# CATHOLIC CHARITIES LEGAL NETWORK

ANNUAL
REPORT
2024 | 2025
36 YEARS







The Catholic Charities Legal Network, under the leadership of Director Jim Bishop, continues to provide exemplary free legal services to those in need in our community. The Legal Network assists in many areas of law including Bankruptcy, Consumer Law, Employment Law, Family Law, Government Entitlements, Landlord and Tenant Law, and Wills and Advanced Medical Directives. The Advisory Council to the Legal Network has benefited immensely over the years from the dedicated service of John E. McCarthy, Jr., Senior Counsel at Crowell & Moring, LLP, who anticipates retiring from the full-time practice of law next year. John earned the title of Chairperson Emeritus of the Legal Network some time ago and I hope he continues to support the Legal Network in that role in the future. His assistance and dedication to the Legal Network, and other causes, have been invaluable.

I would also like to acknowledge Howard "Hank" Hyatte who has been an intern with the Legal Network every summer since 2022. He has been essential for projects like the Legal Network's annual reports and has provided valuable support to intake and other daily needs in the office. Joyce Chung, who volunteered with us this year and last, should also be acknowledged for her work including organizing Know-Your-Rights seminars, facilitating pro bono placements, and compiling statistical reports on the Legal Network's activities.

The annual golf tournament – the main fundraiser for the Legal Network – has had banner years both this year and the last thanks to the hard work of Kristine Dunne Maher and Andrea Halverson Harper in providing amazing organizational support for the event and for the tireless work of the golf

"I am very grateful to Catholic Charities Legal Network for finding the law firm of Jones Day to help me."

#### - Mr. R, A Client of CCLN

tournament committee including Denis Mitchell (Co-Chairperson), Robert Shaffer (Co-Chairperson), Thomas J. Kelly (who has kindly made the Bretton Woods course available to us), Miguel Eaton, Daniel P. Archuleta, and John E. McCarthy. Jr. The funds raised at the event support the cost of an additional attorney in the office to support those in need.

Additionally, it is appropriate to thank Emma Johnston for her tireless work with the Legal Network's client processes as well as establishing law-related seminars, both in English and Spanish, for individuals living in the District of Columbia. And Deacon Darryl A. Kelley, a great friend and tireless worker, continues to help those that could not afford legal assistance in a variety of civil law cases. His work in the Church and his charitable work for the Legal Network is an inspiration to us all.

Let me relay one short story before I close, as this story is emblematic of the support that is being provided to our community every day and for which we should all be proud. One morning last year, Jim Bishop was making his way to work at Catholic Charities in downtown Washington, DC. As he neared the door to the building, he was stopped by a man who was seeking assistance. It turns out the man, his wife, and their two children were homeless and had only the clothes on their backs. Through Jim's efforts, with the support of Catholic Charities, the family obtained housing, food, job placement guidance, and assistance in getting the children into school. Without Jim's intervention and guidance, the family would have been left in their destitute state. Thank you, Jim, for doing caring work, not only in running the Legal Network, but also in assisting those in need of more basic support. I am honored to be associated with you and the work you do. Thank you for making 2025 another remarkably successful year for the Legal Network.

Sincerely, Andrew N. Cook, Esq. Chair, Catholic Charities Legal Network Advisory Council



#### Dear Friends,

I completed my 31<sup>st</sup> year as Director of Catholic Charities Legal Network, as our program completed over 35 years of service to the public. I am pleased to report that in Fiscal Year 2025, the Legal Network assisted 1,525 individuals by providing direct legal representation and presenting legal education seminars in the District of Columbia and Maryland. I am also proud to report that our volunteers self-reported 3386.29 pro bono hours valued at \$2,387,720.50.

Each year, the needs and number of our clients in the D.C. area seem to grow ever-larger, especially with issues of employment, domestic and custody disputes, landlord-tenant concerns, and looming consumer debt. Instead of despairing, we should see this as an opportunity to do more great work for these underserved groups. But our capacity to meet these needs is inhibited by the reduced size of our program's staff. Increased revenue is needed to hire additional staff attorneys, administrative assistants, and law student interns. I would like to thank the District of Columbia Bar Foundation for awarding us a grant to fund the bilingual paralegal position held by Emma Johnston on a full-time basis. Still, there is much work to be done.

Nevertheless, we have managed to serve a greater number of individuals this year than the last due to the hard work of our small team and our volunteers. When an expanded staff becomes available to us, it will combine with that spirit of diligence and service to the benefit of all those in need of legal aid.

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

"Thank you so much for taking the time to give me guidance on how to help my niece. Sister Marge was right about your kindness."

#### Ms. M, A Client of CCLN

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 was blessed to have attorneys devote extraordinary amounts of time to the program and its clients. This includes Deacon Darryl A. Kelley, deacon at St. John the Evangelist Church in Clinton, Maryland, and his zealous representation of clients on a pro bono basis in the Prince George's County court system, and Patrick J. Kennedy, a retired federal government attorney who assists the Legal Network staff on a weekly basis at our Hickey Center office in assessing each client's case.

I am especially appreciative of the Legal Network's staff for their commitment to serving the poor and underserved in our community.

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

I am grateful to all Council members and the Advisory Chairman, Andrew N. Cook, Esq., for their support and encouragement.

I am also thankful for the continued support of the president and CEO of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington, Jim Malloy.

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



On Oct. 6, 2024, the John Carroll Society that sponsored the Mass presented Pro Bono Legal Service Awards to four attorneys and a law firm for their volunteer service with the Catholic Charities Legal Network of The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington. From left to right are Edward O'Connell, the chair of the 2024 Red Mass Committee; John Carroll Society 2024 Pro Bono Legal Service Award recipients Stephen Obermeier representing the Wiley Rein law firm, Thomas J. Kelly, Denis C. Mitchell, Fabian A. Zetina and Kathleen Merlo; Dr. Eileen Moore, the president of the John Carroll Society; and Msgr. Peter J. Vaghi, the chaplain of the John Carroll Society and the pastor of the Church of the Little Flower in Bethesda, Maryland.

(Photo by Christopher Newkumet)

His Eminence Robert Cardinal McElroy with Director James D. Bishop outside of Saint Patrick Catholic Church on Saint Patrick's Day, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025.



# CATHOLIC CHARITIES LEGAL NETWORK'SMISSION

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.

#### 2024 | 2025

#### Catholic Charities Legal Network's (CCLN) Impact

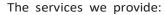
The support of volunteer attorneys from law firms, the government, and solo practices allows the Legal Network to fulfill its mission of offering free legal assistance to the poor. These volunteers provide pro bono legal representation and conduct intake with clients. Volunteer attorneys also monitor 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 2025, the income limit is \$39,125, and for a family of four, the limit is \$80,375. A total of 1,525 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

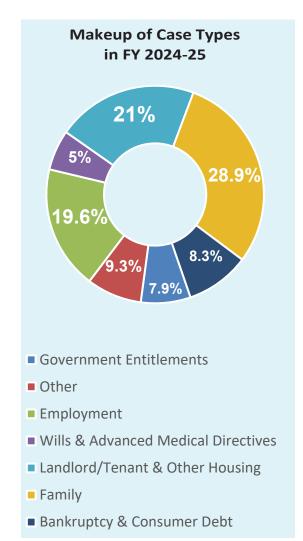


- · Case placement with volunteer attorneys
- Information and referral
- In-person client intake
- Seminars on civil law topics for low-income audiences
- Legal training seminars and mentorship for volunteer attorneys
- Direct representation in a limited number of DC and Maryland cases

#### Where We Help

Washington, DC Prince George's County Charles County St.
Montgomery County Calvert County Mary's County

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. Post COVID-19 restrictions, the Legal Network still conducts intake on a remote basis.



#### 2024 | 2025 Special Thanks

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 D.C. and Maryland. Not only do they perform pro bono work, but they also provide a great many hours in intake, a task of equal or greater importance. 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
Steptoe & Johnson LLP
Wiley Rein LLP



The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Golf Tournament held at the Bretton Woods Recreation Center in Germantown, Maryland. We thank all those who contributed, especially the generous contributions given by the organizations listed in this report.





DC BAR FOUNDATION

WE INVEST IN JUSTICE

**DCBF** 

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.

**Mark Kormos**, Pennsylvania State University (undergrad), Summer 2024

**Danielle Mack**, University of Viriginia, Summer 2025

**Laughlin (Locke) Sullivan**, Loyola University Maryland, Summer 2025

**Howard (Hank) Hyatte**, University of Chicago (alumni), Summers of 2022–2025

#### 2024 | 2025 Volunteer Spotlight

As we end another successful year of providing access to pro bono legal services, we would like to recognize some of our most dedicated volunteers. Their efforts and those of all who contribute to the Legal Network are a lifeline to the underserved.



#### Miguel Eaton

A partner at Jones Day, Miguel has recently been critical for instituting the VetLex software. VetLex enables veterans to find referrals and information through CCLN. Beyond this, he has long been a loyal financial supporter of the Legal Network and a member of its Advisory Council.



#### Lisa Brown

While already a full-time staff attorney at Legal Counsel for the Elderly, Lisa has gone above and beyond by conducting law-related education seminars on guardianships for the Legal Network. She has been an amazing resource for Catholic Charities DC and its staff.



#### **Joyce Chung**

Joyce has been an asset in many areas for the Legal Network. She has facilitated high-quality pro bono placements, compiled statistical reports on our activities, and organized 5 Know-Your-Rights seminars.

#### 2024 | 2025

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

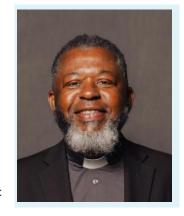
Jim's entire professional career has been serving low-income and people experiencing homelessness for close to 40 years, 31 of those directing CCLN. Prior to accepting the position as Director of CCLN of DC in December 1993, he was employed for eight years at the mandatory District of Columbia Bar in several public



interest positions. He is a parishioner of Saint Patrick's Catholic Church in downtown DC and a third generation native Washingtonian. Jim was 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. His honors include the Equal Justice Award from the University of the District of Columbia's 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 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cardinal's Award, and Catholic Charities' Griffin Award. While Jim has been at the helm of CCLN, the program has assisted approximately 85,000 lowincome and homeless D.C. and Maryland residents with a variety of civil law cases such as child custody, social security, and bankruptcy matters. He has made sure that residents are educated about their legal rights in such areas as consumer/fraud, child custody, and wills and advanced medical directives by conducting seminars at local churches, senior citizen organizations, transitional and low-barrier shelters. Jim is a magna cum laude graduate of Lincoln University in Pennsylvania. He was President of Lincoln's Alpha Chi Honor Society, 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 and of the United States Supreme Court, District of Columbia, and Pennsylvania Bars.

#### Deacon Darryl A. Kelley, Esq. Staff Attorney, Catholic Charities Legal Network

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 CCLN in 2018. His cases for CCLN involve family, estate, landlord/tenant, and bankruptcy matters. He currently serves as deacon at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church and serves as a Public



Policy Advisor for the Archdiocese of Washington's Public Policy Team. He is a former Maryland State Delegate for the 26<sup>th</sup> Legislative District and previously served as Legislative Assistant for Education and Labor to former United States Senator Paul S. Sarbanes. Deacon Kelley 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. He is now the chairman of the Juvenile Services Education Program Board and the second vice president of the John Carroll Society. Deacon Kelley also served as an Inspector/Deputy United States Marshal for many years in federal law enforcement. He 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. In 2024, he became the first deacon and layman to give the homily at the Red Mass.



#### 2024 | 2025 CCLN Staff

#### Patrick J. Kennedy Volunteer Attorney

Attorney Patrick J. Kennedy has been a loyal volunteer with CCLN since 2004. Prior to COVID-19 and while Patrick was employed at the United States Department of Homeland Security, he assisted CCLN with in-person client intake as well as helped staff with difficult client matters. While Patrick has since retired from the federal government, he still assists our program with client intake and administrative matters. He has volunteered for several years with CCLN's Annual Golf Tournaments and has been an annual financial sponsor. Patrick is a parishioner at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in our city's Georgetown section. He received his undergraduate and Master of Divinity degrees from the University of Notre Dame. He also has a master's degree in public administration from the University of Virginia. He earned his law degree from George Mason University's Antonin Scalia School of Law. Patrick is a member of the District of Columbia Bar.

#### Emma Johnston Bilingual Paralegal, Catholic Charities Legal Network

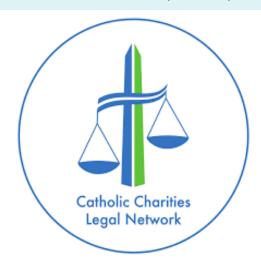
Emma Johnston began working at the CCLN as our bilingual paralegal in July of 2023. Emma has been of immense assistance to many Spanish-speaking clients, as well as to the CCLN staff attorneys. She is enthusiastic to be working toward our mission of serving the Archdiocese, and CCLN is glad to have Emma as a member of its team. Emma attended college at Trinity Washington University and obtained an associate's degree in paralegal studies at Everest College in Arlington, Virginia. Prior to her arrival at CCLN, Emma worked at Legal Services of Northern Virginia. She is currently enrolled at Taft Law School. Emma is a mother of three children and an avid runner who has participated in several marathons, including running the Marine Corps Marathon three times. CCLN wishes to thank the DC Bar Foundation for its longstanding support of this bilingual paralegal position.

#### Howard (Hank) Hyatte Volunteer Intern

Hank Hyatte is our senior intern, having volunteered in the summer since 2022. His familiarity with the processes in CCLN suits him to assist Director Jim Bishop, oversee the projects of other interns, and undertake larger semi-independent projects, such as this Annual Report. Hank is a parishioner of the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament and was a frequent altar server before leaving for college. He is a University of Chicago alumni and graduate of St. John's College High School in the Scholars Program. Special thanks to Hank for developing and editing this report.



From left to right: Laughlin "Locke" Sullivan, intern, Jim Bishop, Marsha Peeks, Director of Adult and Children's Clinical Services. Back row: Danielle Mason, intern, and Deacon Darryl A. Kelley.



#### 2024 | 2025 Advisory Council



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Michael J. Francese, Esq. Immediate Past Chairman Partner, Covington & Burling LLP



John E. McCarthy Jr., Esq.\*

Chairman Emeritus

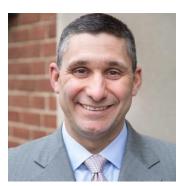
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Washington





Brian W. Stolarz, Esq.\* Senior Counsel, Norton Rose



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Esq.\*
Chaplain
John Carroll Society



James D. Bishop, Esq.\*

Director

Catholic Charities Legal Network

\*Ex Officio members

#### 2024 | 2025 Advisory Council



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Hamilton Sanders LLP



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The Honorable Leo E. Green, Jr.



Andrea Halverson Harper, Esq. Assistant General Counsel Pepco Holdings



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Mr. Miguel Eaton

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Mr. and Mrs. Michael C. Barros

Deacon Darryl Kelley

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Mr. Kevin Downey

Anonymous

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Rebecca and Robert Shaffer

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Partners \$10,000+

**PEPCO** 

Crowell & Moring LLP

Jones Day

Kirkland & Ellis LLP

Wiley Rein LLP

Benefactors \$5,000-\$9,999

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Skadden, Arps, Slate,

Meagher & Flom LLP

King & Spalding LLP

Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP

Sponsors \$2,500-\$4,999

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Joseph Greenwald and Laake PA

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Foundation

Bank of America Charitable Gift Fund

Our Lady of Mercy Church

**Steptoe Foundation** 

The John Carroll Society

Kirkland & Ellis Foundation

The Foundation of the Bar Association of the District of Columbia

The Miller & Chevalier Charitable

Foundation

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Northpoint

John J. Pohanka Family Foundation

The Sidley Austin Foundation

The Van Kirk Family Trust Winston & Strawn Foundation



Elizabeth Meers with Jim Bishop.



From left to right: Jim Bishop, Sister Romana Uzodimma, and Catholic Charities DC CEO and president Jim Malloy at a John Carroll Society event.

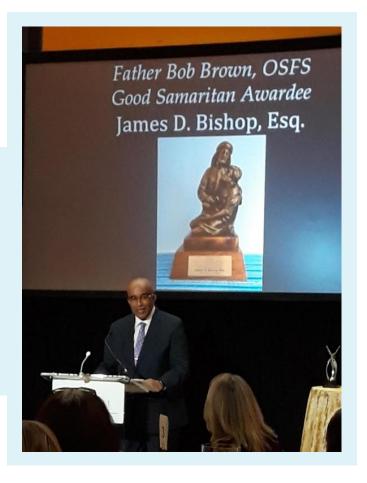


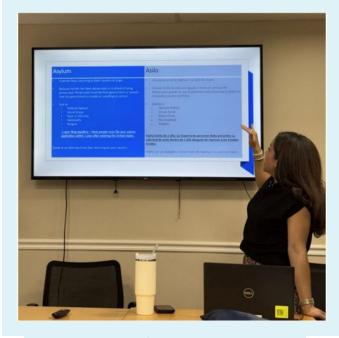
Jim Bishop at a DC Bar Foundation event with Kirra L. Jarrett, Chief Executive Officer of the Bar Foundation, in January 2025.



The Legal Network is thankful to Rebecca Bloch and Jamie Argento, both attorneys with the Community Defender Division of the DC Public Defender Service, for conducting two educational seminars on criminal record sealings and expungements at Catholic Charities' Saint Matthias Malumba House for the weekend residents during this FY 2025.

On November 1, 2024 the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Washington D.C. Awards Gala took place. Kerry Alys Robinson, the president and CEO of Catholic Charities USA, received the 2024 Saint Katharine Drexel Award. Liz McCloskey and Peter Leibold, community leaders, were the recipients of the 2024 Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Award. James D. Bishop, Esq., received the 2024 Father Bob Brown, OSFS Good Samaritan Award.





On February 24<sup>th</sup>, the Legal Network held the "Spanish Guardianship Event: Know Your Rights Seminar" at the Spanish Catholic Center in Mount Pleasant, D.C. Attendees were educated about their legal rights in immigration-related situations. The seminar was led by Estefania Chavez Higgins, Pro Bono Senior Managing Attorney at Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services.

This past Spring, CCLN and Legal Counsel for the Elderly hosted a Guardianship Seminar at Anchor Mental Health, featuring experienced attorney and speaker Lisa Brown. Attendees gained valuable insights into the guardianship application process and nuances such as the avenue of application submission, likelihood of denials, and best practices for guardians seeking to step down. This was an invaluable resource for professionals and caregivers looking to navigate the complexities of guardianships.





## CATHOLIC CHARITIES LEGAL NETWORK DONATION FORM

NAME	Please mail completed form and make checks payable to:
	Catholic Charities Legal Network
ORGANIZATION NAME	C/O Jim Bishop
	PO Box 96185,
ADDRESS	Washington,DC 20090-6185 or
	For online donations visit:
ADDRESS 2	catholiccharitiesdc.org/donate
	Please make sure to direct your gifts to Catholic Charities Legal
CITY/ STATE/ ZIP	Network.
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CARD NUMBER  VISA®  DISCOVER  EXPRESS	

### **CATHOLIC CHARITIES LEGAL NETWORK**

**ANNUAL REPORT** 2024 | 2025



On behalf of the Catholic Charities Legal Network, thank you for your continued support of our work serving the most vulnerable.



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.

924 G St. NW Washington, DC 202.772.4300

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