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

Performance Oversight Hearing Regarding the Office of the Attorney General

February 9, 2026

Legal Aid DC¹ submits the following testimony regarding the Office of the Attorney General (OAG)'s Public Advocacy Division. Legal Aid wants to acknowledge OAG's instrumental role in reaching successful outcomes in cases involving multifamily properties whose landlords declare bankruptcy. When a landlord declares bankruptcy, it can put tenants at risk of displacement and potentially leave tenants without recourse for claims they may have stemming from years of neglect and poor housing conditions. Thanks to OAG's Public Advocacy Division's successful lawsuits holding slumlords who flout housing laws to account, Legal Aid, alongside firms like Arnold & Porter and Gilbert LLP, was able to secure millions of dollars in compensation for tenants through the bankruptcy court process.

OAG and Legal Aid also collaborate frequently on a variety of issues affecting consumers and tenants in DC. We often refer consumers and tenants to OAG's Consumer Protection Hotline and mediation program – an invaluable resource that has helped tenants and consumers in Legal Aid's client community get fast repairs from landlords and favorable resolutions to unfair and deceptive trade practices.

¹ Legal Aid DC is the oldest and largest general civil legal services program in the District of Columbia. The largest part of our work is comprised of individual representation in housing, domestic violence/family, public benefits, and consumer law. We also work on immigration law matters and help individuals with the collateral consequences of their involvement with the criminal legal system. From the experiences of our clients, we identify opportunities for court and law reform, public policy advocacy, and systemic litigation. For more information, visit www.LegalAidDC.org.

We commend OAG for assisting consumers and tenants and furthering the public interest through its innovative hotline and mediation programs and through dedicated collaboration with legal services organizations like Legal Aid. We urge the Council to make every effort to ensure these OAG programs continue and are expanded.