CATHOLIC CHARITIES LEGAL NETWORK

ANNUAL REPORT 2022 | 2023





DEDICATED TO MONSIGNOR JOHN ENZLER





"The Legal Network has provided excellent pro bono legal services to me over the years."

Pearl, a longtime client of CCLN

While we continue to move into the post-pandemic world, the past year provided me with a unique opportunity to reflect on the evolution, strength, and resilience of the Catholic Charities Legal Network. The past three years presented many unexpected and unprecedented challenges, and I am incredibly proud of how we adapted and what we were able to accomplish. I am also excited about what lies ahead for CCLN in the coming years.

The operations of CCLN, its staff, and volunteers over the past three years are a cause for celebration. I marvel at how we never lost sight of our mission despite everything that was happening in our community and the world. Regardless of what was going on around us—whether it was health concerns, office closures, staffing challenges, new and novel legal issues, or even old and familiar legal problems—we knew that there were people in the Archdiocese of Washington who would not have access to legal representation without us, and we were determined to help as many of these people as we could.

Early in the pandemic, we were able to rapidly adopt the capability to perform both first- and second-stage intake on a remote basis. This was no small feat at the time, given that our staff and resources were being pulled in many different directions. This made our services significantly more accessible throughout the pandemic because it allowed those with poor health to avoid the risk of travelling and attending in-person meetings at CCLN's offices. Over the past three

years, we have learned that remote intake also has other advantages, particularly that it dramatically increases the percentage of clients who are able to keep appointments. This innovation significantly improved our ability to serve our community, and we expect to continue to offer both remote and in-person appointments to clients moving forward.

The past few years have also seen considerable growth in our ability to serve our clients in Prince George's County. While all our staff and many of our volunteers have played a large role in these efforts, Judge Leo E. Green, Jr., and Deacon Darryl A. Kelley have been essential to this growth. I am grateful for all they have done and will continue to do. After the Susan D. Mona Center was established in Camp Springs, Maryland, both Judge Green and Deacon Kelley heavily contributed to increasing its visibility and staffing, in addition to handling many cases by themselves. Judge Green helped us recruit volunteer attorneys to accept pro bono cases from the Legal Network and spread the word to the local bar. Deacon Kelley is now leading the office's operations, successfully representing, and providing legal advice to an ever-increasing number of clients in Prince George's County.

As I look ahead to the new fiscal year, I am excited that the Legal Network will see the continued work of its Strategic Planning Committee. Chaired by Kristine Dunne Maher, this committee will work to ensure that our program continues to develop according to what will let us best serve those in need in the Archdiocese. It will help us integrate more technology into our operations, such as a potential new webbased intake option to make the process even more accessible. It will also allow us to prepare for the

types of cases and clients that we expect to see, including the increasing number of Spanish-speaking clients.

Before I close my reflections on the past few years, I need to thank several people for their help, support, and friendship:

Our Director, Jim Bishop, for his remarkable leadership through this extraordinary period. Jim's dedication to CCLN and its clients is unwavering, and the Legal Network would not be the premiere legal services organization that it is without his knowledge, enthusiasm, and hard work.

CCLN staff attorney Carolyn Ruyak, whose commitment, quick wit, and resourcefulness help keep the Legal Network running smoothly.

Our many sponsors and donors, without whose support we would not be able to further our mission.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Rev. Msgr. John J. Enzler on his retirement from his positions as President and CEO of Catholic Charities and to thank him for his incredible support of the Legal Network over many years. Father John was instrumental in our success in providing legal services to the poor of the Archdiocese, and I wish him nothing but happiness in his next chapter. I welcome and look forward to working with his successor, Jim Malloy.

Sincerely, Michael J. Francese, Esq. Chair, Catholic Charities Legal Network Advisory Council



Recipients of the John Carroll Society's 2022 Pro Bono Legal Service Awards at the Red Mass Brunch on October 2, 2022. From left to right are Michael J. Francese, Esq., John D. Renneisen, Esq., Sharon Taylor Smith, Esq., Edward O'Connell, Esq., Cardinal Gregory, Andrew Cook, Esq., Timothy F. Maloney, Esq., Laura Foggan, Esq., and Msgr. Peter Vaghi. (John Carroll Society photo by Christopher Newkumet)



Dear Friends,

I completed my twenty-ninth year as Director of Catholic Charities Legal Network, as our program completed over thirty-four years of service to the public. I am pleased to report that in Fiscal Year 2023, the Legal Network assisted 1,693 individuals by providing direct legal representation, information, assistance, and appropriate referrals to individuals throughout the District Columbia and Maryland. I am also proud to report that our volunteers self-reported hours 2,469.9 pro bono valued \$1,798,616.25.

Both the Network and its clients continue to battle the difficult circumstances that were created by the COVID-19 pandemic. Legal services continue to be handled remotely, and the demand for them has only increased with the new hardships that have come from both illness and economic slowdown. Our clients have experienced problems with their jobs, child custody and family disputes, landlordtenant concerns, and growing consumer debt. There is a silver lining in this cloud, however, since many clients are still able to communicate with our staff by telephone and email, allowing us to reach those in need. We continue to strive in our goal to provide legal aid to the underserved in our communities and will overcome the challenges that we face in doing so. One of the obstacles to our services that has emerged is the growing number of Spanish speaking clients in DC and Maryland.

"Attorney Barbara Betsock was very professional and did a great job. I appreciate the Catholic Charities organization."

- Monique

Developing the ability to readily communicate with these callers in need through bilingual volunteers will greatly expand our capacity to serve. While our volunteer attorneys are dutiful and enthusiastic in their service, there is still more work that must be done. We need more attorneys in our ranks to take on the growing number of child support, custody, and visitation cases, to address the crisis of the family that is devastating so many today. A great benefit to our pursuit of these goals will be the upcoming Strategic Planning Committee, chaired by Kristine Dunne Maher. With its assistance, we will be better able to address the dynamic needs of this community.

In the face of all these challenges, the Legal Network still has many causes for celebration. First, we continue to be grateful for our selfless volunteers who give so freely of their time and use their legal skills to assist their neighbors in need. Thank you to those volunteers for conducting telephone and in-person intake weekly and monthly. Special thanks also to our government, solo, mid-size, and large law firm attorneys who accepted pro bono cases from the Legal Network, directly impacting lives for the better. We also thank the Catholic Charities Grants Department for helping us by writing major grants for the program, and the Development Office for helping us raise funds through contributions. Your help has been and will continue to be essential to the operations of the Legal Network. This past year, the Legal Network

Grants for FY2022-23
Grantmaker
DC Bar Foundation
Clark-Winchole Foundation
Prince George's County Council Non-Departmental Grant
Foundation of the Bar Association of DC
Franklin and Jordan Families Fund
Miller & Chevalier Charitable Foundation

Exelon Corporation/Pepco

was blessed to have an attorney devote an extraordinary amount of time to the program and its clients. Deacon Darryl A. Kelley is a deacon at St. Philip the Apostle Church in Camp Springs, Maryland, and he was assigned, through the deaconate program, to the Legal Network by the Archdiocese of Washington. He assists as a Legal Network staff attorney at the Susan Denison Mona Center in Prince George's County while managing a general law practice in Camp Springs. Deacon Kelley has accepted many pro bono cases from the Legal Network.

I am especially appreciative of the Legal Network's staff for their commitment to serving the poor and underserved in our community. Thank you to staff attorneys. Carolyn D. Ruyak and Deacon Darryl A. Kelley.

Of particular importance to this program is the Legal Network Advisory Council.

I am particularly grateful to all Council members and the Advisory Chairman, Michael J. Francese, for their support and encouragement.

I am also thankful for Monsignor John J. Enzler's leadership, friendship, and staunch support of the Legal Network and me.

Lastly, I am thankful for the financial support the Legal Network has received from its many donors and partners.

Though we have more work to do, I am proud of what we have been able to accomplish over the last year, and I invite you to peruse this report to learn more about our successes.

Sincerely, James D. Bishop, Esq., Director Catholic Charities Legal Network



Red Mass Brunch October 2nd, 2022, at the Capital Hilton Hotel. From left to right: Monsignor Peter J. Vaghi, the Chaplain of the John Carroll Society, Jim Bishop, His Eminence Wilton Cardinal Gregory of the Archdiocese of Washington. (John Carroll Society photo by Christopher Newkumet.)

CATHOLIC CHARITIES LEGAL NETWORK'S MISSION

To provide access to the highest quality pro bono civil legal services to the poorest of the poor within the Archdiocese of Washington without regard to their religious affiliation.

2022 | 2023

Catholic Charities Legal Network's Impact

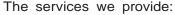
The support of volunteer attorneys from law firms, the government, and solo practices allows the Legal Network to fulfill its mission of offering free legal assistance to the poor. These volunteers provide pro bono legal representation and conduct inperson intake with clients. Volunteer attorneys also monitor the Legal Network's telephone intake line and schedule clients for in-person intake, providing referrals when appropriate. Additionally, they present civil law seminars for low-income groups, and they mentor attorneys who handle pro bono cases.

The Legal Network assists families and individuals who earn at or below 250% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. For an individual seeking the Legal Network's services in 2023, the income limit is \$33,975, and for a family of four, the limit is \$69,375. 1,693 low-income individuals were served in Maryland and Washington, DC during the fiscal year.

What We Do

The Legal Network addresses:

- Bankruptcy
- Consumer Law
- Employment Law
- Family Law
- Government Entitlements
- Landlord and Tenant Law
- Wills and Advanced Medical Directives

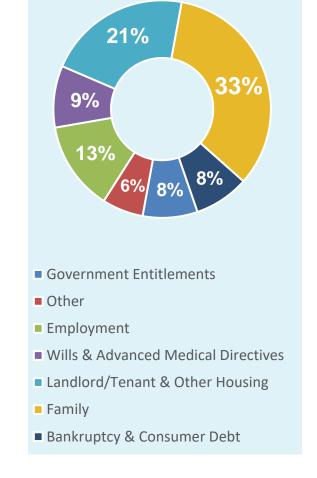


- Case placement with volunteer attorneys
- Information and referral
- In-person client intake
- · Seminars on civil law topics for low-income audiences
- · Legal training seminars and mentorship for volunteer attorneys
- · Direct representation in a limited number of DC and Maryland cases

Where We Help

Washington, DC Montgomery County Prince George's County Calvert County

Charles County St. Mary's County



Makeup of Case Types

in FY 2022-23

Before COVID-19 necessitated remote work, Legal Network staff and volunteers met with clients for legal consultations at the Hickey Center in downtown DC, and the Susan D. Mona Center in Prince George's County.

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We thank all the firms who contributed to our mission through volunteer work. Without the help of these firms, the Legal Network would not have a vital line to the residents of DC and Maryland. Not only do they perform pro bono work, they also provide a great many hours conducting intake, which is just as if not more important. First and second stage intake are essential to placing the cases of callers with either volunteer attorneys or referring them to better suited organizations.

Baker Hostetler
Crowell & Moring LLP
DLA Piper
Hogan Lovells US LLP
Kirkland & Ellis LLP
Miller & Chevalier Chartered
O'Melveny & Myers LLP
Reed Smith LLP
Steptoe & Johnson LLP



Student volunteers have been extremely helpful to the Legal Network staff in the process of becoming a paperless operation based on computers. They have helped us communicate with our clients and associated firms, assisting the staff and the volunteer attorneys to ensure we serve pro bono needs of clients throughout the Archdiocese of Washington.

Gessica Taddei, George Washington
University (undergrad), Summer 2022
Henry Sullivan, Fordham University
(undergrad), Summer 2022
Madeline Koger, Stone Ridge School of the
Sacred Heart, Summer 2022
Virginia Saralecos, Georgetown University
(undergrad), thanks to the Georgetown
University VIEW Program, Summer 2022
Howard (Hank) Hyatte, University of Chicago
(undergrad), Summer 2022, Summer 2023
Kelsey Quan, Georgetown Law Center, Spring
2022

Ryan Brooks, Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law, Summer 2023



2022 | 2023 Volunteer Spotlight



Charles J. Engel, III, (Tim)
Senior Counsel at King & Spalding LLP
Former CCLN Advisory Council member and volunteer

Every year, numerous attorneys volunteer their precious time to aid the clients who have sought help from the Catholic Charities Legal Network. Assisting those in need of complex legal help is a deeply important task, as these specialty services are difficult to find at an affordable price. Without proper representation, the already dire situations of many could become even worse from their inability to engage with the civil system. Among other forms of charity, pro bono legal work is especially personal due to the close relationship the client and attorney must have and the oftenhigh stakes for the client. In the service he provided over the years, volunteer attorney Tim Engel observed the impact of working on such an individual level, often affecting the lives of both clients and others unseen.

"You can generalize pro bono cases into two kinds, those with a broad policy scope that can set regional or even national precedent, and those with a narrow scope where you're focused on helping an individual, and you come to personally know the individual," Tim explained. "Both cases are rewarding, but I've always found the latter the most rewarding."

In one case, a woman was seeking guardianship of a disabled young man she was caring for. Thanks to Tim's assistance, not only did she obtain the guardianship, but was also able to resolve an issue preventing the man from receiving disability benefits since after he turned eighteen. Through an administrative appeal, these payments were resumed, along with back-payments of several years from his eighteenth birthday.

What Tim found most remarkable about this case was that this woman was in need because she had taken on responsibility to help another. "Here is a client who was helping a young man with disabilities with whom she has no blood relation; she needed help from the Legal Network because she was helping another."

Tim noted another instance of helping a client providing charity to another. "I had a case where a gentleman needed assistance to avoid a foreclosure due to tax liens on his home. I came to learn that he had invited a homeless person he had not known before to live with him in the home. It turns out he was spending far more time and energy helping others than was needed from me."

Tim's experience reveals the multi-layered nature of many cases as clients often have others who depend on them, be that from a love for their family or simply a generous heart. While Tim expressed humility in response to this revelation, it can also be understood as accentuating the importance of the services that volunteer attorneys provide. The attorney's individual involvement might be brief compared to those who dedicate so much of their efforts to supporting others. Such relatively brief pro bono work can drastically affect not just a client's life, but the lives of others connected to them. Although the labor of pro bono work is finite, its consequences are enduring to the many people it aids.

In addition to his excellent service as a volunteer attorney, we would also like to thank Tim for his service on the Advisory Council until October 2022, as well as his strong support of our fundraising efforts.

2022 | 2023 CCLN Staff



James D. Bishop, Esq. Director, Catholic Charities Legal Network

Jim has directed the Legal Network for over 29 years. He is a parishioner of Saint Patrick's Catholic Church in DC and a native Washingtonian. Jim has been a family mediator in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia's Multi-Door Dispute Resolution Division for over 30 years. He has served on the Board of Governors of The John Carroll Society, the Civic Board of Directors of the Council for Court Excellence, and the District of Columbia Bar Foundation's Scoutt Prize Committee. Among Jim's honors include the Equal Justice Award from the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law, the Bar Association of the District of Columbia's Suzanne V. Richards Award, the Jerrold Scoutt Prize from the DC Bar Foundation, The John Carroll Society Medal, The Archdiocese of Washington's 75th Anniversary Cardinal's Award, and Catholic Charities' Griffin Award. Jim is magna cum laude graduate of Lincoln University in Pennsylvania and a graduate of Howard University School of Law. Jim holds a certificate from the University of Notre Dame Mendoza College of Business for completing the Nonprofit Business Excellence Program for Catholic Leaders. Jim is a member of the Knights of Columbus, Council 224. He is a member of the United States Supreme Court, District of Columbia, and Pennsylvania Bars.

Carolyn D. Ruyak Staff Attorney

A volunteer attorney since 2011 and staff attorney since 2021, Carolyn Ruyak has been an important member of the Catholic Charities Legal Network, especially during the pandemic. She has done extensive work in intake consultations with lowincome clients, both English and Spanish speaking. In 2019, she received the John Carroll Society Pro Bono Legal Service Award for her contributions to the mission. Her contributions also include educating volunteers from various law firms. Carolyn conducts monthly trainings for new prescreen and second stage intake volunteers. She has also been an integral part of the Legal Network's fundraising efforts, especially in planning and raising support for the annual golf tournament. She has helped implement and upgrade the Legal Network's technology systems to provide more efficient services for clients and volunteers. Carolyn graduated cum laude from Georgetown University with a Bachelor of Arts in American Studies and Certificate in Latin American Studies and is a graduate from the University of California Hastings College of the Law. She is a member of the Maryland and District of Columbia Bars.

Deacon Darryl A. Kelley, Esq., Staff Attorney

Deacon Kelley is a resident of Prince George's County and has a law practice in Camp Springs, Maryland. Deacon Kelley began accepting pro bono matters from Catholic Charities Legal Network (CCLN) in 2018. His cases for CCLN involve family, estate, landlord/tenant, and bankruptcy matters. He currently serves as deacon at St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church in Camp Springs, Maryland. He also serves as a Public Policy Advisor for the Archdiocese of Washington's Public Policy Team. He is a former Maryland State Delegate for the 26th Legislative District and previously served as Legislative Assistant for Education and Labor to former United States Senator Paul S. Sarbanes. He continues to serve on local committees in the county, supports global peace initiatives, and serves on the Board of Directors for the Forestville Pregnancy Center in Marlow Heights, Maryland. Deacon Kelley served as an Inspector/Deputy United States Marshal for many years in federal law enforcement. Deacon Kelley completed the Capitol Hill Fellowship Program, Government Affairs Institute at Georgetown University, and graduated from the University of Maryland School of Law and the University of Virginia with a Bachelor of Arts in History. Deacon Kelley is licensed to practice law in both Maryland and the District of Columbia.

2022 | 2023 Advisory Council



Michael J. Francese, Esq. Chairman Covington & Burling LLP



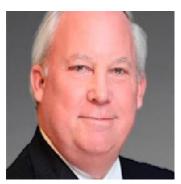
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Vaghi, Esq.*
Church of the Little Flower
Chaplain
John Carroll Society



James D. Bishop, Esq.*

Director

Catholic Charities Legal Network

*Ex Officio members

2022 | 2023 Advisory Council



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CCLN Volunteer Reception on May 24, 2022. The event was generously hosted by Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath. The event made a triumphant return after a three-year hiatus.

One of our main causes of celebration this year has been the launch of VetLex in partnership with Jones Day. VetLex is a program that provides unrepresented veterans with access to legal services. Veterans are often some of the most in need of



accessible legal services, with many facing lasting physical or psychological damage, along with poverty and homelessness. Through this program, veterans can find reasonably priced or pro bono civil legal services through reduced fees or volunteer attorneys. CCLN will serve as the Coordination Center for the VetLex services to clients, utilizing the UniteUS software to screen potential cases, identifying where they would be best served. It has helped the Network diversify its services and reach new clients, as previously we had never specifically focused on veterans' rights. Now, we can contribute to the needs of veterans on a great scale. This could not have been achieved without the help of our friends at Jones Day, who on top of giving us access to the software, have also assisted in training staff in veterans' benefits cases and secured funding to offset related expenses. Jones Day received the Cardinal James Hickey Award for its essential role in this important new program. The Cardinal Hickey award is the highest award the

Network bestows upon an individual or law firm volunteer.

On April 13, 2023, ten exceptional volunteers were awarded Catholic Charities' Caritas Honors at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library. One of honorees was CCLN volunteer attorney Elizabeth B. Meers, who was nominated for her outstanding service and support in a variety of important roles throughout her time with us. Recipients are noted for exemplifying Caritas, or "charitable love," through their hard work and commitment to the mission of Catholic Charities. Elizabeth has had both a long and varied career of service in the Legal Network. She has been active in intake as a volunteer attorney and other forms of service, but also a leader as Chairperson of the Legal Network's Advisory Council and a current member of the Catholic Charities Board of Directors. She has also shown a great talent for encouraging others to become involved, both as a volunteer recruiter and by enlisting the help of her law firm. She has been excellent at convincing other members of her firm to support Catholic Charities through pro bono work and service on the Legal Network's Advisory Council. Elizabeth and her firm have been wonderful financial contributors to the Legal Network. At the event, CEO Msgr. John Enzler welcomed guests to the ceremony to celebrate "the gift of ten people who by their actions and leadership make a difference." He described Catholic Charities as a culture of caring and volunteers as those who are "standing in solidarity with people and working with us to improve their lives."



"Our volunteers are truly special. Their commitment to supporting the people we serve, and our staff is more than inspiring. The honorees exemplify *Caritas!* or 'charitable love'. We are grateful to have such exceptional people volunteering in every aspect of our agency's work." said Maggie O'Neill, Director of Volunteer Engagement.

Throughout this past year, staff attorney Carolyn Ruyak has been furthering the mission of the Legal Network through her new training programs. Every month, she has held two training sessions for new volunteers from various law firms, the first being for those who will assist on the Legal Network hotline. The hotline is staffed by ten law firms for thirty hours per week. For many clients, the hotline is the first time they explain their legal problem to another person, which can be a daunting task. Volunteers on the hotline are therefore important guides, as knowing the specific issue they are facing is critical in finding a suitable firm or attorney. These sessions teach new volunteers about Catholic Charities, the Legal Network, our mission, and how to use Legal Server, our web-based case management system. Training is also given for new Second Stage Intake volunteers. They are taught how to conduct a more in-depth intake for potential clients that have already been prescreened and found eligible for CCLN services. Volunteers are informed about the low-income client community and their needs, how to identify the types of matters we can assist with, and other tips on properly vetting a pro bono case. These training sessions are important both for their creation of more competent volunteers and attracting others to the possibility of service.



Kirra L. Jarrett, Chief Executive Officer of the DC Bar Foundation with Jim Bishop at the DC Bar Foundation's annual President's Reception in person for the first time since spring 2019 on May 3, 2022, at the Bipartisan Policy Center.

Jim is a 2014 recipient of the D.C. Bar Foundation's Scoutt Prize.

Jim Bishop and
Sharon Taylor
Smith at the Red
Mass reception.
She was named a
John Carroll
Society Honoree
for her pro bono
service to the Legal
Network.





The Catholic Charities Annual Gala on April 1st, 2023, at the Marriot Marquis in Washington D.C. The event was held in honor of Msgr. John Enzler's 50th anniversary as a priest in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington and his retirement as President and CEO. "An Everlasting Legacy"

From left to right: Jane G. Belford, James Bishop, Patrick Belford, Brendan Saxon



The Catholic Charities Legal Network FY 2022-2023 Annual Report is dedicated to Monsignor John J. Enzler.

For twelve years, Monsignor Enzler has shown selfless devotion as the CEO and President of Catholic Charities. In his service, he has helped the organization tremendously in both increasing funding and recruitment of volunteers. He has also had an essential role in helping us work with many of the Archdiocese of Washington's parishes. Many clients who were in desperate need of assistance in custody, employment, and other legal matters only found us through him. He has been a direct force in recruiting members for our Advisory Council as well, and regularly attended our bi-monthly council meetings. His contributions have been highly valuable, and his work will be sorely missed. He always told the members of the Network, and all the rest of Catholic Charities, to say "Yes!" whenever we can, a mindset which he lives every day.

Going forward, Monsignor Enzler will be a spiritual advisor at St. John's College High School and will continue to support our endeavors at fundraising events. He plans to devote quality time to his family as well, especially with his siblings. He wants to continue providing Catholic Charities and the Legal Network with support in organizing their fundraising. Father John continues at Catholic Charities in a new role as Mission Advocate.

We thank Monsignor Enzler for his invaluable support of Catholic Charities, its Legal Network, and the Archdiocese of Washington.



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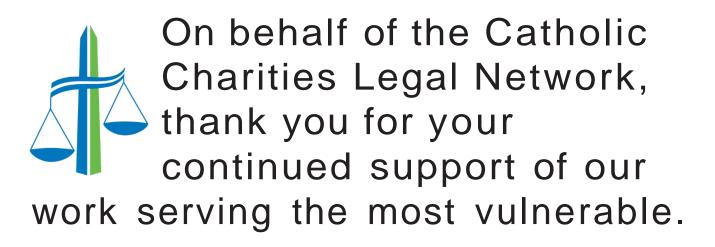
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CATHOLIC CHARITIES LEGAL NETWORK

ANNUAL REPORT 2022 | 2023





Special thank you for the generous support of the DC Bar Foundation, which enables our Catholic Charities Legal Network team to continue to offer the highest quality pro bono civil legal services to our clients. Thank you on our behalf and on behalf of the clients we serve.

www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/program/legal-network/

924 G St., NW, Washington, DC 202.772.4300





