

DC VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROJECT

# ANNUAL REPORT

January 1 - December 31



Pro bono legal services for survivors of domestic violence,  
immigrant survivors of gender-based violence, and at-risk children

2023

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## DEAR FRIENDS,

As we reflect on the accomplishments and milestones of the past year, I am humbled and honored to share with you the impact that DC Volunteer Lawyers Project (DCVLP) has had on our community. Together, we have continued to stand as a beacon of hope for those in our midst who are most vulnerable and in need of legal assistance.

Over the past year, DCVLP has made significant strides in our mission to provide pro bono representation to domestic violence survivors, immigrant survivors of gender-based violence, and at-risk children. Through the dedication of our volunteer attorneys, staff, and supporters, we have been able to extend a lifeline to over 3,000 individuals in DC and Maryland, empowering them to navigate the legal system and secure the justice and safety they deserve.

Our impact extends far beyond the courtroom. By providing comprehensive legal services, advocacy, and support, we are not only addressing the immediate legal needs of our clients but also fostering long-term safety and stability. Through our holistic approach, we strive to break the cycle of violence and create a future where all individuals can live free from violence and abuse.

None of this would be possible without the unwavering support of our community. To our dedicated volunteers who generously donate your time and expertise, thank you for your commitment to justice. To our donors and supporters who provide the resources necessary to fuel our mission, thank you for giving hope to those who need it most. To our staff who work tirelessly behind the scenes, your passion is the driving force behind everything we accomplish.

As we look to the future, we are inspired by the resilience of our clients and the collective strength of our community. Together, we will continue amplifying the voices of our neighbors and advocating for justice. Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our mission. Together, we are making a difference.

With gratitude,

*Sara B. Tennen*

Sara B. Tennen  
Executive Director



## OUR TEAM

This list reflects DCVLP staff as of July 1, 2024.

Marcy Baskin | Director of Grants & Foundational Giving  
Stephanie Bergman | Supervising Attorney, Domestic Violence Program  
Jennie Berman | Supervising Attorney, Domestic Violence Program  
Katherine Bradley | Managing Attorney, Montgomery County  
Tara Branine | Equal Justice Works Fellow  
sponsored by Crowell & Moring Foundation  
Samara Braverman | Program Coordinator, Child Advocacy Program  
Jesse Brennan | Staff Attorney, Child Advocacy Program  
Amy Coles | Supervising Attorney, Domestic Violence Program  
Nia Cook | Grants & Development Manager  
Betsy Crumb | Managing Attorney, Child Advocacy Program  
Sarah Deibler | Supervising Attorney, Immigration Program  
Jaquelyn Diaz | Client Advocate, Immigration Program  
Courtney Federico | Staff Attorney, Immigration Program  
Karen Foxman | Managing Attorney, Montgomery County  
Madison Glennie | Supervising Attorney, Immigration Program  
Ignacio Gomez | Program Coordinator, Immigration Program  
Ricardo Gomez | Staff Attorney, Immigration Program  
Vanessa Hernandez | Supervising Attorney, Domestic Violence Program  
Elaine Holmes | Supervising Attorney, Domestic Violence Program  
Daniela Huerta Garcia | Co-Legal Director

Masooma Hussain | Supervising Attorney, Domestic Violence Program  
Sara Jamison | Director of Volunteer Engagement & Strategic Partnerships  
Michaela Lovejoy | Supervising Attorney, Immigration Program  
Claire MacKay | Program Coordinator & Client Advocate, Montgomery County  
Gargie Nagarkar | Data Evaluation & Grants Compliance Manager  
Najja Ogundiran | Roxana Cannon Arsht Law Fellow  
Abbey Ojala | Client Advocate, Domestic Violence Program  
Maya Pearl | Operations & Human Resources Coordinator  
Colleen Petroni | Supervising Attorney, Child Advocacy Program  
Nellie Phelan | Supervising Attorney, Child Advocacy Program  
Valerie Sakellaridis | Supervising Attorney, Child Advocacy Program  
Juliette Singarella | Staff Attorney, Child Advocacy Program  
Norah Sloss | Managing Attorney, Domestic Violence Program  
Lea Sondheimer | Program Coordinator, Domestic Violence Program  
Robyn Swanson | Supervising Attorney, Impact Litigation & Advocacy Program  
Sara Tennen | Executive Director  
Blanca Torres | Client Advocate, Domestic Violence Program  
Maria Velez | Victim & Community Outreach Manager  
Aida Vindell | Co-Legal Director  
Jakiah Webb | Data & Grants Coordinator  
Brian Yourish | Director of Operations

# WHO WE ARE

**DC VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROJECT, EST. 2008**

## MISSION

### TO ADVOCATE

for domestic violence victims, at-risk children, and other vulnerable individuals through comprehensive pro bono legal services;

### TO EMPOWER

victims with knowledge, resources, and on-going support; and

### TO BROADEN OUR IMPACT

by engaging, training, and supporting a strong and diverse network of volunteer lawyers and community volunteers.

## VISION

### WE BELIEVE THAT A LIFE FREE OF VIOLENCE AND ABUSE IS A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT.

We are passionate about improving the lives of domestic violence survivors, immigrant survivors of gender-based violence, and at-risk children. Our small but experienced staff recruit, train, and support hundreds of dedicated volunteer attorneys each year to handle protection order, family law, and immigration cases on behalf of our clients.

We operate free virtual and in-person walk-in clinics throughout the District so domestic violence victims, caregivers of at-risk children, and immigrants can access free legal services on a wide range of issues, social service referrals, crisis support, and safety planning.

# OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

**We maintain meaningful partnerships with over 30 other local organizations to provide holistic services to our clients.**

DCVLP is committed to providing trauma-informed legal services that address the comprehensive needs of our clients. Our attorneys, volunteers, and advocates help clients achieve long-term safety and stability by connecting survivors and at-risk children to our community partners for assistance during and beyond the closing of their case.

Our clients and their children frequently face job loss, food insecurity, housing instability, and limited access to quality healthcare. DCVLP's dedicated Client Advocates directly connect our clients to community partners for crisis response and intervention, safety planning, physical health services, substance use treatment, housing assistance, emotional wellness, and other critical needs.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Jessica Abrahams** | Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP, Partner  
**Hal Brewster** | Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP, Practice Group Manager  
**Tracey Coates** | Coates Family Law, Principal  
**Matt Cohen** | Meta, Director & Associate General Counsel  
**Alexis Collins** | Amazon, VP & Associate General Counsel  
**Dale Harburg** | DCVLP Volunteer Attorney  
**Phillip Hurst** | Capital One, Assistant General Counsel  
**Patricia Kelly** | Marcum, Senior Manager  
**Heather Lamberg** | Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP, Partner  
**Karen Marcou** | DCVLP Co-Founder  
**Princess McDuffie** | DC CSOSA, DV Specialist  
**Stephen Raptis** | Reed Smith LLP, Counsel  
**Pamela Sauber** | DCVLP Volunteer Attorney  
**Kamil Shields** | Sullivan & Cromwell LLP, Partner  
**Annette Stanley** | Gaillard Consulting, Principal  
**Ilene Weinreich** | DCVLP Volunteer Attorney

## EMERITUS BOARD

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The Emeritus Board is a council of advisors for DCVLP with the purpose of retaining the valuable knowledge and expertise of former board members. The Emeritus Board aims to foster continued engagement, enduring relationships, and support for DCVLP.

**Jamillia Ferris** | Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Partner  
**Barbara Garlock** | Nonprofit Consultant  
**Tom Hentoff** | Williams & Connolly LLP, Partner  
**Melika Johnson** | Lerner Enterprises, Sr. Administrative Assistant  
**Sharis Pozen** | Clifford Chance US LLP, Global Co-Chair of Antitrust  
**Rachel Louise Snyder** | Author & Journalist

## JUNIOR BOARD

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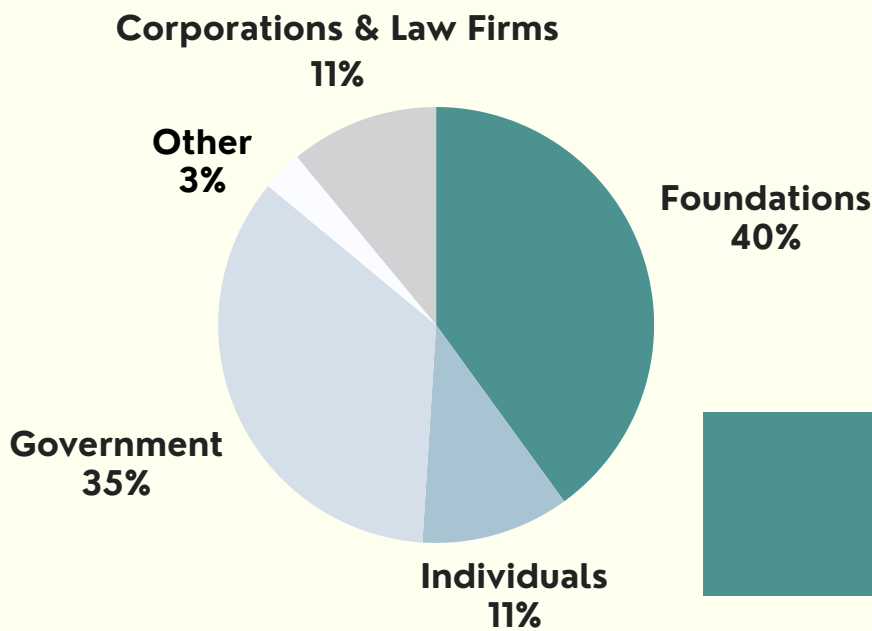
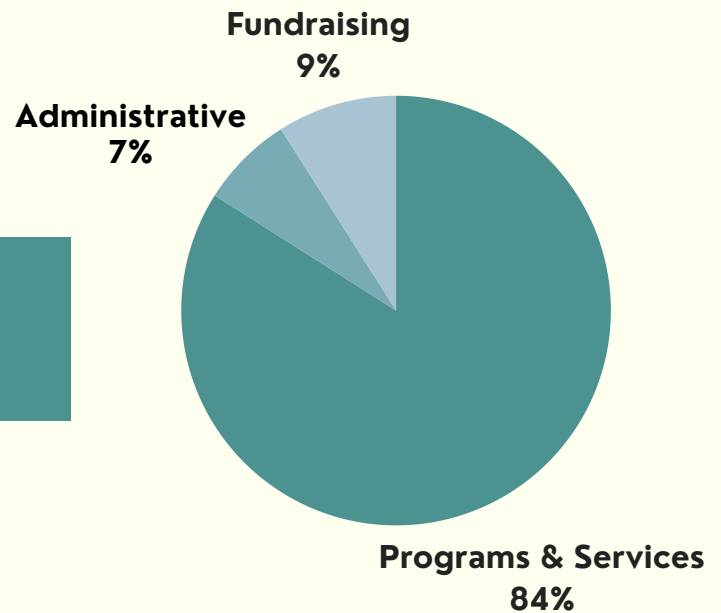
**Ted Alexander** | McDermott, Will & Emery LLP  
**Shiza Arshad** | Winston & Strawn LLP  
**Kathryn Belkin** | Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP  
**Jennifer Bisgaier** | Goulston & Storrs PC  
**Dara Brown** | White & Case LLP  
**Emily Campo** | DLA Piper LLP  
**Ashley Carter** | Office of the Attorney General for DC  
**Nicole Cary** | Sidley Austin LLP  
**Annabelle Castleman** | Vinson & Elkins LLP  
**Zachary Chapman** | Shannon & Wright LLP  
**Lina Dagnew** | Paul, Weiss, Riffkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP  
**Moriah Daugherty** | Covington & Burling LLP  
**Blair Decker** | Hogan Lovells US LLP  
**Allison Everhardt** | Nardello & Co. LLC  
**Melissa Giangrande** | Hogan Lovells US LLP  
**Rachel Harney** | Dechert LLP  
**Monica Hernandez** | Amazon  
**Isa Herrera Moya** | Clifford Chance US LLP  
**Marissa Hill Daley** | McDermott, Will & Emery LLP  
**Alexandra Krisch** | Bechtel  
**Madelyn Mae La France** | Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP  
**Lani Lear** | Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP  
**Anne Marie Longobucco** | Fenwick & West LLP  
**Lauren McGuire** | Latham & Watkins LLP  
**Kristen Miluski** | King & Spalding LLP  
**Sabah Petrov** | Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP  
**Siarra Rogers** | Ropes & Gray LLP  
**Jenna Ross** | Ericsson Inc.

**Tiana Russell** | Crowell & Moring LLP  
**Rebecca Simon** | Nixon Peabody LLP  
**Shawn Skolky** | Cooley LLP  
**Katherine St. Romain** | Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP  
**Urjita Sudula** | Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP  
**Kristin Whidby** | Rozier Hardt McDonough PLLC



# 2023 OPERATING BUDGET

**\$3.4M  
EXPENSES**



**\$3.8M  
REVENUE**

**36**

**Staff**

recruiting, training, and mentoring volunteer lawyers

**600**

**Active Volunteers**

providing \$18M+ in pro bono legal services annually

**3,065**

**Domestic Violence Survivors, Immigrant Survivors of Gender Based Violence & At-Risk Children**  
escaping violence & establishing safe and stable homes

## DCVLP LEVERAGES OUR UNIQUE MODEL OF PAIRING VOLUNTEERS WITH SUPERVISING ATTORNEYS SO THAT EVERY \$1 IN REVENUE TRANSLATES INTO \$6 IN FREE LEGAL SERVICES



Between 2022 and 2023, DCVLP's operating revenue increased by 23%, from \$3.1M to \$3.8M. The impact of this financial growth is best reflected in the greater number of individuals DCVLP was able to serve. **In 2023, DCVLP assisted 3,065 clients – up 43% from 2022.** This represents the highest number of clients served by DCVLP in a single year and underscores the effectiveness of DCVLP's volunteer model.

Through DCVLP's model, volunteers are paired with experienced Supervising Attorneys for each case and clinic, ensuring that clients receive top-notch legal representation. Our Supervising Attorneys play a vital role in guiding volunteers, developing legal strategies, reviewing written work, and providing courtroom support.

Additionally, each case is supported by a dedicated Client Advocate who addresses the holistic needs of survivors and their families. Client Advocates offer services such as safety planning, trauma-informed crisis intervention, emotional support, and access to vital social services like housing assistance, counseling, and parenting classes through partnerships with various organizations.

The growth of DCVLP's staff in 2023, made possible by increased support from funders, has amplified the organization's community impact. This expansion has allowed DCVLP to serve a broader audience and provide more comprehensive assistance to survivors of domestic violence and their families.

In 2023, DCVLP's revenue continued to be sourced from various channels, including government grants, private foundations, law firms, corporate partners, and individual donors. This diverse funding base remains crucial for the organization's day-to-day operations, enabling DCVLP to sustainably deliver comprehensive, high-quality legal services to thousands of clients annually.

**IN 2023, 600  
VOLUNTEERS  
DONATED  
48,000  
HOURS  
WORTH \$18 MILLION  
IN FREE LEGAL SERVICES**



# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM

DCVLP's Domestic Violence Program plays a pivotal role in bridging the justice gap for low-income survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and gender-based violence in DC and MD.

Access to legal representation is a significant factor in survivors' ability to break free from abuse and establish long-term safety from their abusers. However, a concerning shortage of legal assistance exists, leaving many survivors to confront their abusers in court without representation.

DCVLP's Domestic Violence Program addresses this pressing need by offering comprehensive, trauma-informed legal services to indigent DC and MD residents in protection order, custody, and divorce cases.

2023 IMPACT

537

PROTECTION ORDER  
CASES ACCEPTED

342

SURVIVORS & THEIR  
CHILDREN  
HELPED IN FAMILY  
LAW CASES



## CARLA'S STORY

Carla's journey to safety from her abusive relationship was a long and challenging one. For a decade, she endured emotional manipulation, control, and physical violence at the hands of her abuser, who had even threatened her life on multiple occasions. Despite the immense difficulties she faced, Carla took the courageous step of seeking help at one of DCVLP's walk-in clinics.

When Carla arrived, she was already in the process of seeking a civil protection order (CPO), but the complexities of the legal system and language barriers left her feeling overwhelmed and unsure of her options. DCVLP's attorneys immediately sprang into action, providing Carla with clarity and support. Together, they crafted a plan that aligned with Carla's goals: she sought a CPO, divorce, and primary custody of her child.

With DCVLP by her side, Carla's journey took a positive turn. The organization not only took on her cases for full representation but also connected her with a Client Advocate who provided additional support, linking her to employment and counseling resources for long-term stability.

Instead of enduring the daunting prospect of a trial, DCVLP's attorneys skillfully negotiated on Carla's behalf. Through their efforts, Carla's abuser agreed to the entry of a two-year CPO against him, granting Carla sole custody of her child and securing child support. The following day, Carla faced her divorce hearing with newfound strength, knowing that her lawyers had helped her secure sole custody and child support through her CPO.

For Carla, DCVLP's impact was profound. She expressed her gratitude to her attorneys, acknowledging the immense help they provided and the significant difference DCVLP made in her life.



# CHILD ADVOCACY PROGRAM

In DCVLP's Child Advocacy Program, volunteer Guardians Ad Litem (GALs) are appointed by family court judges to represent child victims living in unsafe environments. Our dedicated attorneys advocate for the best interests of these children in contested custody cases. Many of these cases involve allegations of child abuse and domestic violence, making our role even more crucial in ensuring their safety and well-being.

The work of our Child Advocacy Program is indispensable in the District. DC Superior Court judges continue to emphasize the necessity for more Guardians Ad Litem to provide victim-centric representation to these children, highlighting the ongoing importance of our program in safeguarding the rights and well-being of the most vulnerable members of our community.

## 2023 IMPACT

# 111

**VULNERABLE  
CHILDREN HAD A  
COURT-APPOINTED  
LAWYER TO ENSURE  
THEIR VOICES ARE  
HEARD AND THEIR  
RIGHTS PROTECTED**



## DEJA'S STORY

Deja's journey began with uncertainty and instability, as her parents navigated their own challenges, leaving her godmother to provide a stable home. With her mother struggling with untreated mental health issues and her father recently released from jail, Deja's future hung in the balance.

Amidst the turmoil, the court appointed DCVLP attorneys as Guardians Ad Litem to advocate for Deja's well-being. With compassion and determination, Deja's attorneys worked tirelessly to foster collaboration between her father and godmother, encouraging positive communication and co-parenting efforts. Meanwhile, they navigated the complexities of Deja's mother's mental illness, striving to create a safe connection between mother and child.

Through years of mediation and a lengthy trial, Deja's attorneys prevailed. Their recommendations paved the way for a suitable arrangement, allowing Deja to thrive in a stable and loving environment. Today, Deja resides with her father, stepmother, and siblings, supported by regular visits with her godmother and supervised visits with her mother.

Deja's story is a testament to the crucial role Guardians Ad Litem play in safeguarding the well-being of children and ensuring that every child's voice is heard.

# IMMIGRATION PROGRAM

Immigrant survivors often face significant barriers to accessing support services and navigating the complexities of the U.S. legal system, making them hesitant to seek assistance. DCVLP's Immigration Program plays a crucial role in breaking down these barriers by providing comprehensive legal services to immigrant victims and vulnerable children. Our dedicated attorneys offer a range of support, including full legal representation, to help survivors pursue legal remedies that can provide them with status and protection in the United States.

By offering compassionate legal representation and ensuring survivors understand their legal options, our Immigration Program empowers immigrant survivors to seek justice and build safer, more stable lives for themselves and their families. In 2023, our commitment to serving this vulnerable population remained steadfast, reflecting our belief that a life free from violence and abuse is a basic human right.

## 2023 IMPACT

# 141

**IMMIGRATION CASES  
WERE STAFFED BY  
OUR ATTORNEYS TO HELP  
VULNERABLE CHILDREN &  
SURVIVORS OF  
DOMESTIC AND GENDER-  
BASED VIOLENCE OBTAIN  
HUMANITARIAN RELIEF**



## MAXIMO'S STORY

Maximo, who identifies as LGBTQ, fled his homeland of Zambia to seek safety and freedom in the United States. In Zambia, Maximo faced relentless persecution and violence from both authorities and members of his community, simply for living authentically. His activism made him a target for arrest, beatings, and public humiliation, forcing him to flee his home in search of asylum.

When Maximo turned to DCVLP for help, our dedicated attorneys stepped in to support him on his journey to secure permanent legal status. For the past three years, DCVLP has been by Maximo's side, advocating for him as he navigates the complex legal system.

Last year, DCVLP achieved a significant milestone for Maximo by helping him obtain a 5-year employment authorization document (EAD) card. This card grants Maximo the ability to work and provide for himself, offering a crucial lifeline of stability and security as he awaits a resolution to his asylum case.

Without the support of DCVLP's attorneys, Maximo would face significant barriers in seeking asylum and securing his rights in the United States. DCVLP's Immigration Program ensures that individuals like Maximo have the opportunity to build a brighter future and find safety and acceptance in their new home.

# MONTGOMERY COUNTY

In neighboring Montgomery County, MD there is a tremendous lack of access to justice for survivors, with only 22% of victims represented by a lawyer in their protection order cases. In response to this growing need, the Montgomery County Family Justice Center invited DCVLP to explore the possibility of bringing our services to Maryland.

In September 2022, DCVLP's Board of Directors unanimously approved our geographic expansion into Montgomery County and allocated \$240,000 in an opportunity fund towards launching this project. This strategic investment was made possible through an increase in unrestricted funding over the past several years and enabled DCVLP to hire two full-time Managing Attorneys who began providing direct legal services to survivors in Maryland in January 2023.

In the first year of operations, DCVLP's presence in Montgomery County has made a tremendous impact. We look forward to incorporating our volunteer model in Montgomery County so we can further address the unmet need for representation of survivors in court.

## 2023 IMPACT

# 189

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
SURVIVORS IN  
MONTGOMERY  
COUNTY HAD  
ACCESS TO AN  
ATTORNEY**



## ABBY'S STORY

Abby reached out to DCVLP when her first attempt to protect herself and her children was unsuccessful. Despite showing evidence of her injuries and the threat she faced from her children's father, the court initially didn't grant her a protection order (PO). Abby was living in fear due to past violence from him, including threats and physical attacks.

DCVLP stood by Abby's side, guiding her through the legal process. Our attorneys fought for access to crucial documents and ensured Abby had a fair chance to be heard in court. When her case moved to a higher court, DCVLP made sure Abby had an interpreter who spoke her first language, Amharic, for the first time ever. In a powerful hearing, DCVLP presented evidence of the abuse Abby had endured, including videos showing her children's father's violent behavior.

Finally, the judge granted Abby the protection order she so desperately needed. This meant she and her children could feel safe in their own home. With the protection order in place, Abby can finally breathe easier. But DCVLP isn't stopping there. We are continuing to support Abby as she works towards long-term stability, including representing her in future custody hearings. Thanks to DCVLP, Abby can now look towards a brighter, safer future for herself and her children.



# LEGAL CLINICS

2023 IMPACT

1,096

INDIVIDUALS  
SERVED AT OUR  
LEGAL CLINICS

## DCVLP in the Community

Brief legal advice is crucial for survivors of domestic and gender-based violence as it empowers them with essential knowledge about their legal rights and options, enabling informed decision-making in navigating complex legal systems. This guidance can be instrumental in helping survivors secure protective orders, navigate custody and support issues, and access other vital legal remedies, fostering safety and autonomy.

DCVLP initiated its clinic services in 2013 with a single community-based clinic. Since then, our clinic network has expanded into an integrated system of access points spread throughout the city. These access points encompass locations within courts and communities, partnerships with local healthcare providers to offer medical-legal services on-site, and the introduction of virtual clinics.

## COMMUNITY BASED CLINICS

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, FAMILY LAW & IMMIGRATION CLINIC

Mt. Pleasant Neighborhood Library | 3160 16th St NW  
Every **Wednesday 1pm-4pm**  
Counseling available from **My Sister's Place**  
Housing Services provided by **District Alliance for Safe Housing**

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & FAMILY LAW CLINIC

The Commons at Stanton Square | 2375 Elvans Rd SE  
Every **Friday 10am-1pm**  
Healthcare & Housing services available from **Community of Hope**  
Education, Food, & Family services available from **Martha's Table**

### MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIPS

AIDS Healthcare Foundation | 2141 K St NW  
Every **Monday from 1:30pm-5:00pm**  
Children's National at Shaw Metro | 641 S St NW  
Every **Wednesday 9:30am-1:30pm**  
AIDS Healthcare Foundation | 650 Pennsylvania Ave SE  
Every **Wednesday 1:30pm-5:00pm**  
Children's National at Columbia Heights | 3336 14th St NW  
Every **Friday 9:30am-1:30pm**

## COURT BASED CLINIC

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROTECTION ORDER CLINIC

DC Superior Court | 500 Indiana Ave NW  
Every **Tuesday 9:30am-1:00pm**  
Every **Wednesday 9:30am-1:00pm**

## REMOTE CLINICS

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & FAMILY LAW CLINIC

By Phone Every **Monday 1:00pm - 5:00pm**  
By Phone Every **Tuesday 1:00pm - 5:00pm**



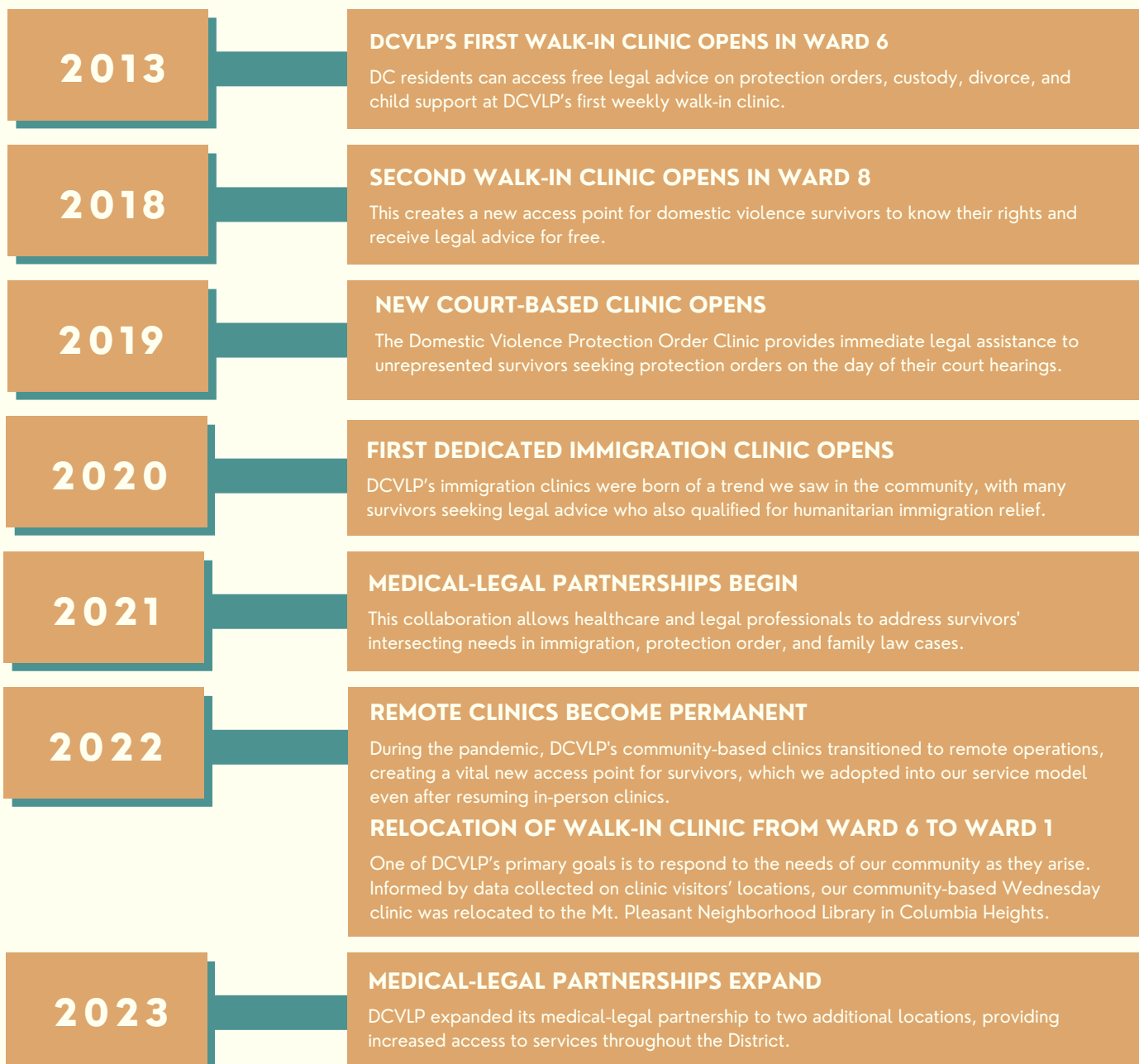
# 10 YEARS OF CREATING ACCESS

## TO FREE LEGAL ADVICE FOR SURVIVORS IN WASHINGTON, DC

Over the last ten years, DCVLP's clinics have become one of the most critical aspects of our service model. What began with a single community-based clinic operating once a week in Ward 6 has grown into ten weekly clinics including community-based locations across four wards, court-based access in DC Superior Court, and remote advice by phone.

The number of clients we help through our clinics has tripled over the last ten years with 300 survivors receiving legal advice at our first clinic in 2013 to more than 1,000 survivors receiving advice at our various clinics in 2023.

Beyond the impact of accessing brief legal advice by itself, 32% of clinic visitors go on to become DCVLP clients whose cases we accept for representation in protection order, family law, and immigration matters. In 2023 alone, 461 clinic visitors received multiple services through DCVLP.



# POLICY & APPELLATE ADVOCACY PROGRAM

Informed by our direct experience within the legal system, DCVLP stands poised to advocate for policy changes and appellate actions crucial to challenging systemic structures that perpetuate domestic violence, gender-based violence against immigrant survivors, and the endangerment of children within unsafe households.

## LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

DCVLP attorneys frequently provide oral and written testimony regarding legislation that directly affects our clients' safety, stability, and access to legal services. In 2023, DCVLP testified before DC's elected officials on the following pieces of legislation:

### **B25-0042: GROUNDS FOR DIVORCE, LEGAL SEPARATION AND ANNULMENT AMENDMENT ACT OF 2023 (IN FAVOR)**

This bill aims to give domestic violence survivors a fair chance to leave their abusers. It proposes changes like letting judges grant use of the family home early in divorce proceedings and removing waiting periods for final divorces.

### **B25-0345: ACCOUNTABILITY AND VICTIM PROTECTION AMENDMENT ACT OF 2023 (IN FAVOR)**

This bill tightens laws on unlawful disclosure, focusing on the defendant's mental state and lack of consent in sharing sexual images.

### **B25-0479: ADDRESSING CRIME THROUGH TARGETED INTERVENTIONS AND VIOLENCE ENFORCEMENT ("ACTIVE") AMENDMENT ACT OF 2023 (IN FAVOR)**

This bill expands the definition of "significant bodily injury" to include strangulation, making it easier to charge as a felony. It also allows victims of strangulation to access certain medical exams.

### **B25-0464: GRANDPARENT AND CAREGIVER SUBSIDY ELIGIBILITY AMENDMENT ACT OF 2023 (IN FAVOR)**

This bill updates income eligibility requirements for grandparents or relatives caring for children to receive financial support.

### **B25-0243: CFSA INVESTIGATION COMPLETION AMENDMENT ACT OF 2023 (IN FAVOR)**

This bill extends the deadline for abuse and neglect investigations from 30 to 45 days, with exceptions for certain serious cases like child fatality or sex trafficking, where the deadline is extended to 60 days.

### **B25-0043: LOSING OUTDATED, VIOLENT EXCEPTIONS AMENDMENT ACT OF 2023 (IN FAVOR)**

This bill aims to repeal the religious exception to the District's definition of child neglect.

## APPELLATE ADVOCACY

We recognize that our frontline work is more effective and impactful when there is good law. Providing opportunities for DCVLP volunteers to engage in appellate advocacy is a means to address and remedy unjust legal decisions. In 2023, DCVLP volunteers provided 1,200 pro bono hours valued at \$450K representing clients in appellate cases where trial judges issued decisions inconsistent with the law and that set dangerous precedent.



# ROXANA CANNON ARSHT LAW FELLOWSHIP

The Roxana Cannon Arsht Law Fellowship is named in honor of Adrienne Arsht's remarkable mother, The Hon. Roxana Cannon Arsht. Adrienne Arsht established the fellowship at DC Volunteer Lawyers Project to honor her mother's groundbreaking achievements as Delaware's fifth female lawyer and the first female judge appointed in Delaware.

Through the Roxana Cannon Arsht Fellowship, DC Volunteer Lawyers Project honors Judge Arsht's pioneering spirit and enduring legacy. The Fellowship is a two-year program designed to empower female attorneys by assisting with re-entry to the workforce after taking a career break.

**Leadership Development:** The Fellowship program fosters female lawyers after taking a professional hiatus by providing Fellows with mentorship, training, and professional development opportunities. Empowered with the skills and knowledge to effect meaningful change, they emerge as catalysts for social justice within their communities and beyond.

**Legal Empowerment:** In the spirit of Judge Arsht's commitment to equal access to justice, Fellows provide comprehensive legal assistance to survivors of domestic violence, immigrant survivors of gender-based violence, and underserved children. Through direct representation and advocacy, they champion the rights of those in need and strive to create a more equitable society.

**Community Engagement:** Building on Judge Arsht's legacy of community involvement, Fellows actively engage with local organizations, agencies, and advocacy groups to raise awareness about legal rights and resources. By nurturing partnerships and fostering dialogue, they empower individuals to advocate for themselves and effect positive change in their lives.



# OUR CORPORATE & LAW FIRM PARTNERS ARE CRITICAL ALLIES IN DCVLP'S WORK.



With the partnership of volunteer attorneys from more than 80 law firms and corporations, we help thousands of clients each year access lifesaving legal resources. In 2023, volunteers affiliated with the corporate and law firm partners listed below contributed an incredible 20,535 pro bono hours valued at \$7.7M in legal services across all of DCVLP's practice areas.

## \$1M+ Contributed in Pro Bono Hours

Hogan Lovells US LLP

## \$500,000 - \$999,000 Contributed in Pro Bono Hours

Latham & Watkins LLP  
 Steptoe & Johnson LLP  
 Verizon Communications Inc.

## \$100,000 - \$499,000 Contributed in Pro Bono Hours

Amazon  
 Clifford Chance US LLP  
 Covington & Burling LLP  
 Cozen O'Connor P.C.  
 Elias Law Group LLP  
 Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP  
 Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP  
 Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP  
 King & Spalding LLP  
 Nixon Peabody LLP  
 Ropes & Gray LLP  
 Troutman Pepper Hamilton Sanders LLP  
 White & Case LLP  
 Zuckerman Spaeder LLP

## up to \$99,000 Contributed in Pro Bono Hours

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP  
 Baker & Hostetler LLP  
 Bean, Kinney & Korman, P.C.  
 Bergmann & Moore LLC  
 Blank Rome LLP  
 BraunHagey & Borden LLP  
 Clario  
 Clark Hill PLC  
 Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP  
 Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll PLLC  
 Crowell & Moring LLP  
 Dechert LLP  
 Dentons US LLP  
 Devlin Law Firm LLC  
 Dinsmore & Shohl, LLP  
 DLA Piper LLP  
 Duane Morris LLP  
 Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC  
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# VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

2023



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"The lawyers appointed to my case helped me with everything. They were available to me, and they defended my interests as if they were their own. I felt accompanied at all times and they were always willing to answer my questions. **They restored peace to my life** and protected my son."

-DCVLP Client & DV Survivor



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On behalf of the survivors and children served in 2023, we are grateful to the following individuals and organizations for their generous support.

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**"MY LEGAL TEAM WAS AMAZING AND BEYOND  
HELPFUL. WORDS CAN'T DESCRIBE HOW  
THANKFUL I AM FOR THEM."**

-DCVLP Client & DV Survivor



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## 2023



Established in 2020 to recognize the generosity of donors making annual leadership gifts of \$1,000 or more and Benefit sponsors at the \$2,500 level and above, the Amplifying Voices Society serves as a cornerstone of financial support for DCVLP.

This unrestricted funding provides the highest level of financial flexibility for DCVLP, enabling us to deliver pro bono legal services to thousands of clients annually who are survivors of domestic violence, immigrant survivors of gender-based violence, and at-risk children living in poverty.

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**We would like to express our deepest gratitude to the following donors who have steadfastly supported our work, making DCVLP a philanthropic priority in each of the last 10 years. Your continued generosity has been essential in expanding DCVLP's programs and services so that thousands of survivors can access an attorney each year. Thank you for believing in DCVLP and for leaving a legacy in our community!**

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DCVLP's 2023 Benefit was a special evening honoring our Co-Founders, Karen Barker Marcou, Jenny Brody, and Marla Spindel in celebration of the organization's 15th anniversary.

We were pleased to recognize Covington & Burling LLP and Amazon as our Pro Bono and Corporate Partners of the Year, respectively, for their impactful contributions on behalf of domestic violence survivors and at-risk children in our community.

Guests also heard from DCVLP's clients, staff, and supporters, including our 2023 Champion of Justice, James Smith-Williams, Defensive End of the Washington Commanders, who is an outspoken advocate for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.



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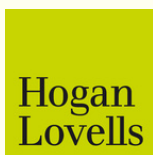
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