

The *Raising the Bar in D.C. Campaign*
District of Columbia Access to Justice Commission

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the *Raising the Bar in D.C. Campaign*?

The Campaign is an initiative launched by the D.C. Access to Justice Commission that provides special recognition to law firms that support local legal services providers. The Campaign establishes revenue-based benchmarks for law firm donations to legal services providers with the goal of substantially increasing financial support for organizations serving indigent residents. Because the benchmarks are based on revenue, the recognition levels are accessible to firms of all sizes and a wide range of firms, from large, multinational firms to solo practitioners, are honored each year.

What are the benchmark levels?

The levels are .11% of D.C. office revenue for platinum recognition, .09 % for gold and .075% for silver. The following chart can give you a rough estimate of the giving level required at different revenue levels:

Benchmark Levels		D.C. Office Revenue			
		\$100,000	\$1,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$100,000,000
Platinum	0.110%	\$110	\$1,100	\$11,000	\$110,000
Gold	0.090%	\$90	\$900	\$9,000	\$90,000
Silver	0.075%	\$75	\$750	\$7,500	\$75,000

How do I determine if my firm is eligible for recognition?

First, calculate the donations made by your firm in 2017 to the organizations on the attached list. Only donations to these organizations – all of which have as a core mission the provision of direct legal services to indigent District residents – count toward meeting the benchmark level. Cash donations, donation of attorneys’ fees, and sponsorship of fellowships at the organizations on the attached list all count. The value of pro bono work, the value of loaned associates, in-kind donations made by the firm, and donations made by individual attorneys do not count.

Second, calculate your firm’s D.C. office revenue. Revenue is calculated as an average of the preceding three years (2014, 2015, 2016). The firm is not required to release to the Commission its revenue calculations or its method of calculating what revenue is attributed to the D.C. office. Firms take different approaches to this calculation.

If your firm’s 2017 giving represents .075% of its D.C. office revenue or higher, it is eligible for recognition. The Commission’s Executive Director, Nancy Drane (contact information below) is available to answer questions and assist in the calculations.

What happens if the firm qualifies?

We ask each qualifying firm to submit a pledge form to the Commission's Executive Director, Nancy Drane (contact information below) as soon as it determines its eligibility, so that we can include the firm in our ongoing Campaign listing and any related press materials. (The pledge form is attached.) The National Law Journal periodically runs lists of the participating firms. The Commission also honors all participating firms at an annual event in the Spring following the campaign year (i.e., Spring 2018). Previous events have included remarks by Attorney General Holder, The Honorable David Tatel, Secretary of Labor Tom Perez, Solicitor General Don Verrilli, Assistant Attorney General Vanita Gupta, The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton, and Mayor Vincent Gray, and received substantial press coverage.

Does the firm need to submit any documentation?

The Campaign is run on an honor system and firms are not required to provide their revenue or donation amounts to the Commission. However, the Commission does require firms to provide confidential information about its giving levels to Ernst & Young so that it can provide aggregate data to the Commission. Specifically, firms are asked to provide Ernst & Young with their total amount of giving and what level of recognition this represents for the firm. Ernst & Young releases to the Commission only the total amount of giving by all participating firms. This permits the Commission to quantify the aggregate amount of money donated under the Campaign. The firm is not required at any time to provide information about its revenue or the amounts donated to individual providers. A reporting form is provided in participating firms in the early part of the year following the campaign year (i.e., February 2018).

What other firms are participating?

Because of an ongoing pledge process, the list continues to grow. Forty-six firms participated in 2015. The list of those firms is attached.

Who can I contact with questions?

Contact the Commission's Executive Director, Nancy Drane, nancy.drane@dcaccesstojustice.org.

The Raising the Bar in D.C. Campaign - Eligible Recipient Organizations

Advocates for Justice and Education	First Shift Justice Project
Archdiocesan Legal Network	Human Rights First – DC Asylum Legal Representation Project
Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center	Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) DC Office
Ayuda	Legal Aid Society of DC
Bread for the City Legal Services	Legal Counsel for the Elderly
Break the Cycle DC Legal Services Project	Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project
CAIR Coalition	Mil Mujeres Legal Services
CARECEN	Neighborhood Legal Services Program
Catholic Charities Immigration Network	Network for Victim Recovery of DC (NVRDC)
Children’s Law Center	Open City Advocates
DC Access to Justice Commission ¹	Quality Trust for Individuals with Disabilities
DC Affordable Law Firm	School Justice Project
DC Bar Foundation	Tahirih Justice Center
DC Bar Pro Bono Center	UDC Law Summer Public Interest Fellowship Program
DC Crime Victims Resource Center	University Legal Services
DC Employment Justice Center	Washington Area Lawyers for the Arts (WALA)
DC Law Students in Court	Washington Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs
DC Volunteer Lawyers Project	Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless
DV LEAP (Domestic Violence Legal Empowerment Appeals Project) – DC Project	Whitman Walker Legal Clinic

¹ Firms can only count these contributions once they have donated at the silver level to one or more of the other listed organizations. Such contributions may only count to move a firm from the silver to the gold or the platinum tier.

The D.C. Raising the Bar Campaign – Participating Firms (through 2016)

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP
(Platinum 2016, 2015, 2014; Silver 2013, 2012, 2011)

Arent Fox LLP
(Gold 2016; Silver 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011)

Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP
(Gold 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011)

Benach Collopy LLP
(Platinum 2016, 2014, 2012)

Beveridge & Diamond PC
(Gold 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013; Silver 2012)

Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP
(Platinum 2016, 2015)

BuckleySandler LLP
(Gold 2016, 2015; Platinum 2014, 2013, 2012; Silver 2011)

Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP
(Silver 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013)

Covington & Burling LLP
(Gold 2016; Platinum 2015, 2014; Silver 2013; Gold 2012, 2011)

Crowell & Moring LLP
(Platinum 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013; Gold 2012, 2011)

Cuneo Gilbert & LaDuca, LLP
(Silver 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013)

Delaney McKinney LLP
(Platinum 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011)

Dentons US LLP
(Silver 2016; Platinum 2015)

DLA Piper LLP (US)
(Platinum 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013; Gold 2012; Silver 2011)

Dykema Gossett PLLC
(Gold 2016; Platinum 2015, 2014)

Epstein Becker & Green, P.C.
(Silver 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012)

Eversheds Sutherland (US) LLP
(Platinum 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011)

Greenberg Traurig, LLP
(Gold 2016; Platinum 2015; Silver 2014; Platinum 2013)

Jenner & Block LLP
(Silver 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011)

Jones Day
(Platinum 2016; Gold 2015; Platinum 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011)

Katz, Marshall & Banks
(Platinum 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013)

Kirkland & Ellis
(Platinum 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011)

Klein Hornig LLP
(Platinum 2016; Silver 2015, 2014; Platinum 2013, 2012, 2011)

Latham & Watkins LLP
(Silver 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013)

Law Offices of Andrea Ferster
(Platinum 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012)

Law Offices of Andrew Marks PLLC
(Platinum 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013)

Law Office of Cecily E. Baskir, LLC
(Platinum 2016, 2015)

Law Offices of Gary N. Horlick
(Platinum 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011)

Law Office of Sara Kropf PLLC
(Platinum 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013)

Lippman, Semsler & Salb LLC
(Platinum 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012)

Matalon & Nathani, LLP
(Platinum 2016, 2015; Gold 2014)

Mayer Brown LLP
(Gold 2016, 2015; Silver 2014; Gold 2013;
Platinum 2012; Gold 2011)

Miller & Chevalier Chartered
(Gold 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013; Silver 2012)

Orr Immigration Law Firm
(Platinum 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012)

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
(Gold 2016, 2015; Silver 2014)

Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP
(Platinum 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013; Silver 2012)

Regan Associates, Chartered
(Platinum 2016, 2014, 2013)

Relman, Dane & Colfax PLLC
(Platinum 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012)

Richards Kibbe & Orbe LLP
(Platinum 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013)

Sidley Austin LLP
(Gold 2016, 2015, 2014; Silver 2013, 2012, 2011)

Stephoe & Johnson LLP
(Platinum 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013; Silver 2012, 2011)

Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young LLP
(Silver 2016; Gold 2015, 2014)

The Morrison & Foerster Foundation
(Platinum 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011)

The Piorkowski Law Firm PC
(Platinum 2016, 2015)

Weisbrod Matteis & Copley PLLC
(Platinum 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013)

Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP
(Gold 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011)

Zuckerman Spaeder LLP
(Platinum 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011)