and she explained that this would never come up again.”**

**RODNEY HAWKINS**



## Recognizing our Pro Bono Partnerships

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In 2020 hundreds of attorneys across the city took on pro bono cases to help our client community. This year, with mentoring from our Legal Aid subject matter experts, our partners in the law firm community stepped up even more.

In 2021, we have referred over 120 cases in matters ranging from child custody to housing conditions to unemployment insurance. That is more than 120 additional individuals and families who otherwise would have had to navigate the legal system alone. Volunteers also helped 100 seniors and persons with disabilities complete their annual Medicare Part D “check-ups” to ensure that they continue receiving critical prescription medications without interruption or prohibitive cost increases.

We are so grateful to our pro bono partners, some of whom received much-deserved recognition earlier this year from the DC legal community. With an anticipated surge in need for help with eviction defense and other areas over the coming year, we look forward to strengthening these partnerships and growing our pro bono network to help close the access to justice gap in the city.

## **LAKESHIA BATTLE**



Lakeshia Battle sought sole physical and legal custody of her young daughter, Kiley\*, after a series of troubling behaviors by Kiley’s father, Damien Johnson\*. On one occasion, school administrators had to forcibly escort Mr. Johnson off the school grounds when he tried to remove Kiley from school without Ms. Battle’s permission. Ms. Battle’s request for sole physical and legal custody was denied, in large part because the judge believed that Ms. Battle falsified letters from school officials describing incidents involving Mr. Johnson.

Once Ms. Battle was able to connect with Legal Aid, her case was referred to Legal Aid Board Member John McCarthy and his Crowell & Moring colleagues Chalana Damron and Emily Tucker, who immediately got to work on helping Ms. Battle. The Crowell team was able to verify that school officials in fact wrote the letters and help right the trajectory of the case.

**“We ended up in court, thanks to John, Emily and Chalana – all of the three of them jumped in and supported me on this emotional rollercoaster to do the right thing for the child. That was what it all boiled down to.”**

## **LAKESHIA BATTLE**



*Lakeshia Battle (front center)  
with her Crowell & Moring  
attorneys John McCarthy,  
Chalana Damron, and Emily  
Tucker*

**“They have been tremendous –  
‘TREMENDOUS’ if that can be captured in all  
caps.”**

## **LAKESHIA BATTLE (on partnering with her Crowell & Moring attorneys)**

Ms. Battle expressed that she wanted Kiley to have a positive relationship with her father but was concerned about sharing custody because of Mr. Johnson’s history of angry outbursts. Working with Mr. Johnson’s attorney, the Crowell team crafted a settlement proposal that focused on mending the relationship between Mr. Johnson and Kiley while ensuring that mechanisms were in place to protect Kiley and empower Ms. Battle to act if Kiley’s safety or wellbeing was compromised by Mr. Johnson’s actions.

After negotiations with Mr. Johnson’s counsel, the Crowell team finalized a settlement that allowed Ms. Battle to maintain primary physical custody of Kiley.

It also made the additional day of custodial time that Mr. Johnson was seeking contingent upon active participation in family therapy, the completion of a co-parenting class, and a clean drug test. The terms of the settlement also ensured that Kiley would remain enrolled at her current school so that she would have a consistent and stable educational environment.

\*Name changed

## CELEBRATING OUR VOLUNTEERS

### DAVID REISER



Long-time Legal Aid volunteer and 2006 Servant of Justice honoree David Reiser of Zuckerman Spaeder, who has made significant contributions to the establishment, development, and expansion of our Barbara McDowell Appellate Advocacy Project, received the D.C. Bar's William J. Brennan Jr. Award earlier this year, presented biennially to a bar member who has demonstrated exceptional achievement in the pursuit of equal justice and who has made a significant, positive impact on the quality of administration of justice.

### DAN CANTOR

Dan Cantor, partner and Chair of the Pro Bono Committee at Arnold & Porter, received the D.C. Bar's Laura N. Rinaldi Pro Bono Attorney of the Year Award. The annual award is presented to a lawyer for excellence, achievement, and commitment to providing legal services to DC's low-income and/or disadvantaged individuals and/or organizations serving such individuals. Shortly after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Dan spearheaded a firm-wide initiative to help restaurant workers who had lost jobs or had hours reduced due to the public health emergency. Here in DC, the firm partnered with Legal Aid, and Dan and his team have accepted 58 referrals from us since April 2020 for workers seeking help to secure the unemployment insurance benefits to which they are entitled.



## ELLIOT WEINGARTEN



In April, Legal Aid honored Elliot Weingarten with the Klepper Prize for Volunteer Excellence at our virtual Servant of Justice Awards Dinner. The Klepper Prize was created through the generosity of Martin and Arlene Klepper to recognize attorneys early in their careers who have made a significant volunteer contribution to Legal Aid. Since coming to Washington as a first-year associate in 2013, Elliot has made pro bono work a central part of his practice.

Over the past seven-plus years, Elliot has been one of Legal Aid's most active pro bono volunteers, developing expertise in defending tenants facing eviction cases. Elliot has personally handled about 15 eviction cases, and mentored his colleagues on additional cases as well, ensuring that families are able to stay in their homes and that landlords remedy severe housing conditions as required by law.

# Making Justice Real Campaign

## Making Justice Real Campaign

Since 1990, the DC legal community has come together each summer to raise funds to support Legal Aid's mission. This year, the Making Justice Real Campaign raised more than \$3.15 million, enough to cover about one-third of the organization's annual budget. We are extraordinarily grateful to Honorary Co-Chairs Susie Hoffman and Phil Inglima of Crowell, our committee of associate Co-Chairs, the hundreds of attorneys who led campaigns at their firms, and the nearly 5,000 people who donated.



**“Legal Aid doesn’t just happen. It’s not just there no matter what we all choose to do. Because we all reach out to our communities, Legal Aid is invigorated every year. It needs this campaign to continue making the difference that it does.”**

**PHIL INGLIMA, HONORARY CHAIR**

We are pleased to share the firms who placed in the Top Five of their respective size categories.

### **300+ ATTORNEYS**

**Latham & Watkins** – \$235,322

**Williams & Connolly** – \$209,614

**WilmerHale** – \$155,674

**Crowell** – \$118,742

**Step toe** – \$100,613

### **250-299 ATTORNEYS**

**Sidley** – \$118,162

**Skadden** – \$64,572

**Jones Day** – \$61,860

**Akin Gump** – \$25,196

### **250-249 ATTORNEYS**

**Kirkland & Ellis** – \$150,250

**Mayer Brown** – \$81,170

**King & Spalding** – \$45,370

**Wiley Rein** – \$31,566

**Arent Fox** – \$18,050

### **150-199 ATTORNEYS**

**Pillsbury** – \$59,121

**Dentons** – \$40,836

**Cooley** – \$40,455

**Hunton Andrews Kurth** – \$32,708

**K&L Gates** – \$27,004

### **100-149 ATTORNEYS**

**Orrick** – \$80,897

**Kelley Drye** – \$70,519

**Alston & Bird** – \$62,361

**Baker Botts** – \$44,666

**Morrison & Foerster** – \$37,170

### **75-99 ATTORNEYS**

**Miller & Chevalier** – \$58,401

**Paul Weiss** – \$48,205

**Simpson Thacher & Bartlett** – \$45,571

**Dechert** – \$41,143

**Fried Frank** – \$38,368

## **50-74 ATTORNEYS**

**Zuckerman** – \$39,969

**Weil** – \$23,875

**Epstein Becker & Green** – \$21,345

**Harris, Wiltshire & Grannis** – \$12,496

**Vinson & Elkins** – \$12,436

## **25-49 ATTORNEYS**

**Wilkinson Stekloff** – \$54,213

**Debevoise & Plimpton** – \$39,934

**Bryan Cave** – \$30,182

**Gilbert** – \$22,595

**Womble Bond Dickinson** – \$16,487

## **1-24 ATTORNEYS**

**Alex Walsh Law** – \$10,000

**Munger Tolles** – \$9,114

**Stroock** – \$3,659

**Legal Aid DC Marketing Pro Bono Committee** – \$3,333

# Servant of Justice Awards

## Servant of Justice Awards

In 2020, Legal Aid's Servant of Justice Awards Dinner was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, the Dinner was held virtually and we were able to celebrate Servant of Justice honorees **John Heintz** of Blank Rome and **Avis Buchanan** of the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia, who would have been honored in 2020.

The Dinner raised \$1.45 million for Legal Aid, thanks to all of our sponsors and to the collective efforts of co-chairs Sheila Cheston of Northrop Grumman, Nadira Clarke of Baker Botts, Brandon Gay of The Carlyle Group, and Yousri Omar of Amazon.

### **SERVANT OF JUSTICE HONOREES ACCEPTANCE REMARKS**

This year, Second Gentleman of the United States **Douglas Emhoff** gave special remarks during the Dinner. And we also honored Community Advisory Council member and Legal Aid client **Cynthia Spencer** with the Partnership Award.

**Servant of Justice John Heintz Acceptance Speech:** <https://vimeo.com/541992523?fl=pl&fe=sh>

**Servant of Justice Avis Buchanan Acceptance Speech:** <https://vimeo.com/541992636?fl=pl&fe=sh>

**Special Remarks by Douglas Emhoff:** <https://vimeo.com/541992901?fl=pl&fe=sh>

**Partnership Award Honoree Cynthia Spencer Acceptance Speech:**  
<https://vimeo.com/541992348?fl=pl&fe=sh>

## Champion of Justice

KIRKLAND & ELLIS

LATHAM & WATKINS LLP

# SIDLEY

## Leader of Justice

**amazon**

COVINGTON

**Skadden**  
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP  
& Affiliates

Steptoe



**SERVES**  
PRO BONO

WILMERHALE 

WILMER CUTLER PICKERING HALE AND DORR LLP

## Defender of Justice

ALSTON & BIRD

Arnold & Porter

**Davis Polk**

GIBSON DUNN

Paul | Weiss

**Akin Gump**

STRAUSS HAUER & FELD LLP

BLANK **ROME**

大成 **DENTONS**

MAYER | BROWN

## Guardian of Justice

Gilbert

Jenner & Block

Morrison & Foerster

## Advocate of Justice

Arent Fox  
Buckley  
Crowell & Moring  
Goodwin Procter  
Hogan Lovells  
Munger, Tolles & Olson

Northrop Grumman  
O'Melveny & Myers  
Pillsbury  
Ropes & Gray  
Weil Gotshal  
Wiley Rein

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## Steward of Justice

ACA Compliance Group  
Allen & Overy  
Baker Botts  
Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner  
Cohen & Gresser  
Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton  
Cooley  
Cushman & Wakefield  
Debevoise  
DLA Piper  
Ernst & Young  
Eversheds Sutherland  
Epstein Becker & Green  
FTI Consulting  
King & Spalding  
Martin & Arlene Klepper  
Lowenstein Sandler

Miller & Chevalier  
Morgan Lewis  
Orrick  
Paul Hastings  
Perkins Coie  
Robbins Russell  
Barbara & Charles Rossotti  
Simpson Thacher  
Sterne Kessler  
Vinson & Elkins  
Williams & Connolly  
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP  
Wilson Sonsini Foundation  
Zuckerman Spaeder

# Individual Donors

## Individual Donors

Thank you to the over 5,000 individuals who supported Legal Aid between September 1, 2020 to August 31, 2021.

# Leadership Cabinet

## Leadership Cabinet

### **ANNUAL LAW FIRM, CORPORATE, AND FOUNDATION GIFT RECOGNITION PROGRAM**

The Leadership Cabinet recognizes our most generous organizational supporters (9/1/2020 to 8/31/2021).

#### **Platinum Patron: \$75,000 & Above**

Amazon.com, Inc.

DC Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants

District of Columbia Bar Foundation

Kirkland & Ellis

Latham & Watkins LLP

Sidley Austin LLP

The Steptoe Foundation

#### **Gold Patron: \$50,000-\$74,999**

The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation

Covington & Burling LLP

Executive Office of the Mayor

Eugene & Agnes E. Meyer Foundation

The Philip L. Graham Fund

Skadden Fellowship Foundation

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP

**Silver Patron: \$30,000-\$49,999**

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP  
Alston & Bird LLP  
Arnold & Porter LLP  
Blank Rome LLP  
Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP  
Dentons US LLP  
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP  
Gilbert LLP  
Mayer Brown LLP  
Miller & Chevalier Chartered  
Morrison & Foerster LLP  
Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP  
Ujala Foundation  
Venable LLP

**Bronze Patron: \$20,000-\$29,999**

Arent Fox LLP  
Baker Botts L.L.P.  
Cooley LLP  
Crowell & Moring LLP  
Groom Law Group, Chartered  
Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP  
Jenner & Block LLP  
Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP  
Kelley Drye & Warren LLP  
Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP  
Ropes & Gray LLP  
The Bernard & Anne Spitzer Charitable Trust  
Wells Fargo Foundation  
Wiley Rein LLP  
Williams & Connolly LLP

**Patron: \$10,000-\$19,999**

Allen & Overy LLP  
Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP  
Buckley LLP  
Davis & Harman LLP  
Debevoise & Plimpton LLP  
DLA Piper LLP  
Epstein Becker & Green, P.C.  
Ernst & Young LLP  
Goodwin Procter LLP  
Hogan Lovells US LLP  
Ivins, Phillips & Barker, Chartered  
King & Spalding LLP  
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP  
Northrop Grumman Corporation  
O'Melveny & Myers LLP  
Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP  
Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP  
The Share Fund  
Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP  
Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati Foundation  
World Bank Group  
Zuckerman Spaeder LLP

**Supporters: \$5,000-\$9,999**

ACA Compliance Group  
Capital Group Companies Global  
Caplin & Drysdale, Chartered  
Citi Private Bank Law Firm Group  
Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP  
Cohen & Gresser LLP  
Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll PLLC  
Cozen O'Connor P.C.  
Eversheds Sutherland (US) LLP  
Fannie Mae  
Feldesman Tucker Leifer Fidell LLP

Fish & Richardson, PC  
Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP  
FTI Consulting  
Jones Day  
Kirkland & Ellis LLP  
KPMG LLP  
Lowenstein Sandler LLP  
Paul Hastings LLP  
Perkins Coie LLP  
Pew Charitable Trusts  
Reed Smith LLP  
Robbins, Russell, Englert, Orseck & UntereinerLLP  
Sterne, Kessler, Goldstein & Fox P.L.L.C.  
Tecovas Foundation  
United Way of the National Capital Area  
Vinson & Elkins LLP  
William E. & Mary E. Ayer Charitable Fund  
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP  
Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice, LLP

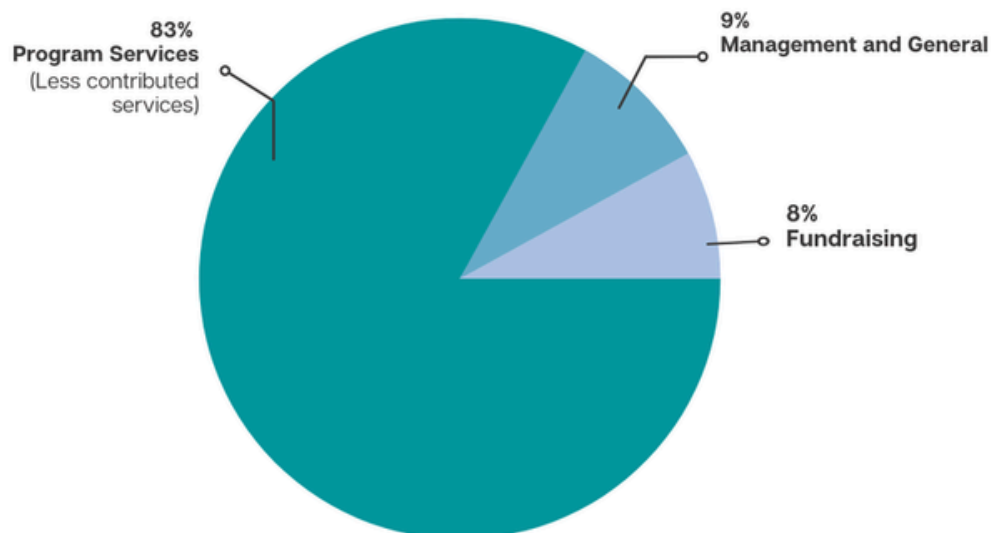
# Financials

## Financials

### Financial Statement (1/1/2020 – 12/31/2020)

|                                                                    |                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Adjusted Grants and Contributions                                  | 7,925,073        |
| Contributed Services                                               | 20,919,025       |
| Special Events                                                     | 1,255,656        |
| Investment Income                                                  | 427,750          |
| Total Revenue                                                      | 30,527,504       |
| Contributions to Endowments                                        | 98,367           |
| <b>Total Revenue Less Endowment Gifts and Contributed Services</b> | <b>9,510,112</b> |
| <b>Expenses</b>                                                    |                  |
| Program Services                                                   | 27,866,477       |
| Management and General                                             | 768,793          |
| Fundraising                                                        | 671,882          |
| <b>Total Expenses Less Contributed Services</b>                    | <b>8,388,127</b> |

### Breakdown of Expenses



# Our Clients

We would like to extend a special thank you to our clients who agreed to be featured in our 2021 Annual Report.

