



March 23, 2020

First Name, Middle Name, Last Name, Suffix  
Organization Name ONLY WHERE Address Type = Business  
Address 1  
Address 2  
Address 3  
City, State/Territory, Postal Code  
Country

Dear Prefix Last Name:

Thank you for your generous past support of the annual Presidents Reception that benefits the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Center. Your generosity enabled us to touch the lives of thousands of our neighbors in need last year. We are also deeply grateful for [Law Firm Short Name]'s partnership in serving our neighbors at the Advocacy & Justice Clinic and the Landlord Tenant Resource Center, and for the participation of Crowell attorneys in our Nonprofit & Small Business Legal Assistance Programs.

A few days ago, we were preparing to ask you again to join our annual celebration honoring the incoming D.C. Bar President, Geoffrey M. Klineberg. Today, we find the world transformed by the COVID-19 crisis. We do not know what the next weeks or months will bring, but we do know that your continued support will be essential to ensuring that justice is never beyond the reach of our neighbors in need.

So, I'm writing to ask you to renew your annual support. We invite you to [CUSTOM ASK]. Your support is essential for us to continue providing legal clinics, resource centers, and other programs that serve vulnerable members of our community when they need us most.

As the largest provider of pro bono legal services in the District, the Pro Bono Center serves more than 20,000 individuals, nonprofits and small businesses each year. Our clinics and court-based resource centers are often the first places people turn for help. For our neighbors facing eviction, trying to reach fair child custody agreements, or seeking desperately-needed public benefits, a lawyer can make a powerful difference in their lives.

**There is no doubt that the COVID-19 emergency will increase demand for our services.** The access to justice gap in D.C. was already a crisis, with 90% of tenants in landlord tenant court and more than 80% family court litigants forced to navigate court procedures without a lawyer. This health emergency will deepen that crisis, causing our most vulnerable neighbors to lose their jobs. Faced with no income, they won't be able to pay their rent or cover other basic needs. When the courts finally reopen, a surge in litigation, including eviction and consumer debt actions, will lead hundreds of people to our door.

With your support, we can answer the door and ease the struggle of our neighbors by:

- Provide FULL legal representation to more than 250 low-income residents in housing, bankruptcy, child custody, and access to public benefits matters.

- Eliminate barriers to representation through innovations such our Housing Attorney of the Day and new Family Law Assistance Network, which connect people with lawyers stationed in the courthouse on their hearing date.
- Offer legal advice, training, and representation to more than 2,200 leaders in safety-net nonprofit organizations and small businesses serving struggling neighborhoods.
- Bring legal services to more than 1,500 D.C. residents in Anacostia, Columbia Heights, and Shaw through the Advice & Referral and Immigration Legal Clinics.
- Empower more than 4,000 pro se litigants to navigate the courts through two court-based resource centers that help them avoid eviction and stop debt collector harassment.

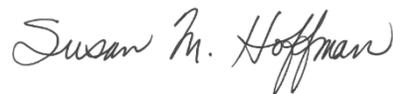
In all these ways, the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Center will continue to forge better futures for our District neighbors. As you know, not one penny of D.C. Bar license fees supports the Pro Bono Center. We depend on voluntary contributions from individuals like you to ensure we continue providing these vital services.

As I write to you today, it is uncertain whether we will gather for the Presidents Reception this year. But amid this crisis, our work goes on. Today, I am asking you to renew your annual commitment to our work. Please return the enclosed form, along with your contribution, in the envelope provided.

To show our deep appreciation, your generosity will be acknowledged widely in the Washington D.C. legal community. And we will leverage your donation many times over to meet the most pressing civil legal needs of our low-income neighbors. Thanks to our small but dedicated staff and the pro bono service of dedicated volunteer lawyers, your gift goes further.

We often say the Presidents Reception provides the vital fuel for our work. But the truth is, it's not the event that fuels us - it's YOU. Your steadfast support is the lifeblood of our work. Please continue to stand with us and the people we serve at this uncertain time.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Hoffman  
D.C. Bar President, 2019-2020

P.S. It's so important that we hear from you right away. Each year, we raise one-third of our annual D.C. Bar Pro Bono Center budget from the Presidents Reception. Please respond by **April 24** so that we can recognize you in our marketing materials, including in the *Washington Lawyer*, and on the D.C. Bar website. Contributions to the Pro Bono Center are tax-deductible.