



**Open Letter to 2025 Capital Pro Bono Honor Roll Registrants
from Chief Judge Anna Blackburne-Rigsby and Chief Judge Milton C. Lee, Jr.**

April 20, 2026

On behalf of the D.C. Courts, we want to express our congratulations and immense gratitude to each of you who is recognized on the 2025 Capital Pro Bono Honor Roll for providing 50 or more hours of pro bono legal services last year. We are pleased to announce that 2025 was a record-breaking year with 6,052 attorneys registering for the Honor Roll – a significant increase from previous years. Moreover, 57% of the registrants completed 100 or more hours of pro bono service, thus qualifying for the High Honor Roll. Overall, this represents over 475,350 hours of legal work.

As Chief Judges, we see up close the challenges that individuals face when navigating the legal system on their own because they cannot afford a lawyer. While our city is fortunate to have an exemplary cadre of public interest lawyers working every day to serve District residents, their organizations' resources are limited. Pro bono participation is simply indispensable to the efficient functioning of our civil justice system. We are encouraged by the record-breaking number of lawyers qualifying for the 2025 Honor Roll and know that more pro bono legal work translates into more District residents receiving much-needed help, as well as increased access to justice in our community.

The D.C. Courts established the Capital Pro Bono Honor Roll in 2011. Since then, it has continued annually – with support from the D.C. Access to Justice Commission, the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Center, and the D.C. Bar – to recognize the contributions made by lawyers providing pro bono legal services to those who cannot afford counsel, and to disadvantaged small businesses and community-based nonprofits. Each year we are heartened to see lawyers from all types of practice settings register for the Honor Roll. The 2025 honorees represent more than 180 law firms, solo practices, government agencies, corporations, associations, nonprofit organizations, and academic institutions.

We applaud you for answering – and in many cases exceeding – the call to service embodied in the D.C. Rules of Professional Conduct to perform at least 50 hours of pro bono service each year. Pro bono service changes individual lives, strengthens families and communities, protects fundamental rights, and reinforces public trust in our legal system. Whether assisting clients facing urgent legal challenges, supporting community organizations and small businesses, or contributing to systemic reform efforts, your work has a lasting and profound impact. Your dedication of time, expertise, and resources to individuals and communities who would otherwise go without legal representation reflects the highest ideals of the legal profession.

We are pleased to recognize you on the 2025 Capital Pro Bono Honor Roll, and we thank you for carrying forward the robust tradition of pro bono service in our legal community.

Sincerely,

Hon. Anna Blackburne-Rigsby
Chief Judge
District of Columbia Court of Appeals

Hon. Milton C. Lee, Jr.
Chief Judge
Superior Court of the District of Columbia