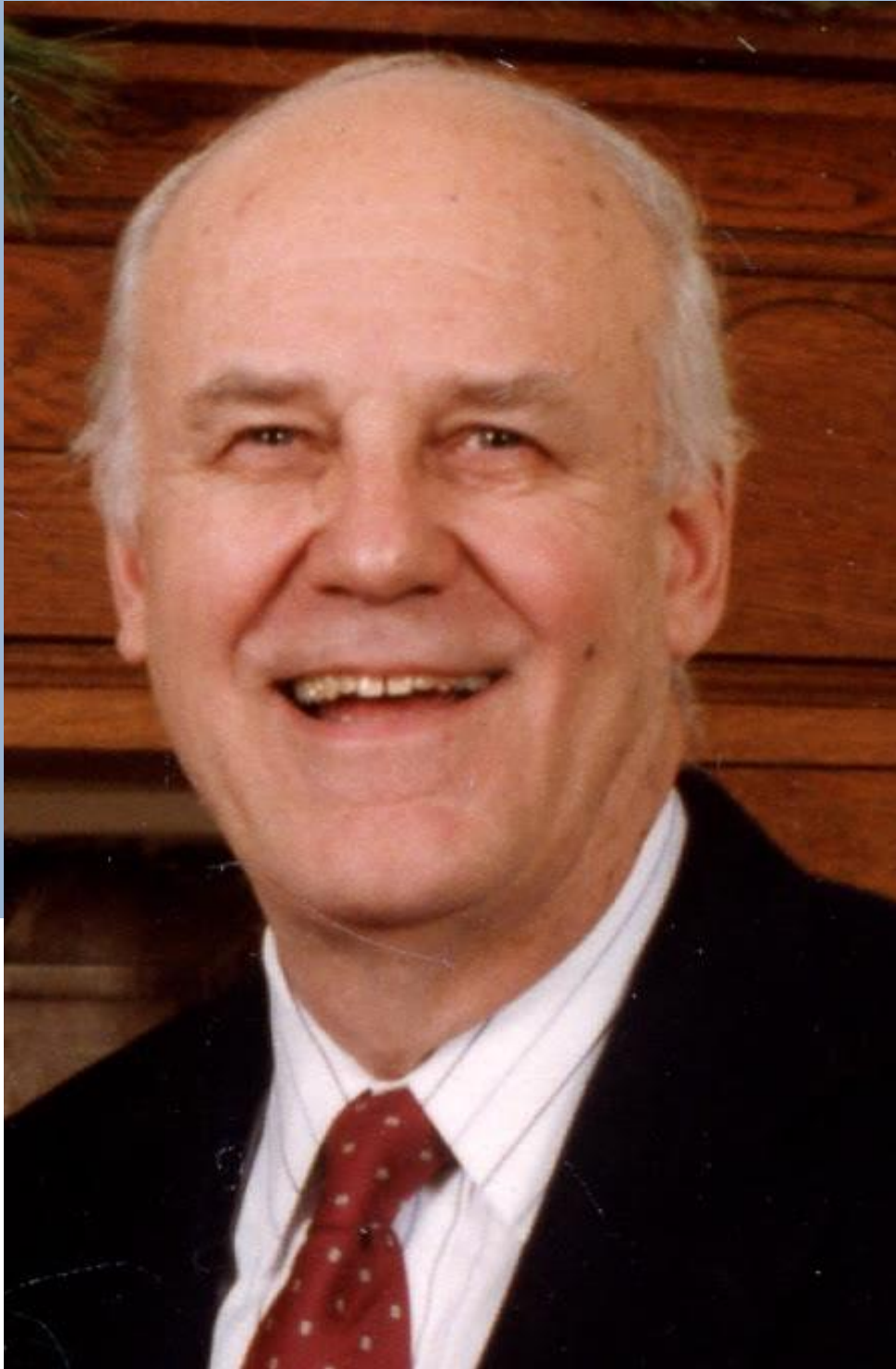


# CATHOLIC CHARITIES LEGAL NETWORK

ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2023 | 2024



**DEDICATED TO A. DUNCAN  
WHITAKER**



**1932 - 2024**



**“I am very grateful to Catholic Charities Legal Network for finding the law firm of Jones Day to help me.”**

**– Mr. R, A Client of CCLN**

The Catholic Charities Legal Network continues to thrive in our community. It provides free legal services to those in our community who could not otherwise afford legal representation or advice. CCLN’s great efforts to assist those in need has long been recognized and it is heartening to me to see the lengths to which members of CCLN go to provide the guidance and support to those so desperately in need. Those efforts often go well beyond providing legal services. Just one of many such stories is that of a family of four, parents with two young children, literally knocking on the door at Catholic Charities for assistance. They were hungry, had no funds and no place to live. Thanks to the direct intervention of our director James Bishop, Esq. who answered the door that morning at Catholic Charities, the family was soon fed, housed and provided a myriad of other services and assistance. There are many such stories. I am honored to report that other organizations recognize CCLN’s work and accomplishments. Mr. Bishop is being honored by SOAR, Support Our Aging Religious, Inc., at its annual awards gala this year. Now having had the opportunity to work with Mr. Bishop on matters pertaining to CCLN, I applaud SOAR for recognizing Mr. Bishop’s unwavering commitment for over 30 years to

our community. We are truly blessed to have such a wonderful person leading CCLN.

Our own chaplain Monsignor Peter J. Vaghi, Esq., who was instrumental in the establishment of CCLN, is being recognized as Clergy of the Year by the Catholic Business Network of Washington, DC. Msgr. Vaghi has dedicated his career to the service of others through his parish work, the John Carroll Society and CCLN. His guiding hand and prayerful direction have allowed CCLN to grow and prosper during his continuing tenure. We are all blessed to have his input and assistance. Deacon Darryl Kelley, Esq., an extremely active and dedicated member of CCLN, has been selected to provide the Homily at this year’s Red Mass which celebrates, in part, the opening of the United States Supreme Court’s session. Deacon Kelley is the first deacon ever to provide the Homily at the Red Mass and we are all very proud of his accomplishments and his recognition. It is evidence of the caliber of individual who assists CCLN.

The Legal Network Advisory Council, which oversees the operations of CCLN, includes many leaders of the Washington Legal Community, and it is a joy to work with them. They are all identified elsewhere in this report but let me say that each of these individuals gives up his or her time generously to assist CCLN in its efforts. Each and every one of the members of the Council is dedicated to the mission of CCLN and happily works without recognition.



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The biggest fundraiser overseen by the Council is its annual golf tournament. This year's record-breaking effort has been run by Denis Mitchell, Esq., and Rob Shaffer, Esq., with Kristine Dunne Maher, Esq., and Andrea Halverson Harper, Esq., providing the organizational assistance that has made us all look good! Many other members of the Council have also assisted, and without their support, including Thomas Kelly, Esq., who obtained the site for us, record fundraising would not be possible.

Lastly, I would be remiss if I did not also mention John E. McCarthy Jr., Esq.'s being recognized as alumni of the year by Catholic University and Denis Mitchell being recognized by the John Carroll Society for his work with CCLN and elsewhere. The Legal Network is, I must say, a remarkable group!

Sincerely,  
Andrew N. Cook, Esq.  
Chair, Catholic Charities Legal Network  
Advisory Council



Recipients of the John Carroll Society's 2023 Pro Bono Legal Service Awards at the Red Mass Brunch on October 1, 2023. From left to right are Dr. Eileen Moore, President of the John Carroll Society; Washington Auxiliary Bishop Juan Esposito, the main celebrant and homilist of the 2023 Red Mass; Patrick J. Kennedy, Esq., a 2023 Pro Bono Legal Service Award Recipient; Maureen Donahue Hardwick, a managing partner in the D.C. office of Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP; Robert Shaffer, Esq. a 2023 Pro Bono Legal Service Award recipient; Edward A. O'Connell, the chair of the 2023 Red Mass Committee; and Msgr. Peter Vaghi, the longtime chaplain of the John Carroll Society. (John Carroll Society photo by Christopher Newkumet)



Dear Friends,

I completed my thirtieth year as Director of Catholic Charities Legal Network, as our program completed over thirty-five years of service to the public. I am pleased to report that in Fiscal Year 2024, the Legal Network assisted 1,789 individuals by providing direct legal representation and presenting legal education seminars in the District of Columbia and Maryland. I am also proud to report that our volunteers self-reported 2,733.50 pro bono hours valued at \$2,248,584.80.

Each year, the needs and number of our clients in the D.C. area seem to grow ever-larger, especially with issues of employment, domestic and custody disputes, landlord-tenant concerns, and looming consumer debt. Instead of despairing, we should see this as an opportunity to do more great work for these underserved groups. But our capacity to meet these needs is inhibited by the reduced size of our program's staff. Increased revenue is needed to hire additional staff attorneys, administrative assistants, and law student interns. Some progress has been made in this, such as the hiring of our valuable part-time staff attorney Nam Mee Cho, and I would like to thank the District of Columbia Bar Foundation for awarding us a grant to fund the bilingual paralegal position held by Emma Johnston on a full-time basis. Still, there is much work to be done.

**“I am excited to share with you that my IRS Income Tax issue has been resolved in court and in my favor. Thank you for your support and prayers. Special thanks to Jim Bishop for referring my case to an Income Tax pro bono Counsel, Nick Mowbray at Baker Hostetler. I am so blessed to have each of you and I deeply appreciate you all a great deal.”**

**- Ms. S, A Client of CCLN**

Nevertheless, we have managed to serve a greater number of individuals this year than the last due to the hard work of our small team and our volunteers. When an expanded staff becomes available to us, it will combine with that spirit of diligence and service to the benefit of all those in need of legal aid.

In the face of all these challenges, the Legal Network still has many causes for celebration. First, we continue to be grateful for our selfless volunteers who give so freely of their time and use their legal skills to assist their neighbors in need. Thank you to those volunteers for conducting telephone and in-person intake weekly and monthly. Special thanks also to our government, solo, mid-size, and large law firm attorneys who accepted pro bono cases from the Legal Network, directly impacting lives for the better. We also thank the Catholic Charities Grants Department for helping us by writing major grants for the program, and the Development Office for helping us raise funds through contributions. Your help has been and will continue to be essential to the operations of the Legal Network. This past year, the Legal Network was blessed to have attorneys devote extraordinary amounts of time to the program and its clients. This includes Deacon Darryl A. Kelley, deacon at St. John

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the Evangelist Church in Clinton, Maryland, and his zealous representation of clients on a pro bono basis in the Prince George's County court system, and Patrick J. Kennedy, a retired federal government attorney who assists the Legal Network staff on a weekly basis at our Hickey Center office in assessing each client's case.

I am especially appreciative of the Legal Network's staff for their commitment to serving the poor and underserved in our community.

Of particular importance to this program is the Legal Network Advisory Council.

I am grateful to all Council members and the Advisory Chairman, Andrew N. Cook, Esq., for their support and encouragement.

I am also thankful for the continued support of the President and CEO of Catholic Charities, Jim Malloy.

Lastly, I am thankful for the financial support the Legal Network has received from its many donors and partners.

Though we have more work to do, I am proud of what we have been able to accomplish over the last year, and I invite you to peruse this report to learn more about our successes.

Sincerely,  
James D. Bishop, Esq., Director, Catholic Charities  
Legal Network



Red Mass Brunch October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 at the Capital Hilton Hotel. From left to right: Monsignor Peter J. Vaghi, the Chaplain of the John Carroll Society, Jim Bishop, and His Eminence Wilton Cardinal Gregory of the Archdiocese of Washington.

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# CATHOLIC CHARITIES LEGAL NETWORK'S MISSION

**To provide access  
to the highest  
quality pro bono  
civil legal services  
to the poorest of  
the poor within  
the Archdiocese of  
Washington without  
regard to their  
religious affiliation.**



# Catholic Charities Legal Network's Impact

The support of volunteer attorneys from law firms, the government, and solo practices allows the Legal Network to fulfill its mission of offering free legal assistance to the poor. These volunteers provide pro bono legal representation and conduct intake with clients. Volunteer attorneys also monitor the Legal Network's telephone intake line and schedule clients for in-person intake, providing referrals when appropriate. Additionally, they present civil law seminars for low-income groups, and they mentor attorneys who handle pro bono cases.

The Legal Network assists families and individuals who earn at or below 250% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. For an individual seeking the Legal Network's services in 2024, the income limit is \$37,650, and for a family of four, the limit is \$78,000. 1,789 low-income individuals were served in Maryland and Washington, DC during the fiscal year.

## What We Do

The Legal Network addresses:

- Bankruptcy
- Consumer Law
- Employment Law
- Family Law
- Government Entitlements
- Landlord and Tenant Law
- Wills and Advanced Medical Directives

The services we provide:

- Case placement with volunteer attorneys
- Information and referral
- In-person client intake
- Seminars on civil law topics for low-income audiences
- Legal training seminars and mentorship for volunteer attorneys
- Direct representation in a limited number of DC and Maryland cases

## Where We Help

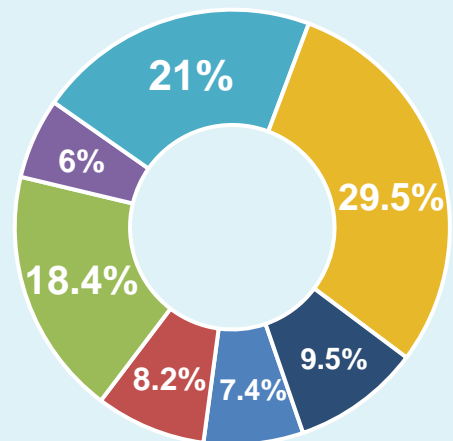
Washington, DC  
Montgomery County

Prince George's County  
Calvert County

Charles County  
St. Mary's County

Before COVID-19 necessitated remote work, Legal Network staff and volunteers met with clients for legal consultations at the Hickey Center in downtown DC, and the Susan D. Mona Center in Prince George's County. Post Covid-19 restrictions, the Legal Network still conducts intake on a remote basis.

**Makeup of Case Types  
in FY 2023-24**



- Government Entitlements
- Other
- Employment
- Wills & Advanced Medical Directives
- Landlord/Tenant & Other Housing
- Family
- Bankruptcy & Consumer Debt



## 2023 | 2024 Special Thanks

We thank all the firms who contributed to our mission through volunteer work. Without the help of these firms, the Legal Network would not have a vital line to the residents of D.C. and Maryland. Not only do they perform pro bono work, they also provide a great many hours in intake, which is just as if not more important. First and second stage intake are essential to placing the cases of callers with either volunteer attorneys or referring them to better suited organizations.

Baker Hostetler  
Crowell & Moring LLP  
DLA Piper  
Hogan Lovells US LLP  
Kirkland & Ellis LLP  
Miller & Chevalier Chartered  
O'Melveny & Myers LLP  
Reed Smith LLP  
Steptoe & Johnson LLP  
Wiley Rein LLP



The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament held at the Kenwood Golf & Country Club in Bethesda, Maryland. We thank all those that contributed, especially the generous contributions given by the organizations listed in this report.



Director Jim Bishop, Bilingual Paralegal Emma Johnston, former Staff Attorney Carolyn Ruyak, and Deacon Darryl Kelley at the Susan D. Mona Center.

Student volunteers have been extremely helpful to the Legal Network staff in the process of becoming a paperless operation based on computers. They have helped us communicate with our clients and associated firms, assisting the staff and the volunteer attorneys to ensure we serve pro bono needs of clients throughout the Archdiocese of Washington.

Mark Kormos, Pennsylvania State University (undergrad), Summer 2024

Howard (Hank) Hyatte, University of Chicago (undergrad), Summer 2022, Summer 2023, Summer 2024

Ryan Brooks, Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law, Summer 2023

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## 2023 | 2024 Volunteer Spotlight



**Steve Obermeier, Esq.**



**Anita Stephen**

The Legal Network could not function without the hard work and dedication of its volunteers, who we thank for providing the bulk of our service in first and second stage intakes, the Advisory Council, and personally taking on the civil issues of clients. Among so many remarkable participants, we want to highlight the exceptional work of Steve Obermeier, Partner at Wiley Rein LLP, and Anita Stephen, Pro Bono Administrator at Crowell & Moring LLP, both of whom have coordinated pro bono legal services among their firms.

When Steve was first introduced to the telephone intake volunteering in the Legal Network, he took the initiative in getting his firm involved. He was quick to reach out to associates and paralegals in his firm, finding many who were enthusiastic about the idea, be it for gaining experience, becoming involved in the CCLN, or for the service opportunity itself. Anita has been doing the same since 2009 when she joined her Crowell & Moring's pro bono program. She said: "I coordinate our participation in CCLN's Hotline by advertising opportunities, setting up the shift schedules and sharing updates with our attorneys. I also submit conflicts checks, process the paperwork and send out retainer letters for pro bono cases referred to our firm by the Legal Network." Her efforts over the years have helped make Crowell one of the top contributors in pro bono hours and valuation.

Beyond just telephone intake, Steve used a similar system for delegating pro bono work among associates. By assigning a paralegal and staying involved in major stages of the cases, he was able to take on a great deal of pro bono work without undermining his commitments to his regular firm work. He stated that what stood out to him was both the positive interest he received on these projects and the effort that the firm's associates put into providing excellent legal service.

Anita found similar enthusiasm among the colleagues she introduced to the CCLN: "We present volunteering with the CCLN Hotline as a concise, easy way to participate in the Firm's pro bono program, but in fact the work is so much more. Attorneys find volunteering on the hotline deeply rewarding and are routinely reminded of the lasting impact of their conversations with callers to the Hotline. For many callers, the hotline is their first stop on a journey towards resolutions to challenging situations including landlord/tenant disputes, domestic violence, custody cases and immigration-related inquiries."

One of the most rewarding parts of this work is how it affects the lives of individuals in need in so many unique ways. When asked about his favorite pro bono cases, Steve recalled mediating between a woman and her landlord over mold that posed a major health risk to her. Another involved helping a paraplegic man regain his state provided nurse after he was incorrectly evaluated to not need the help. He continues to have these amazing experiences, being struck by the amount of good that is done by simply spending time with the clients and their families.

Reflecting on the experience of service, Steve said that his Catholic Faith was a major part in his undertakings, with his hope being to "never say no when asked, be that by his Church or Jim." He specifically asked that the firm and associates he recruits be given recognition for the time and work they put in: "It has truly been a team effort." Anita likewise stated that "Catholic Charities Legal Network occupies a special place in my heart. I admire the work CCLN does and am grateful to play a small role in advancing and facilitating that important work." The Legal Network is deeply grateful for the efforts of them and their firms.

## 2023 | 2024

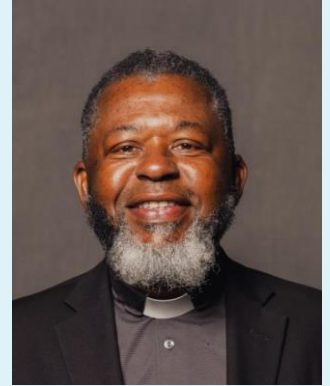
James D. Bishop, Esq.  
Director, Catholic Charities Legal Network

Jim's entire professional career has been serving low-income and homeless residents for close to forty years. Prior to accepting the position as Director of Catholic Charities Legal Network of DC in December 1993, he was employed for eight years at the mandatory District of Columbia Bar in several public interest positions. Jim has directed Catholic Charities Legal Network for over 30 years. He is a parishioner of Saint Patrick's Catholic Church in downtown DC and a third generation native Washingtonian. Jim was a family mediator in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia's Multi-Door Dispute Resolution Division for over 30 years. He has served on the Board of Governors of the John Carroll Society, the Civic Board of Directors of the Council for Court Excellence, and the District of Columbia Bar Foundation's Scoutt Prize Committee. Among Jim's honors include the Equal Justice Award from the University of the District of Columbia's David A. Clarke School of Law, the Bar Association of the District of Columbia's Suzanne V. Richards Award, the Jerrold Scoutt Prize from the DC Bar Foundation, the John Carroll Society Medal, the Archdiocese of Washington's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cardinal's Award, and Catholic Charities' Griffin Award. While Jim has been at the helm of Catholic Charities Legal Network, the program has assisted approximately 85,000 low-income and homeless District of Columbia and Maryland residents with a variety of civil law cases such as child custody, Social Security, and bankruptcy matters. He has made sure that residents are educated about their legal rights in such areas as consumer/fraud, child custody, and wills and advanced medical directives by conducting seminars at local churches, senior citizen organizations, transitional and low-barrier shelters. Jim is a magna cum laude graduate of Lincoln University in Pennsylvania. He was President of Lincoln's Alpha Chi Honor Society, and a graduate of Howard University School of Law. Jim holds a certificate from the University of Notre Dame Mendoza College of Business for completing the Nonprofit Business Excellence Program for Catholic Leaders. Jim is a member of the Knights of Columbus, Council 224. He is a member of the United States Supreme Court, District of Columbia, and Pennsylvania Bars.



Deacon Darryl A. Kelley, Esq.  
Staff Attorney, Catholic Charities Legal Network

Deacon Kelley is a resident of Prince George's County and has a law practice in Camp Springs, Maryland. Deacon Kelley began accepting pro bono matters from Catholic Charities Legal Network (CCLN) in 2018. His cases for CCLN involve family, estate, landlord/tenant, and bankruptcy matters. He currently serves as deacon at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church. He also serves as a Public Policy Advisor for the Archdiocese of Washington's Public Policy Team. He is a former Maryland State Delegate for the 26<sup>th</sup> Legislative District and previously served as Legislative Assistant for Education and Labor to former United States Senator Paul S. Sarbanes. He continues to serve on local committees in the county, supports global peace initiatives, and serves on the Board of Directors for the Forestville Pregnancy Center in Marlow Heights, Maryland. Deacon Kelley served as an Inspector/Deputy United States Marshal for many years in federal law enforcement. He completed the Capitol Hill Fellowship Program, Government Affairs Institute at Georgetown University, and graduated from the University of Maryland School of Law and the University of Virginia with a Bachelor of Arts in History. Deacon Kelley is licensed to practice law in both Maryland and the District of Columbia.





## 2023 | 2024 CCLN Staff

Nam Mee Cho, Esq.  
Staff Attorney, Catholic Charities Legal Network

Nam Mee Cho is our new Staff Attorney, replacing Carolyn Ruyak. Nam Mee's legal career has been focused on representing abused persons. After taking time off from practicing law to move abroad and raise her now-grown children, Nam Mee most recently served as Senior Staff Attorney at The Torture Abolition Survivors Support Coalition. Nam Mee has worked or volunteered as an attorney at Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services, Just Neighbors Legal Services, and Boat People SOS, as well as been an Equal Justice Works Fellow at Tahirih Justice Center. In addition, Nam Mee worked for five years at Polaris, an anti-human trafficking non-profit. Nam Mee received her B.A. from Emory University in French Literature and Political Science, an M.A. from The University of Chicago in International Relations, and a J.D. from The George Washington University Law School. She is admitted to practice law in Maryland and the District of Columbia.



Patrick Kennedy  
Volunteer Attorney

Attorney Patrick J. Kennedy has been a loyal volunteer with Catholic Charities Legal Network since 2004 to the present. Prior to Covid-19 and while Patrick was employed at the United States Department of Homeland Security, he assisted the Legal Network with in-person client intake as well as helped staff with difficult client matters. While Patrick has since retired from the federal government, he still assists our program with client intake and administrative matters. He has volunteered for several years with Catholic Charities Legal Network's Annual Golf Tournaments. He has been an annual financial sponsor of the Legal Network. Patrick is a parishioner at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in our city's Georgetown section. Patrick received his undergraduate and Master of Divinity degrees from the University of Notre Dame. He also has a master's degree in public administration from the University of Virginia. He earned his law degree from George Mason University's Antonin Scalia School of Law. Patrick is a member of the District of Columbia Bar.

Emma Johnston  
Bilingual Paralegal, Catholic Charities Legal Network

Emma Johnston began working at the CCLN as our bilingual paralegal in July of 2023. Emma has been of immense assistance to many Spanish-speaking clients, as well as to the CCLN staff attorneys. She is enthusiastic to be working toward our mission of serving the Archdiocese, and CCLN is glad to have Emma as a member of its team. Emma attended college at Trinity Washington University and obtained an associate's degree in paralegal studies at Everest College in Arlington, Virginia. Prior to her arrival at CCLN, Emma worked at Legal Services of Northern Virginia. She is currently enrolled at Taft Law School. Emma is a mother of three children and an avid runner who has participated in several marathons, including running the Marine Corps Marathon three times. CCLN wishes to thank the DC Bar Foundation for its longstanding support of this bilingual paralegal position.

Mark Kormos  
Volunteer Intern

Mark Kormos is an intern for the summer of 2024. He is a current undergraduate student at Penn State University, majoring in Economics with ambitions to attend law school. Mark is on the board of the Newman Catholic Student Association and is a member of the Club Cross Country team. He is an honors graduate of Saint John Paul the Great Catholic High School, where he was a member of the varsity Lacrosse team and student government. Mark is an Eagle Scout and received the St. Martin de Porres award for outstanding leadership and academic excellence during his time in high school. Mark is a parishioner of Our Lady of Angels Parish in Woodbridge and is a member of the John Carroll Society, Young Catholic Professionals D.C. Chapter, and Council 5750 of the Knights of Columbus.

Howard (Hank) Hyatte  
Volunteer Intern

Hank Hyatte is our senior intern, having volunteered in the summers of 2022, 2023, and 2024. His familiarity with the processes in the Legal Network suit him to assist Director Jim Bishop, oversee the projects of other interns, and undertake larger semi-independent projects, such as this Annual Report. Hank is a parishioner of the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament and was a frequent altar server before leaving for college. He is graduate of St. John's College High School in the Scholars Program, a rising senior at the University of Chicago, and a future law student.



2023 | 2024  
Advisory Council



**Andrew N. Cook, Esq.**  
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**Michael J. Francese, Esq.**  
*Immediate Past Chairman*  
Partner, Covington & Burling LLP



**John E. McCarthy Jr., Esq.\***  
*Chairman Emeritus*  
Crowell & Moring LLP



**James P. Gillespie, Esq.\***  
Partner  
Kirkland & Ellis LLP



**Christopher Anzidei, Esq.\***  
General Counsel of the Archdiocese of  
Washington



**Brian W. Stolarz, Esq.\***  
Senior Counsel, Norton Rose  
Fulbright US LLP



**Monsignor Peter J.  
Vaghi, Esq.\***  
Church of the Little Flower  
*Chaplain*  
John Carroll Society



**James D. Bishop, Esq.\***  
*Director*  
Catholic Charities Legal Network

*\*Ex Officio members*

2023 | 2024  
Advisory Council



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Partner  
Troutman Pepper  
Hamilton Sanders LLP



**Miguel Eaton, Esq.**  
Partner  
Jones Day



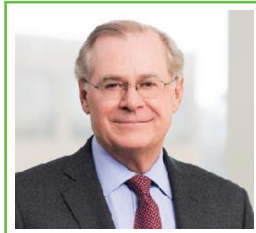
**The Honorable  
Leo E. Green, Jr.**



**Andrea Halverson  
Harper, Esq.**  
Assistant General  
Counsel Pepco  
Holdings



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Kelley, Esq.**  
Corporate Counsel  
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Stein Mitchell Beato &  
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**Stephen J.  
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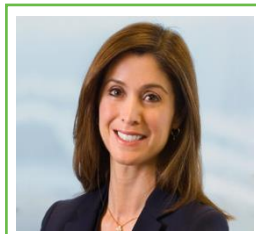
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Partner  
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**Jason N.  
Workmaster,  
Esq.**  
Miller & Chevalier  
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# 2023 | 2024 Year End Review

## Individuals

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Miguel Eaton  
Rashida MacMurray-Abdullah

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Brendan Burtis  
Deacon Darryl Kelley  
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Jamie Ostrow  
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Mr. and Mrs. David H. Potts-Dupre  
Matthew J. Sheptuck  
Mary Ellen Kelly  
Kevin Somerville  
Uchenna Nwogu

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PEPCO  
Crowell & Moring LLP  
Jones Day  
Kirkland & Ellis LLP  
Wiley Rein LLP

### Benefactors \$5,000-\$9,999

King & Spalding LLP  
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP  
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Duane Morris LLP  
Decaro, Doran, Siciliano, Gallagher & DeBlasis, LLP  
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## Contributions from Churches, Non-Profits, and Foundations

The District of Columbia Bar Foundation  
The Greater Washington Community Foundation  
Our Lady of Mercy Church  
The John Carroll Society  
Kirkland & Ellis Foundation  
The Foundation of the Bar Association of the District of Columbia  
The Miller & Chevalier Charitable Foundation  
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## 2023 | 2024 Year End Review



Director Jim Bishop, Chairman Andrew N. Cook, and CEO Jim Malloy at a John Carroll Society brunch on January 7, 2024.

Red Mass 2023: Deacon Kelley, Bishop Juan R. Esposito-Garcia, and Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala.



This fiscal year has seen us deepen our collaboration with the District of Columbia Bar Foundation. The funding from their grant allowed us to do community education seminars, continue professional training, and provide brief intake and referral services to the D.C. residents at the D.C. Superior Court. Emma

Johnston, our bilingual paralegal, works at the D.C. Superior Courthouse twice a month to provide these brief information and referral services in both English and Spanish. She has been most active in the landlord/tenant and family divisions, making referrals to resources within the Court and other programs throughout the city. Even after arriving at the court, finding the help they need can be difficult task for those unfamiliar with the daunting system. Emma Johnston aids in navigating them to the proper resources to get them assistance with their legal matters. For example, after speaking to a person seeking assistance in a custody matter, she would direct them to the Family Law Division, where they can be referred to services such as the D.C. Superior Multidoor Dispute Resolution Program, the Legal Aid Society of D.C., the Neighborhood Legal Services Program, or the CCLN. This program is completely new to the Legal Network, and we hope it continues to grow and serve D.C. residents in the coming years.

On Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024, John E. McCarthy, Honorary Chairman Emeritus of the Advisory Council, was honored with the D.C. Bar's 2024 Laura Rinaldi Pro

Bono Lawyer of the Year Award. The D.C. Bar states: "The award is presented to a lawyer for excellence, achievement, and commitment to providing legal services to the District of Columbia's low-income and/or disadvantaged individuals and/or organizations serving such individuals." He was recognized at this year's D.C. Bar Celebration of Leadership at the Westin Washington, D.C. Downtown Hotel. Mr. McCarthy has been a longtime volunteer attorney with the Legal Network. He has accepted pro bono cases from the Legal Network in such areas as child custody and consumer matters, as well as assisting the staff with legal ethics issues. He has been a valued member of the Advisory Council, the Golf Tournament Committee, and accepts pro bono cases from the Legal Network. In his letter recommending John for the award, director Jim Bishop wrote: "for the past 30 years, I have worked with more than five hundred individual volunteer lawyers. John E. McCarthy Jr. stands out in front of them all as the rare volunteer that always says "Yes" when a pro bono client needs help."



Father Patrick Lewis, Advisory Council member Brian Stolarz, and Director Jim Bishop pose in front of a Catholic Charities Maria's Meals truck. Both Brian Stolarz and the parishioners of St. Patrick Catholic Church help us in the distribution of meals to those in need, primarily the homeless.

One of our chief causes of celebration this year is the exceptional work of our volunteer attorneys, whose contribution of pro bono hours and value has greatly exceeded last year's. At a final count of 2733.50 hours valued at \$2,248,584.80, it marks a 11% increase in hours and a 25% increase in dollar value submitted by a similar number of volunteer attorneys and firms over the prior fiscal year. We are ecstatic about this display of charitable spirit and good service for underserved clients, and we hope to bring in more volunteers this new fiscal year to affect them with this same joy.



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The 39<sup>th</sup> annual Catholic Charities Gala was held on Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at the Washington Hilton, raising \$3.150 million and hosting nearly 1,000 attendees. We welcomed 30 first time gala donors who either sponsored a table or purchased individual tickets. 13 parishes who have not historically participated in the gala attended this year. The Fund the Mission gave guests a chance to financially support the mission of CCADW, raising over \$185,000 and resulted in new donors to the agency.



Thank you to Miller & Chevalier Charitable Foundation for their continued outstanding support of our work here at CCLN in fiscal year 2024. Among their contributions are providing funding for our attorneys' licenses and for director Jim Bishop to attend the Equal Justice Conference.

We are pleased to welcome the newest members of the Advisory Council, Jason Workmaster and Carine Stoick. We have had a long association with both their firms. Miller & Chevalier and Hogan Lovells have consistently represented on our Advisory Council, conducted client intake, and accepted pro bono cases for over 30 years. We are grateful for Jason and Carine continuing this tradition.

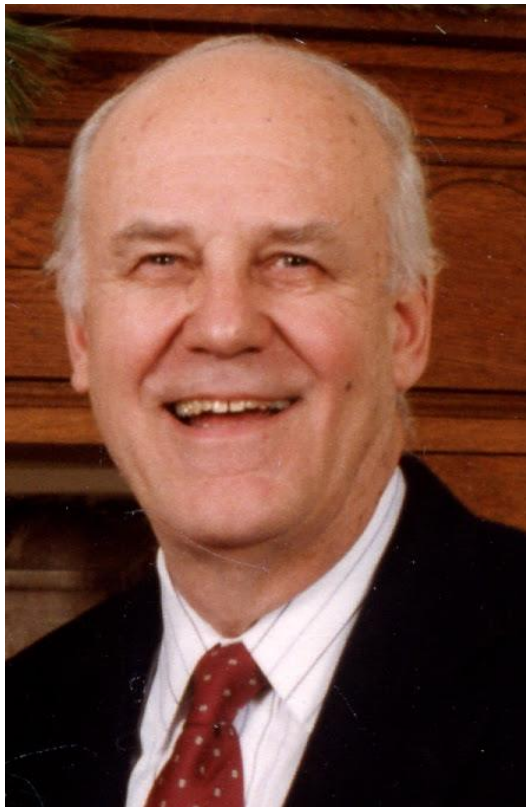


Jim Bishop with Jacqueline Rishty, director of Immigration Legal Services at Catholic Charities. They have worked together for over thirty years.

Deacon Kelley and his wife, Evelyn, with Kenneth and Margie Simpson, Gerald and Sannette Coles, at the Red Mass in October 2023.



From left to right: former volunteer Robert M. Smith, Director Jim Bishop, and Sister Romana Uzodimma.



**In Memoriam:**  
**A. Duncan Whitaker**  
**1932 - 2024**  
**A Great Ally of the**  
**Legal Network**

**This Annual Report is made in memoriam of the late Duncan Whitaker. On behalf of Catholic Charities' Board of Directors and the Legal Network's Advisory Council, we are thankful for his long-term support of the Legal Network, including as an Advisory Council member, a supporter of our volunteer receptions, a financial contributor, a warm personality, and a generous person. He was a provider of excellent legal services to those most in need, as recognized by his receiving the John Carroll Society Pro Bono Legal Service Award in 1999. We will continue to miss his presence in the office at the Legal Network.**



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Please make sure to direct your  
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# CATHOLIC CHARITIES LEGAL NETWORK

ANNUAL REPORT  
2023 | 2024



On behalf of the Catholic Charities Legal Network, thank you for your continued support of our work serving the most vulnerable.



Special thank you for the generous support of the DC Bar Foundation, which enables our Catholic Charities Legal Network team to continue to offer the highest quality pro bono civil legal services to our clients. Thank you on our behalf and on behalf of the clients we serve.

<https://www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/program/legal-network/>

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