



Raising the Bar in D.C.: A Funding Campaign for Legal Services

Law Firm Pledge Form - 2019

As part of the *Raising the Bar in D.C. Campaign*, the undersigned firm pledges to make monetary donations to the legal services organizations at one of the following benchmark levels in 2018:

- Platinum (.11% of D.C. office revenue)
- Gold (.09% of D.C. office revenue)
- Silver (.075% of D.C. office revenue)

The firm agrees to abide by the following requirements in making its pledge:

- Only monetary donations, donations of attorney's fees, and payments for fellowships sponsored by the firm at one of the legal services organizations listed below (*e.g.*, Equal Justice Works fellowships, Skadden fellowships, etc.) count toward meeting the benchmark level. 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.
- Only donations to the legal services organizations listed below count toward the benchmark level. Firms may only count Contributions to the Commission once they have reached the silver level through donations to one or more of the other listed organizations. Donations to the Commission may only be counted to move a firm up a level – either from the silver to the gold level, or from the gold to the platinum level.
- D.C. office revenue should be calculated as a rolling average of the previous three years' revenues. For 2019, revenue should be calculated as the average of D.C. office revenue for 2016, 2017 and 2018.
- Fellowship donations may be amortized over a five-year period. Please alert the Commission's Executive Director (nancy.drane@dcaccessstojustice.org) if the firm is electing to utilize this option.
- In February 2020 law firms participating in the campaign will provide confidential information to Ernst & Young that will enable Ernst & Young to inform the Commission that the law firm has met a benchmark level for the previous year. Specifically, firms will be asked to provide the aggregate amount donated to the legal services providers listed below for the year under consideration and what benchmark category this represents for the firm. Firms will also be asked to provide the aggregate increase in donations from the previous year. **Firms will not be**

asked to provide any information about their revenue or information about amounts donated to individual organizations.

- To enable Ernst & Young to confirm that only donations made to the listed legal services providers were counted toward the benchmark level, firms will be asked to complete a checklist of the organizations to which they donated under this campaign. **Firms will not be asked to disclose the individual amounts donated to each entity.**
- Ernst & Young will keep all such information confidential and will release to the Commission only a certification of the benchmark level met by the firm, the aggregate amount of money donated to the legal services community through this campaign and any aggregate increase in giving from participating firms.
- The Commission will run a *National Law Journal* advertisement to solicit additional law firms. All firms that have submitted a pledge prior to publication will be listed.

This pledge is made on behalf of _____ [FIRM NAME] by:

Signature

Name

Title

Address

Address

Phone Number

Email

Pledge forms may be sent to the Commission's Executive Director, Nancy Drane, via email at nancy.drane@dcaccesstojustice.org, or by mailing to: *D.C. Access to Justice Commission; c/o Sidley Austin LLP; 1501 K Street NW, Room 3.100; Washington, D.C. 20005*.

Please address questions about the Campaign to Nancy Drane at 202-736-8334 or by email at nancy.drane@dcaccesstojustice.org.

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

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