



May 25, 2023

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Mr. Jonathan Cuneo, Ms. Pamela Gilbert, Mr. Charles LaDuca
Cuneo Gilbert & LaDuca, LLP
4725 Wisconsin Ave, NW
Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20016

Re: *Raising the Bar in DC Campaign*

Dear Jon, Pamela, and Charles:

We are immensely grateful for the generous support your firm has given to the legal services organizations that provide essential assistance to those in our community in need of legal help, as evidenced by your participation in *Raising the Bar in D.C. campaign*. **Congratulations on your Silver level participation in the 2022 campaign!**

Raising the Bar sets the standard for giving in our community, with our Leadership Circle firms serving as models for their peers. Your collective support is critical to addressing the civil legal needs of D.C.'s most vulnerable communities, helping ensure that our low-income neighbors facing life-altering events such as eviction, the loss of public benefits, domestic abuse, and consumer fraud have access to free, expert legal assistance. While the Covid-19 pandemic has officially come to an end, its lingering social and economic effects continue to exact a disproportionate toll on the District's low-income communities. The demand for legal services remains high – and is still growing, as demonstrated by an uptick in requests for legal assistance in housing and domestic violence cases.

The importance of your support was underscored this year when the Access to Justice Initiative, the District government's public funding program for civil legal aid, faced proposed cuts of 60% (or \$18.6 million). As we write, the D.C. Council has preliminarily approved a restoration of this essential funding to the prior year's level, following an intensive advocacy campaign led by the Commission and with the support of the District's legal community. However, we anticipate that public funding challenges will continue – and level funding still fails to meet the extraordinary, unaddressed need in our community for legal help. This means that your continued support is more important than ever to our mission. **We urge you to commit to not only sustaining but increasing your amount of support for our local legal services organizations in 2023.** Your leadership is essential and serves as a model for your peers.

We will be recognizing our 2022 Leadership Circle firms through outreach and social media and will provide your firm with a toolkit that we hope will be useful to you in promoting your participation in your own internal and external communications.

Our profound thanks for your continued support of legal services in the District.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Edelman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "P".

Prof. Peter B. Edelman, Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Sandman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "J".

James J. Sandman, Vice Chair

cc: Ms. Barbara Darne



Raising the Bar in D.C. Campaign A Funding Campaign for Legal Services Leadership Circle 2022

The District of Columbia Access to Justice Commission is proud to honor

CUNEO GILBERT & LADUCA, LLP

For its Silver Level Participation in the Raising the Bar in D.C. Campaign in 2022.

The firm's generosity and leadership are instrumental to ensuring access to justice for impoverished residents of the District of Columbia. The firm is commended for its dedication to protecting the most vulnerable members of our community.

Peter B. Edelman
Chair
D.C. Access to Justice Commission

