Catholic Charities Legal Network

Newsletter

Fall 2026

74th Annual Red Mass



Following the Oct. 4th Red Mass at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in Washington, D.C., the John Carroll Society – which hosts the annual Mass – held its annual brunch where it confers its Pro Bono Legal Service Awards to thank and honor lawyers and law firms that have provided outstanding service to the Catholic Charities Legal Network. Pictured above are (from left) David Florenzo, Esq., president of the John Carroll Society; honoree Andrew N. Cook, Esq.; His Eminence Cardinal Robert W. McElroy; Carolyn Perez, Esq., from the honoree law firm of Steptoe LLP; Jack Dinan, who accepted the award on behalf of his wife, Carol Elizabeth Dinan, who died last December and was honored posthumously; honoree Paul E. Gleason, Esq.; and Deacon Darryl A. Kelley, Esq., the second vice president of the John Carroll Society who also assisted at the Red Mass. (Photo by Christopher Newkumet for the John Carroll Society)

CCLN's Golf Tournament



Catholic Charities Legal Network's 23rd Annual Golf Tournament was held on Monday, September 28th at Bretton Woods in Germantown, Maryland. For 23 years, the tournament has helped fund the free legal services that CCLN provides to low-income people across the greater Washington area. More than 117 golfers participated in the event, raising approximately $160,000. This year's Golf Tournament Committee was again chaired by Robert Shaffer of DLA Piper and Denis Mitchell of Stein Mitchell Beato & Missner LLP.





We thank our members of the Golf Tournament Committee:
Denis C. Mitchell, Partner, Stein Mitchell Beato & Missner LLP
Robert Shaffer, Partner, DLA Piper
Kristine Dunne Maher, General Counsel Emeritus, Carlos Rosario International Public Charter School
Andrew N. Cook, Partner, K&L Gates
Kevin Daly, Director of Leadership & Annual Giving, CC
Thomas J. Kelly, Jr.,
John E. McCarthy Jr., Crowell & Moring LLP
Miguel Eaton, Partner, Jones Day
Daniel P. Archuleta, Partner, Troutman Pepper Locke

We also thank our 2026 sponsors:
Tournament Sponsors Crowell & Moring, Jones Day, King & Spalding, Troutman Pepper Locke, and Kirkland & Ellis LLP; Eagle Sponsor Steptoe Foundation; Birdie Sponsors Dentons US LLP and TNS; and Evening Reception Sponsor Faegre Drinker, along with the many other firms and friends who sponsored holes, carts, and refreshments.

Law Rocks



Law Rocks is a nonprofit that hosts rock concerts performed by legal professionals to raise funds for local charities. This year's DC Law Rocks event took place on September 10 and 11, at The Atlantis. The band Malicious Code (Jon Knight, Darrell Stark, Ben Christoff, Justin Heminger, Nathan Gibson, and Kristen Bertch) played at the event to raise funds for CCLN. Their amazing performance raised approximately $11,000 for CCLN!

Thank you to the band, organizers, and attendees for turning an evening of music and fun into a successful fundraiser.

Advisory Council News



Brian W. Stolarz

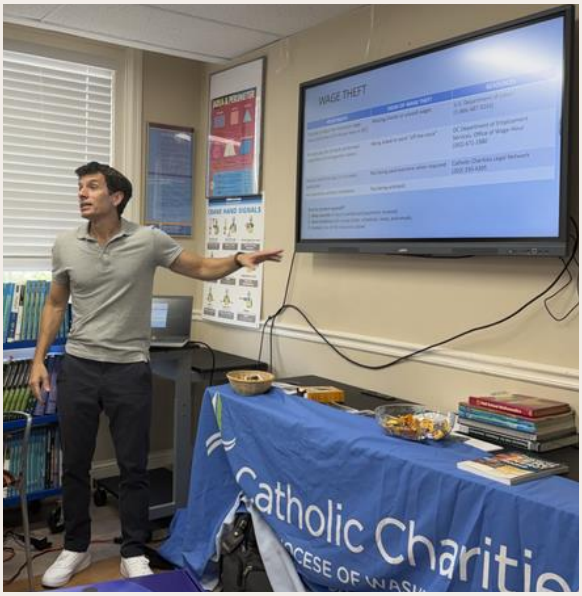


Robert F. Shaffer

The Legal Network's Advisory Council provides invaluable guidance and support, and we are pleased to share news about two of its members. Brian W. Stolarz has joined O'Hagan Meyer as a Partner and Robert F. Shaffer has joined DLA Piper as a Partner.

Please join us in congratulating them and in thanking all of our Advisory Council members, who serve under the fantastic leadership of Chairman Andrew N. Cook.

Out in the Community



A core part of CCLN's work is educating the public about its legal rights, in both English and Spanish. In August, CCLN organized a joint presentation with Christian Legal Aid on criminal expungements and record sealing at the Malumba House, a Catholic Charities facility that offers short-term housing for adult men returning home after incarceration.

CCLN also recently gave a presentation at the Spanish Catholic Center, a Catholic Charities facility that serves immigrants and families in need. Staff Attorney Alberto Ruisanchez (pictured) provided training on ways to identify and combat wage theft.

DC Walk for Justice 5K







On Thursday, October 22, 2026, Catholic Charities Legal Network participated in the DC Bar Foundation's 3rd annual DC Walk for Justice 5K at Nationals Park. The event helps promote a fair and equal civil legal experience for all.

Pictured are Sarah Watkins, Elizabeth Hill, Laura Fewer, Alberto Ruisanchez, and Jim Bishop along with DC Attorney General Brian Schwalb. Thank you all for walking with us! We also want to thank Emma Johnston, our Legal Network Bilingual Paralegal, who is not pictured but participated.

Thank you to everyone who came out on a beautiful day to support access to justice in our community.

New Intern: Aura Vyas



Catholic Charities Legal Network is excited to welcome Aura Vyas as our newest intern. Aura is a freshman at George Washington University, where she is majoring in political science.

Legal Network Staff

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Aura Vyas, Intern, aura.vyas@cc-dc.org

VOLUNTEER TODAY

We are actively seeking volunteers to represent low-income clients in DC and Maryland. If you are licensed to practice law in DC or Maryland and wish to volunteer, click the Volunteer Today button.

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