



Washington Council of Lawyers

The Public-Interest Bar Association for the District of Columbia

Washington Council of Lawyers is a voluntary bar association that promotes *pro bono* service and public-interest law and works to ensure that our legal system treats everyone fairly, regardless of money, position or power.

Last year, we hosted more than 60 events and trainings with more than 2,000 attendees. In 2020, we are pivoting to meet the needs of the public-interest community in light of the COVID-19 crisis. We have moved our trainings and programs online, increased our communications, and are building a stronger community in our socially distanced world.

Summer Pro Bono Forum: Our 2020 Summer Forum keynote speaker was The Honorable Anna Blackburne-Rigsby, Chief Judge of the D.C. Court of Appeals. This annual event went virtual this year, allowing 500 lawyers and law students from around the country to learn about *pro bono* opportunities and public-interest careers from legal experts in several different substantive practice areas.

Best Practices in Pro Bono: This long-running series highlights effective ways for law firms and legal services providers to improve their *pro bono* programs. More than 140 *pro bono* professionals registered to attend our first-ever online Best Practices session on Pro Bono During the Time of COVID-19.

Litigation Skills Training: This training series gives public-interest-minded attorneys access to high-quality trainings at affordable prices. We recently held trainings on Impeachment, Exhibits, Mediation, and Trauma-Informed Interviewing. A brand-new offering this spring: Public Speaking for Virtual Meetings.

Mentoring Program: Each year, our long-running Mentoring Program connects dozens of junior attorneys with experienced attorneys who are active in the public-interest community. This one-of-a-kind program supports attorneys from all sectors who are committed to providing free legal services to those in need.

D.C. Pro Bono Week: This annual celebration of *pro bono* service features court site visits, panel discussions, legal trainings, and clinics that inspire lawyers to do more local *pro bono* work to serve our neighbors in need.

Issues Advocacy: We advocated in favor of continued funding for civil legal services in the District of Columbia and for court rules changes that protect the rights of *pro se* litigants. We advocated for policies that allow more DC government lawyers to be able to do *pro bono* work.



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