



Women's Bar Association
FOUNDATION
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



VIRTUAL
GRANT AWARDS
CEREMONY

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2022 | 6PM

Each year, the WBA Foundation's recognizes our grantees at our Grant Awards Ceremony, which brings together members of the Washington, DC legal community and others to support our mission of leveraging the generosity of lawyers and friends to support nonprofits that serve the legal and related needs of women and girls in the DC Metropolitan community. Thank you for joining us.

2022 GRANT RECIPIENTS

The WBA Foundation's 2022 grant recipients are at the forefront of efforts to reach and serve some of the most vulnerable members of our community, individuals who are facing challenges ranging from homelessness to domestic violence and workplace discrimination. It is our privilege to recognize and honor them through our grant-making process.



Amara Legal Center provides free legal services to individuals whose rights have been violated while involved in commercial sex, whether involvement was by coercion, necessity, choice, or otherwise, in the DC metropolitan area. Amara's attorneys are trained in providing trauma-informed legal services and are devoted to providing comprehensive support, making sure that its clients know they are not navigating their cases alone. The WBAF grant will support survivors of sex trafficking with civil legal services, including civil protection orders, child custody, divorce, sealing and vacating criminal records, and victim-witness advocacy.

Volunteer Needs:

The Amara Legal Center is in need of pro bono attorneys as well as volunteers with experience in: marketing and design, event planning, and fundraising.

For more information:

www.amaralegal.org/volunteer
amaralegal.org
[@AmaraLegal](https://twitter.com/AmaraLegal)



Ayuda advocates for low-income immigrants through direct legal, social, and language services, training, and outreach in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. Ayuda is the only nonprofit organization in the DC metro area that offers a full range of integrated immigration and family law assistance, social services, and language access support for low-income immigrants from any country. The WBAF grant will support Ayuda's Client Support and Empowerment Fund and Ayuda's efforts in providing culturally-specific legal services for immigrant girls and women who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking, as well as abused, abandoned, and neglected children.

Volunteer Needs:

Ayuda relies on pro bono support for free immigration consultation clinics, which are currently being conducted remotely due to the public health crisis. Attorneys who volunteer for Ayuda's clinics benefit from Ayuda's expert immigration mentorship and easy-to-use intake materials. No prior immigration law experience is required, and Ayuda is able to provide interpretation assistance but is especially grateful for volunteers who speak Spanish or other languages in addition to English. Through Ayuda's pro bono pipeline, pro bono attorneys are able to represent clients in immigrant matters such as T and U Visas, asylum applications, VAWA petitions, and immigration proceedings.

For more information:

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DC KinCare Alliance supports the legal, financial, and related service needs of relative caregivers, the majority of whom are women who step up to raise children in their extended families in times of crisis when the children's parents are not able to care for them. DC KinCare Alliance is the only organization in DC focused solely on serving relative caregivers raising DC's at-risk children. The WBAF grant will support the KinCare Legal Defense Project, which provides free legal representation to relative caregivers in court and free legal advice in their communities.

Volunteer Needs:

Pro bono attorneys will co-counsel with DC KinCare Alliance to handle cases representing relative caregivers in court; assist DC KinCare attorneys to conduct relative caregiver legal support groups and provide brief legal advice to relative caregiver attendees; and work with DC KinCare attorneys on researching and writing legal memoranda or briefs related to kinship caregiving. Training and mentoring will be provided.

For more information:

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@DCKincare

DC VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROJECT

EST. 2008

The DC Volunteer Lawyers Project addresses the critical shortage of legal assistance for low-income people in Washington, DC, especially in cases involving domestic violence. The WBAF grant will support HAVEN: Housing Advocacy for Victims, an initiative of DCVLP's Domestic Violence Program, that provides District victims of domestic and other gender-based violence with legal assistance and advocacy on victim legal rights in housing, employment, and financial matters. HAVEN's goal is to help victims achieve long term safety, housing and employment stability, and economic self-sufficiency.

Volunteer Needs:

DCVLP volunteer attorneys help survivors of domestic violence achieve safety and independence by representing them in civil protection order, custody, divorce, child support, and immigration cases. Volunteer lawyers also serve as guardians ad litem, advocating for the best interests of at-risk children in high-conflict custody cases. For more information on volunteer opportunities with DCVLP.

For more information:

Sara Jamison, Director of Volunteer Engagement and Strategic Partnerships
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First Shift Justice Project empowers low-income pregnant women and parents to safeguard the economic security and health of their families by asserting their workplace rights. By receiving advice and representation, working parents are able to assert their rights before they lose their positions or before their workplace stress becomes untenable, First Shift helps them safely maintain their employment, their health and their family commitments. The WBAF grant will support efforts to provide employment-related direct legal services to low-income women in the Washington Metro Area.

Volunteer Needs:

First Shift is always happy to speak with firms who are interested in co-counseling, taking on pro bono cases, or conducting discrete legal research projects.

For more information:

Laura Brown
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@1stShiftJustice



Mothers Outreach Network facilitates the power of Black mothers subject to systems of disempowerment, such as the family regulation and foster system, to upend a socio-economic structure that inadequately addresses their full potential for economic independence. It advances economic security for women and families through social justice education, mutual aid, grassroots mobilization, and legal advocacy, focused on disadvantaged Black women in Washington, DC. The WBAF grant will support a new pop-up legal clinic program focused on mothers with children entangled in the foster care system that provides assistance that includes navigating Child Protective Services investigations to address neglect related allegations and minimize removals; post-Child Protection Register inclusion fair hearings representation; legal services that impact economic security such as child tax credits, and collecting stories for city officials and oversight hearings on these issues.

Volunteer Needs:

Mothers Outreach Network has volunteer opportunities through their brief advice clinics and legal information/know-your-rights sessions. These opportunities exist in both their low-income tax practice and our family defense and economic justice practice. No tax or family law experience is needed – Mothers Outreach Network will provide training.

For more information:

Melody Webb
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mothersoutreachnetwork.org
@mothersoutreach



The Network for Victim Recovery of DC empowers victims of crime to achieve survivor defined justice through a collaborative continuum of advocacy, case management, and legal services. Since its founding in 2012, NVRDC has served over 3,500 crime victims in the District, providing holistic case management and legal services for crime victims needing assistance regarding civil protection order representation, crime victims' rights enforcement, and Title IX/Clery representation for campus crime victims. The WBAF grant will support the Systemic Advocacy Legal Services and Pro Bono Program, through which NVRDC builds partnership with law firms to combat the barriers survivors face in accessing justice and ultimately create positive, long-lasting impacts on the trajectory of survivors' lives.

Volunteer Needs:

While still working remotely, NVRDC is calling on volunteers to create social media content to raise awareness, to research foundations and corporate grants, and to participate in the NVRDC Wishlist challenge. NVRDC hopes to provide an in-person volunteer opportunity, when it is safe to do so, by inviting volunteers into the office to create information packets for outreach events.

NVRDC's Pro Bono Program offers opportunities for attorneys to represent survivors of crime in DC in three contexts: Crime Victims' Rights (CVR), Civil Protection Order (CPO) cases, and during the University-based on-campus judicial process administered under Title IX. Because NVRDC co-counsels every case with our pro bono attorneys, volunteer attorneys determine their level of involvement with the case: whether you want to represent a survivor in a CPO trial or do a single, discrete research project for a CVR issue in a case. Pro bono training for volunteer attorneys is offered on a periodic basis at local law firms.

For more information:

Jessica Laycock, Engagement & Pro Bono Coordinator
jessica@nvrdc.org
nvrdc.org
@NVRDC



The Safe Sisters Circle provides free culturally-specific, trauma-informed, and legal holistic services to Black women survivors of domestic violence and/or sexual abuse. Rooted in Safe Sisters Circle is the belief that there is value in having an organization established for Black women and where the majority of service providers and leadership within the organization are also Black women. The WBAF grant will support East of the River Women's Legal Services Project, which provides free legal services to Black women survivors of domestic and sexual violence living in Wards 7 and 8, specifically civil protection order hearings, family law cases, and victim advocacy cases. Safe Sisters Circle will also provide educational workshops and hold listening sessions for survivors and advocates living or working in Wards 7 and 8.

Volunteer Needs:

The Safe Sisters Circle is looking for young attorneys interested in gaining trial experience to assist in representing survivors in Domestic Violence Court Civil Protection Order Hearings. They are also looking to build partnerships/pro bono opportunities with local family law firms.

For more information:

Alana Brown
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@TheSafeSisters



Keynote Speaker



**Congresswoman
Eleanor Holmes Norton**

Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, now in her fifteenth term as the Congresswoman for the District of Columbia, is the Chair of the House Subcommittee on Highways and Transit. She serves on two committees: the Committee on Oversight and Reform and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. She served on the first WBA Foundation Board of Directors, in 1981.

Before her congressional service, President Jimmy Carter appointed her to serve as the first woman to chair the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. She came to Congress as a national figure who had been a civil rights and feminist leader, tenured professor of law, and board member at three Fortune 500 companies. Congresswoman Norton has been named one of the 100 most important American women in one survey and one of the most powerful women in Washington in another. The Congresswoman's work for full congressional voting representation and for full democracy for the people of the District of Columbia continues her lifelong struggle for universal human and civil rights.

Congresswoman Norton's accomplishments in breaking barriers for her disempowered district are matched by her success in bringing home unique economic benefits to her constituents. Among them are senatorial courtesy to recommend federal judges, the U.S. Attorney, and other significant federal law enforcement positions for the District; up to \$10,000 per year for all D.C. high school graduates to attend any public U.S. college or university and up to \$2,500 per year to many private colleges and universities; a unique \$5,000 D.C. homebuyer tax credit, which has sharply increased home ownership in the District and was a major factor in stabilizing the city's population; and D.C. business tax incentives, including a significant wage credit for employing D.C. residents, which has maintained businesses and residents in the District.

Congresswoman Norton also has brought significant economic development to the District of Columbia throughout her service in Congress, creating and preserving jobs in D.C. The most significant are her work in bringing to D.C. the U.S. Department of Homeland Security headquarters compound, now under construction, and is the largest federal construction project in the country; her bill that is developing the 55 acre-Southeast Federal Center, the first private development on federal land; her work that resulted in the relocation of 6,000 jobs to the Washington Navy Yard; and her successful efforts to bring to the District the new headquarters for the U.S. Department of Transportation, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, along with an additional Metro station at New York Avenue, which has resulted in the development of the NOMA neighborhood.

Congresswoman Norton helped end the city's most serious financial crisis in a century, in the 1990's, by achieving a historic package that for the first time restructured the financial relationship between Congress and the District, by transferring \$5 billion in unfunded pension liabilities and billions more in state costs to the federal government.

The Congresswoman, who taught law full time before being elected, is a tenured professor of law at Georgetown University, teaching an upper-class seminar there every year. After receiving her bachelor's degree from Antioch College in Ohio, she simultaneously earned her law degree and a master's degree in American Studies from Yale University. Yale Law School has awarded her the Citation of Merit for outstanding alumni, and Yale Graduate School of Arts and Sciences has awarded her the Wilbur Cross Medal for outstanding alumni, the highest awards conferred by each on alumni. She is the recipient of more than 50 honorary degrees.

WBAF Champion Award



Marjorie O'Connell

This year, we are presenting our inaugural WBA Foundation Champion Award, which recognizes a devoted Foundation champion. We are pleased to recognize **Marjorie O'Connell** for her long-standing devotion to the Foundation and supporting women & girls in our community.

Marjorie is a founding member of the Foundation and was its first president, from 1981 to 1983. She was also involved in forming the National Foundation of Women's Bar Associations. She started her own firm in 1977, O'Connell & Associates, focusing on tax law.

During its early years, the Foundation met its purposes by supporting the Women's Bar Association's programs that focused on the special legal problems facing women through educational activities and sponsorship of innovative programs in the community, courts, and the legal profession. For example, the Foundation supported the publication of the Association's Guidelines on Family and Medical Leave and Alternative Work Schedules, sponsored law students in national mock trial competitions, supported summer employment for law students in the Washington DC legal community, and co-hosted the Metro Teen Aids Ryan White Awards to benefit HIV positive youths and teenagers in the metro area. The Foundation provided financial support to community service projects in the Washington D.C. metropolitan community in ways that were not feasible for the Association itself. These early Foundation activities had an important and positive impact on the legal profession and the community at large and Marjorie was instrumental in focusing early Foundation efforts on initiatives that supported at-risk women and children.

Thank You to Our Event Sponsors

Whether in-person or virtual, we do not charge for our Grant Awards Ceremony. We rely on the support of our sponsors to produce this special evening and provide grant funding to organizations supporting the needs of women and girls.

SILVER

ANN K. FORD

BRONZE



WBAF Champion

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 Kathleen Gunning

Ann Bushmiller
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 Tracy Durkin
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