



TZEDEK DC
Legal Help for People in Debt

Pursuing Justice

2020-2021 Report



Friends,

We are honored to share Tzedek DC's 2020-2021 report with you.

We pursue our mission of safeguarding the legal rights and financial health of vulnerable DC residents through a racial justice lens because of the massive wealth and opportunity gaps that persist in the District of Columbia and nationwide, reflecting centuries of structural racism. The ongoing pandemic, now into its 31st month, has laid these disparities bare.

Through extraordinary advocacy by our team and our coalition allies during the pandemic, we achieved systemic relief for residents during most of the last two years through a series of emergency legislative measures that created moratoria on debt collection and debt collection lawsuits. As of April 15, 2022, however, these emergency moratoria protections based on the public health emergency have dissolved, and mass debt collection lawsuits against vulnerable DC residents have now resumed.

In the current environment, our goal is to maintain and increase our capacity to help vulnerable clients stabilize and survive over the difficult months to come. We remain dedicated to helping close the massive gaps in access to justice and the financial systems by addressing both the root causes and resulting hardships that burden our community.

All of the work described in this report can be accomplished only because of you, our volunteers, funders, donors, and programmatic partners and allies. Your time, financial contributions, and moral support allow us to pursue justice for thousands of our neighbors. With your ongoing commitment to our work, we will be well-positioned to serve many thousands more in the years ahead and to help craft District of Columbia-wide systemic solutions to persisting barriers to equality.

We hope you take as much pride as we do in the work you have helped to shape and sustain.

With gratitude,

Ariel Levinson-Waldman
Founding President & Director-Counsel

Rachel Kronowitz
Chair, Board of Directors

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Tzedek DC [has] consistently surpassed my wildest expectations. Tzedek DC is an extraordinary public interest center.

— DAVID STERN
Equal Justice Works



Mission

MISSION STATEMENT

Drawing from the Jewish teachings of “Tzedek, tzedek tirdof,” or “Justice, justice you shall pursue,” Tzedek DC’s mission is to safeguard the legal rights and financial health of DC residents with low incomes dealing with the often devastating consequences of abusive debt collection practices and other consumer related issues.

Why We Pursue This Mission

Tzedek DC carries out our mission with the goal of addressing racial gaps in wealth and equality. Tzedek DC seeks to build on the positive and inspiring examples of the Jewish community’s historical participation in advancing racial equity and to be a strong ally in the fight against racism, antisemitism, and all forms of oppression. Though Tzedek DC is not a religious organization, these traditions and values guide our work and our determination to take affirmative steps to help achieve equality.

The Justice Gap

Debt has become a significant racial justice issue. Against a backdrop of longstanding structural racism leading to wealth and opportunity gaps that track race, today's debt collection practices, debt collection lawsuits, and predatory lending target Black and Latino residents at disproportionate rates. In DC, these discriminatory practices are compounded by laws that, in effect, criminalize poverty by imposing often unaffordable fines and fees that lead to crippling cycles of debt.

The result is a head-turning racial wealth gap in DC. Here, the net assets of white households are an estimated **81 times** those of Black households and **22 times** those of Latino households. Black DC households are five times more likely than their white neighbors with similar incomes to have a debt in collections. These combined conditions prevent households with lower incomes from gaining steady financial footing, which further perpetuates poverty and economic inequality.

Right: Client Norris lifts up his Tzedek DC mug



Setting the Record Straight

DC Ward 7 resident Ms. Silver is a 36-year-old Black single mother of three. She received a job offer that paid significantly more than she was currently earning. However, the job was contingent upon a background check. During Ms. Silver's background check, an alleged debt to a prior landlord was flagged for review. The report falsely listed a monetary judgment that had never, in fact, been awarded against Ms. Silver to the landlord. Invoking the protections of the Fair Credit Reporting Act, Tzedek DC helped Ms. Silver dispute the report and wrote an explanatory letter to the agency that was conducting the background check, which succeeded in breaking the impasse. Ms. Silver soon started her new job!



Impact

Our 3-part strategy works to fight abusive debt collection practices, counteract the weaponization of poverty, and support DC residents in their quest for a more stable and hopeful financial future.

Free Direct Services

We offer direct legal and financial counseling services at no cost to DC residents within 400% of Federal Poverty guidelines facing debt- and consumer-related legal issues.

Community Education and Outreach

Our outreach activities make getting legal assistance easier and less daunting while simultaneously spreading preventative education guidance.

Catalyzing Systemic Reform

We engage with a broad range of coalition partners in advocating for systemic reforms that will advance racial equity, expand access to justice, and broaden economic opportunities.

FREE DIRECT SERVICES

Debt, debt collectors, and related legal crises plague DC residents with low incomes. Having a lawyer can make a world of difference for those who are facing such problems. Typical debt- and consumer-related legal issues that our clients deal with arise from credit card debt, reporting errors, identity theft, financial abuse by intimate partners, medical bills, housing matters, auto loans, and problems with consumer products.

950+ residents with low incomes served 2020-21



95% positive outcome for clients



\$2,565* saved per full representation matter



**equivalent to 4+ weeks' pay at DC's minimum wage!*

Knowing the Ropes

Ms. Kassa, a U.S. citizen from Ethiopia, is a single mother of three in Ward 4. Ms. Kassa and three other people opened a franchise restaurant called Butter Chicken Company and entered into a lease agreement for commercial restaurant space. Unfortunately, the pandemic forced the restaurant to close from March-October 2020. When it reopened in November 2020, Ms. Kassa returned to work but was reduced to living solely on unemployment benefits because the restaurant was making only a quarter of its pre-COVID-19 income—not nearly enough to cover salaries, rent, and other expenses. The landlord filed a complaint for breach of contract against the business and all four owners, seeking \$146,100 in damages plus court costs and attorneys' fees. A Tzedek DC staff attorney was able to advise Ms. Kassa about the Small Business Administration and its COVID-19 assistance for small businesses, alerting her to both the Paycheck Protection Program and the Restaurant Revitalization Fund. As a result of this advice, Butter Chicken Company was able to get enough money from the SBA to repay the past-due rent and avoid any damages.



COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Tzedek DC’s practical and preventative education helps families with lower incomes know their legal rights, cushion their losses, triage their payments, reduce uncertainty, avert worst-case scenarios, access programs to build assets and strengthen credit, and, most importantly, understand that debt can be a legal issue. We do this work in alliance with community partners—legal service providers, anti-poverty, neighborhood, and faith organizations, and government agencies—throughout the DC. In 2020 and 2021, we expanded our community education through two ambitious projects.



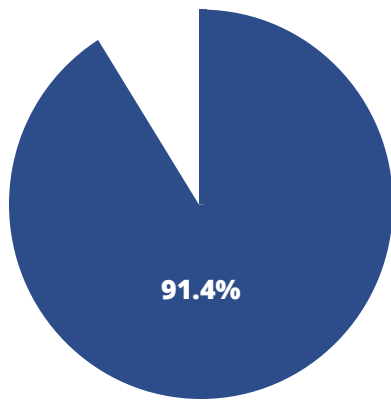
Left: Community Outreach and Communications Consultant Naomi Ayala and Staff Attorney Jorge Tormes distributing self help materials

Sin Deudas, Sin Dudas / No Debts, No Doubts

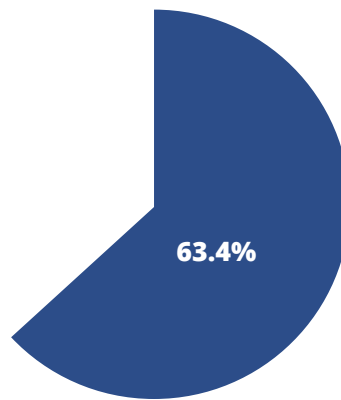
Our public education campaign to serve the Latino community, Sin Deudas, Sin Dudas, launched as a pilot program in late 2019 to serve all Spanish-speaking and Latino community members, regardless of citizenship or immigration status. In 2021, we initiated its English-language analogue, No Debts, No Doubts, to reach DC’s English-speaking residents, with a particular focus on serving Black community members. Through diverse partnerships, training sessions, workshops, and printed information, we provided guidance on problems affecting hundreds of community members, such as how to get legal assistance, avoid default judgments, monitor and manage credit, and spot economic crimes like scams, fraud, and identity theft.

We also began laying plans to develop a bilingual multimedia communications campaign encompassing radio spots and interviews, social media, and even targeted ads in bus shelters. The campaign, which will be fully implemented in time to coincide with the increased debt case filings anticipated in 2023, will inform community members about practical ways to resolve or at least manage their debt-related issues.

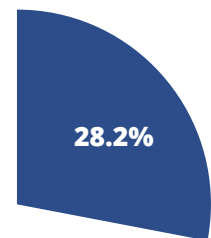
Our Clients



91.4% BIPOC
*(Black, Indigenous,
and People of Color)*



63.4% women



28.2% disabled

Disabilities Community Project

In January 2020, we launched our Disabilities Community Project in order to focus more intentionally on meeting the particular needs of this community. People with disabilities often have difficulties accessing information, face widespread discrimination throughout

law enforcement, and have been particularly vulnerable in the pandemic.

The project produced training materials for individuals with disabilities, trained allied service providers, and offered financial and legal education sessions. In June of 2021, the project also launched an eight-week series of workshops for residents of the Jewish Foundation for Group Homes.



[Tzedek DC is] available for low-income people, especially the ones who want to change their circumstances.

— MS. ANDERSON
Tzedek DC Client



CATALYZING SYSTEMIC REFORM

Enacting COVID-19 Protections

Soon after the pandemic hit DC, Tzedek DC and coalition partners successfully advocated for emergency protections to give embattled residents some breathing room. Especially notable were the moratoria on debt collection, wage garnishments, bank seizures, evictions, and utility cut-offs, which provided relief for DC residents from March 2020 until April 15, 2022.

In partnership with the National Consumer Law Center and Councilmember Robert White, we also helped design and secure adoption of the right to file a COVID-19 credit report alert. This protection, unique in

the nation, prohibits end users of credit reports from factoring in payments that were missed or late because of pandemic-related hardship.



Revamping Fines and Fees

Under the so-called “Clean Hands Law,” the District of Columbia prohibits those who owe over \$100 to the DC government from obtaining or renewing their driver’s or their professional licenses. Because many residents with low incomes continue to drive anyway out of necessity, arrests for driving without a license are legion. Notably, Black residents are arrested more than 18 times as often as white residents for this same breach of law. DC’s wealth-based license renewal system disproportionately harms Black residents both through financial harm and exposure to the criminal justice system.

In April 2021, we **released a major report** on this issue, “Driving DC to Opportunity: Wealth Should Not Determine Who Gets to Keep Their Driver’s License.” The report bolstered our coalition-based advocacy campaign, attracted significant media coverage, and paved the way for two bills introduced in the DC Council in the weeks following the report—preparatory to **legislative reform that will currently take effect in 2023.**

Right: Client Evelyn, who is barred from driving due to her outstanding parking ticket debt



Tzedek DC wrote and issued **“Driving DC to Opportunity”** with our pro bono partners at **Venable LLP** and released it in April 2021 with a coalition of **31+** anti-poverty, civil rights, civic, and faith-based groups

Partnering with DC Residents to Highlight the Human Cost of Fines and Fees

Our clients’ input and conviction that change is needed has driven our focus on systemic reform of DC’s fines and fee system. Salle, a Ward 5 resident, is one of a number of DC residents Tzedek DC has been honored to support in telling their stories directly to policy makers. Salle is a parent of four school-age children, and has attended the University of the District of Columbia. Her dream is to go to medical school, but her outstanding debts to DC—for a single moving violation ticket and a number of parking tickets—for years held her back.

Because she has been able to pay only a fraction of her outstanding fines, DC’s “Clean Hands” law barred her from renewing her license. She didn’t drive for years after that because she didn’t want to risk being arrested for driving without a license and possibly losing her children. Forced to survive on food stamps, Salle walked long distances to reach grocery stores, used rideshare services to take her children to the doctor and buy essentials for her family, and took three different buses to get her two-year-old twin daughters to daycare.

Salle explained that her inability to obtain a license left her with “an extremely hard time supporting my family and achieving my dreams.”



Overhauling Debt Collection Laws

The laws governing debt collection in DC have long been obsolete, unfair to residents with lower incomes, and the cause of inordinate numbers of lawsuits and default judgments. Our long-term effort to reform these laws, in collaboration with coalition allies, DC Council Chair Phil Mendelson and Attorney General Karl Racine, paid off in the Council’s July 2021 vote to amend

DC’s debt collection laws—at least for the duration of the public health emergency.

The new provisions expand the scope of existing protections, strengthen anti-harassment measures, limit punitive actions against DC residents facing debt collection suits, address the underlying causes of default judgments, and reform statute of limitations rules to prevent “zombie debt.” On June 7, 2022, the DC Council passed **landmark legislation** making these protections permanent.

Below: Client Salle and two of her children





Partnerships

OUR PARTNERS

We are fortunate to work side by side with dozens of experienced, knowledgeable and deeply committed organizations in DC's robust public interest community. They enthusiastically embraced Tzedek DC when we came on the scene in 2017, and our joint activities ever since have greatly strengthened our individual and collective impacts. With 83 partnerships across all eight Wards, our work is able to reach a broader scope than ever.

UDC David A. Clarke School of Law

One of our earliest and still key partners is the University of the District of Columbia, a Historically Black University and the only public university in DC. We are proudly headquartered on the clinical floor of UDC's David A. Clarke School of Law. The law school's mission is to promote public interest law and justice through social engagement. About 70% of its



students are people of color, and many are DC residents with deep community ties. We often engage UDC law students as volunteers, enabling this next generation of social justice advocates to gain hands-on experience with legal research and advocacy.



Public Interest Organizations

In 2020 and 2021, we were able to extend our reach by coordinating our legal services and advocacy work with a growing number of local and national advocates in the social justice arena. Joint activities ranged from cross-referring clients, collaborating on cases, and preparing amicus briefs together, to advocating strategically for systemic reforms.

Community-Based Partners

We partnered during the pandemic with community-based organizations across the District to lead and provide (mostly)

virtual financial literacy and know-your-rights workshops in English and Spanish, provide consumer-related legal information and services to community members, and address the specific needs of residents with physical and mental disabilities.

Government Agencies

We deepened fruitful partnerships with the DC Office of the Attorney General as well as other government and law enforcement agencies, ranging from developing evidence and referring cases, to teaching consumer rights classes to returning citizens, and helping enact legislative reforms at the DC Council.

Volunteers

We continue to be blessed by an extraordinary cohort of volunteers, including lawyers (both practicing and retired) from government agencies and many of the District's most highly regarded firms; college and law students from area universities; community members with expertise in financial empowerment, logistics, and administration; and, to our special satisfaction, some of our former clients. We are grateful to all the firms and volunteers who devote their time and talents to support our mission.

Left: Volunteers Laura Kumin and Kevin Mulshine pack food bags for our annual Eat Well, Do Justice event

Our Program Partners

- Avodah
- A Wider Circle
- Ayuda
- Bread for the City
- Byte Back
- Capital Area Asset Builders
- Central American Resource Center (CARECEN)
- Carlos Rosario International PCS
- Center for Responsible Lending
- Civil Rights Corps
- Color of Change
- DC Bar Pro Bono Center
- DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- DC Developmental Disabilities Council
- DC Fiscal Policy Institute
- DC Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs
- DC Metropolitan Police Department
- DC Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement
- DC Public Library
- District Alliance for Safe Housing
- East River Family Strengthening Collaborative
- Edlavitch Jewish Community Center of Washington, DC
- Fair Budget Coalition
- Generation Hope
- Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia
- Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse
- Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington
- Jewish Federation of Greater Washington
- Jewish Foundation for Group Homes
- La Clinica del Pueblo
- Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia
- Legal Counsel for the Elderly
- LIFT
- LINK Strategic Partners
- Little Lights Urban Ministries
- Milton Gottesman Jewish Day School of the Nation's Capital
- Neighborhood Legal Services Program
- Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia
- Pathways to Housing
- PJ Library
- Project ACTION!
- The Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia
- Sinai House
- Skyland Workforce Center
- United Planning Organization
- University of the District of Columbia Community College
- University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law
- Victim Legal Network of DC
- VIDA
- Washington Interfaith Network
- Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs



PRO BONO FEATURE

In this Report, we honor the firm Stinson LLP for its excellence, achievements, and commitment to providing legal services to the District of Columbia’s low income and/or disadvantaged individuals. We would like to give special thanks to Tzedek DC Advisory Council member Harvey Reiter, and to Tracey Owen, who manages the firm’s pro bono work. Our Spotlight below features the work of two Stinson attorneys: Steven White and Chris Perkowski.

In addition to directly representing individual clients, Stinson attorneys have also helped us think through complex legal issues.



Dennis Lane and team helped us assess whether the Advance Child Tax Credits could be considered a protected form of income. Harvey Reiter successfully represented Tzedek DC and other community-based organizations against the U.S. Department of Homeland

Security, for its use of credit reports as a proxy for determining the likelihood of a non-citizen becoming a public charge.

Harvey, a leader of Stinson’s pro bono work, noted that “Tzedek DC embodies the pursuit of justice for our neighbors that is core to our Firm’s pro bono program. Through Stinson’s long-term collaboration with Tzedek DC, the firm’s outstanding corporate, tax, and real estate attorneys have defended DC residents with lower incomes in consumer or tax debt collection action—a tangible measure of Stinson’s continuing commitment to improving lives in DC.”

Left: Stinson LLP partner Steven White

Client Stories

Steven litigates complex financial transactions, professional liability, and corporate governance. As a pro bono attorney for Tzedek DC, he represented Mrs. Thompson, a retired Black resident of Ward 4 and supporter of two grandchildren, in a debt collection lawsuit for a car loan she was unable to maintain after her husband became disabled. The car was repossessed but the loan remained, leaving Mrs. Thompson with a \$30,000 debt that she could not possibly afford on her limited income. Thanks to Steven’s efforts, she was able to settle the debt for \$1,500, saving her \$28,500!

Chris is a Tzedek DC all-star who represented three different clients in complicated consumer matters.

Chris's first client was Ms. Nightingale, a Ward 4 resident and Black community activist, and the primary caregiver for her adult granddaughter with developmental disabilities. A car dealer salesman in Maryland had turned down the granddaughter's application to buy a car, but—still wanting to make a sale—convinced her to call her grandmother and request her social security number. He then drove to Ms. Nightingale's home in the District, arriving in the early evening to find Ms. Nightingale alone and tired after a full day of neighborhood advocacy. She was confused as to the dealer's presence and didn't understand that she was being asked to purchase a car. However, she agreed to sign papers she couldn't read due to her cataracts, because she was told that signing would help her granddaughter. Chris was able to extricate Ms. Nightingale from the contract with the dealership, cancel the third-party financing contract the dealership had facilitated, and convince the dealer to pay for towing the car back to Maryland.

Chris's second client was Ms. Vincent, a Latina student at a local college who decided to take a semester off to work

at a DC area non-profit. She withdrew by the college's drop date, but the school refused to acknowledge that she had done so and attempted to collect \$17,700 for classes she never attended. Chris was able to prove that Ms. Vincent had indeed followed the appropriate steps for removing herself from classes for the semester and convinced the school to drop its debt collection against her.

Third, Chris represented Ms. Robinson, a Ward 7 resident and Black single mother, against a subprime auto finance lender and a car dealership. Chris succeeded in getting the subprime lender to return the funds paid, close the loan in her name, and return the car to the dealership.

Right: Stinson LLP Partner Christopher Perkowski





IN THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Tzedek, tzedek tirdof... Justice, justice you shall pursue!

Our name is inspired by this formative teaching from the Torah, insisting that Jewish life must be animated by the pursuit of justice at every turn.

Our partnerships in the Greater Washington Jewish community are grounded in a shared commitment to ensuring access to justice for members of our DC community from all backgrounds and faiths.



Our work is built on Jewish values and traditions. We are a partner agency of the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and are frequently invited to speak at local synagogues and Jewish schools and organizations.

In today's world, racism and antisemitism continue to present enormous challenges for society. Therefore, it is especially gratifying to see our coalition and service partnerships contribute to positive, mutually supportive relationships between the Jewish community and our

brothers and sisters throughout the DC community. The loud and quiet message of our work is: "we are all in this together."

Avodah

The Avodah Jewish Service Corps provides young leaders a chance to work in organizations fighting poverty in their communities. At Tzedek DC, the Avodah program is named after one of our beloved founding Board members, Ron Glancz (Z"l). Each year, we have been fortunate to host a Ronald R. Glancz Avodah Corps member on staff. Over the course of 2020 and 2021, we had three outstanding Avodah Corps members, Rachel Sass, Margo Schwartz, and Raphy Gendler, who immersed themselves in all aspects of our work—from intake, client follow-up, and courtroom hearings to helping prepare educational materials and internal financial statements. Rachel is now working at the Anti-Defamation League; Margo, like several of her predecessors, is in law school, and we are thrilled that Raphy has signed up to continue working at Tzedek DC in the year following his Avodah term.

We benefit immeasurably from the talent, enthusiasm, and dedication of our Avodah team members and are proud to be a stepping-stone on their paths to lives of service.



Newsworthy Events

MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

Over the course of 2020 and 2021, Tzedek DC continued to grow our earned media recognition. We were featured or quoted in over 20 news articles during this time period, spanning local and national coverage across multiple languages. Media outlets such as the **Washington Post**, **CNN Business**, **Washington City Paper**, and **El Tiempo Latino** covered our “Driving DC to Opportunity” report

plus our work on disability rights, debt collection reform, and more. Our growing media exposure helps us to raise the profile of debt and debt collection as fundamental issues of economic and racial justice.

Left, p. 18: 2019-202 Ronald R. Glancz Avodah Jewish Service Corps Member Rachel Sass at an Avodah program



NOTABLE RECOGNITION

Tzedek DC’s work in these years received increasing recognition from the philanthropic community.

In September 2021, we received the **2021 Paul Chapman Gold Medal**, given by the Atlanta-based Foundation for the Improvement of Justice. Presented to nine awardees selected from across the United States, the Chapman Gold Medal recognizes innovative programs that have made demonstrable improvements to local, state, and federal systems of justice.



Tzedek DC was also selected as a **Community Progress Maker** by the Citi Foundation in December 2021. The Community Progress Makers initiative, which comes with \$500,000 of unrestricted, multi-year funding, supports visionary organizations across the United States that are working to connect communities with low incomes and communities of

color to greater social and economic opportunities.

This success came shortly after Tzedek DC was selected to receive a two-year grant of \$200,000 from the Ford Foundation to support our Disabilities Community Project as part of the Ford Foundation’s path-breaking new Disability Rights Program.

In addition to being named the **July 2020 Lawyer of the Month** by the American Constitution Society, our Founding Director Ariel Levinson-Waldman was also recognized as one of three **2021 Community Changemakers** by the Catalogue for Philanthropy. This award honors those working each day to build community in our region and to make a difference close to home.

Finally, you can now find us in eight merit-based nonprofit directories including GuideStar “Platinum Transparency,” the Catalogue for Philanthropy “One of the Best,” Compass “Nonprofit Excellence,” Washington City Paper “Give it Up D.C. Recommended Organization,” Benevity “Recommended Cause,” and DC One Fund “Recommended Charitable Organization,” as well as the Combined Federal Campaign and United Way.

Left: Senior Advisor Janet Lowenthal and Founding President & Director-Counsel Ariel Levinson-Waldman with the Chapman Gold Medal prize

EAT WELL, DO JUSTICE!

Each year since our launch, we have gathered the community for a celebration of our work, our partners, and our donors by challenging local chefs to update traditional Jewish foods. Their creative variations are then judged by celebrities from our community.

The Bagel Ballot!

In 2020, our annual Eat Well, Do Justice event was a virtual Bagel Ballot, which raised over **\$300,000** over the course of a fun, substantive, and tasty bagel-themed evening.

The program was emceed by Emmy Award-winning television journalist and author David Gregory. It also featured virtual musical performances from Grammy Award-winning band The War on Drugs, and renowned vocalist Anthony Mordechai Tzvi Russell, as well as remarks from DC Councilmembers Elissa Silverman and Robert White.

Though the event was virtual, attendees enjoyed a delicious variety of bagels and schmears picked up from Temple Sinai's parking lot in DC. The four talented and generous local bagel maker teams included chefs from Bullfrog Bagels, Call Your Mother, Pearl's Bagels, and Baked By Yael.

Pearl's Bagels took home the 2020 prize

with their delicious sesame seed bagel topped with a veggie cream cheese schmear laced with red bell peppers, carrots, and celery.

We were grateful to share the evening with our guest judges, who included Judy Lichtman, of the National Partnership for Women & Families, Michelle Singletary, writer of The Washington Post's "Color of Money" personal finance column, and Chef Ed Hardy, 2019 Eat Well, Do Justice champion!

Right: Honorary event chair Bonnie Benwick posing with a bagel bag



Spread Hummus, Not Hate!

Our fifth annual and second virtual Eat Well, Do Justice event in 2021 was even more successful than the previous year's, raising a record **\$350,000**. The Spread Hummus, Not Hate event saw the return of Emmy Award-winning television journalist and author David Gregory as



emcee. Attendees heard memorable performances from Grammy Award-nominated artist Josh Groban and In the Heights Broadway cast member Willis White, as well as uplifting remarks from DC Attorney General Karl Racine and DC Councilmember Brianne Nadeau.

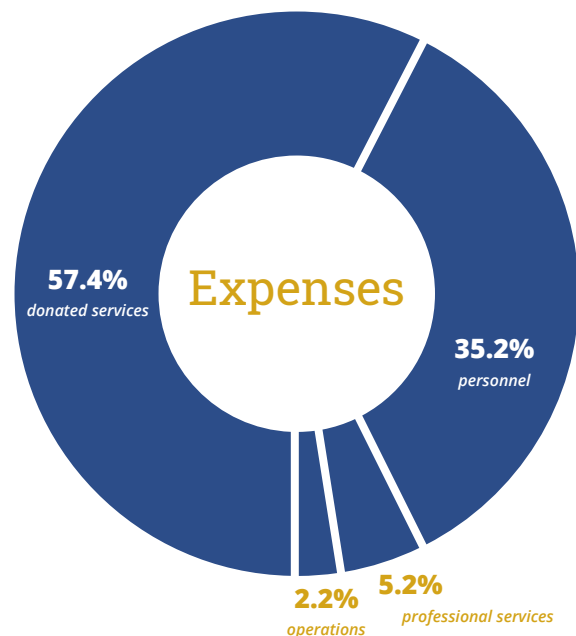
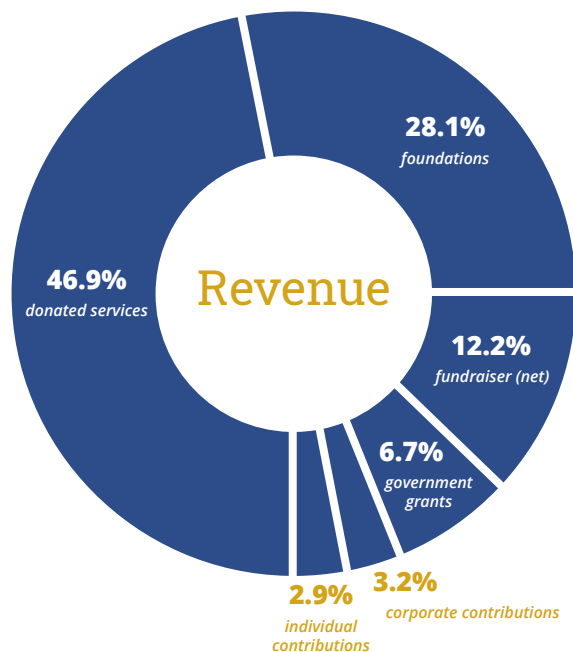
Our staging area was once again the Temple Sinai parking lot, this time for hummus and pita offerings. Attendees chowed down on dishes from five DC-area restaurants, including Agora, Amsterdam Falafelshop, Maydan, Sababa, and Taïm.

Sababa was 2021’s winner with a “tahini-forward” hummus topped with roasted eggplant, cherry tomatoes, Persian cucumbers, pickled chilis, sumac onions, and za’atar and sumac spices.

Guest judges in 2021 included Rahsaan Bernard, President of the DC nonprofit Building Bridges Across the River; Oliver & Allee Cox, owners of Pearl’s Bagels on 7th Street NW and winners of EWDJ 2020; and Rabbi Hannah Goldstein, Associate Rabbi at Temple Sinai and Member of the DC Mayor’s Interfaith Council.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

We are pleased to report net assets of over \$1.5 million as of December 31, 2021. This was made possible thanks in part to generous in-kind donations, including pro bono legal support, volunteer activities, and donated space, equipment, and supplies.





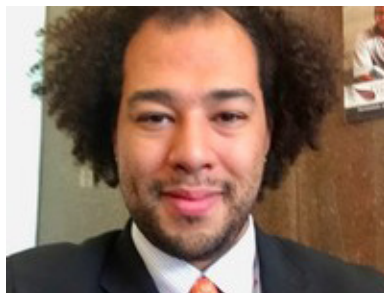
Our Team

STAFF



Naomi Ayala

Community Outreach &
Communications Consultant



John Blake

Staff Attorney (2020-2022)



Linda Coe

Staff Attorney



Maritza Cortez

Financial Counselor



Marissa Ditkowsky

Staff Attorney



Amelia French

Staff Attorney (2018-2020)



Raphy Gendler

2021-2022 Ronald R. Glancz
Avodah Corps Member



Caitlyn Hickman

Development &
Communications Manager



Sarah Hollender

Associate Director



A.J. Huber

Senior Staff Attorney & Pro
Bono Coordinator



Stephen Jefferson

Community Outreach
Coordinator



Josh Levin

Volunteer Staff Attorney



Ariel Levinson-Waldman

Founding President &
Director-Counsel



Janet Lowenthal

Senior Advisor



Rachel Sass

2019-2020 Ronald R. Glancz
Avodah Corps Member



Margo Schwartz

2020-2021 Ronald R. Glancz
Avodah Corps Member



Jorge Tormes

Senior Staff Attorney



Courtney Wilkes

Staff Attorney

Right: a Tzedek DC teddy bear demonstrates safe pandemic practices





GOVERNANCE

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MAJOR DONORS

We are deeply grateful for the generous support of our community of individual donors and philanthropic institutional partners, who make this work possible. Our 2020-2021 major financial supporters are listed below.

A. James & Alice B. Clark Foundation	DC Office of Victim Services & Justice Grants	Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington	Stinson
Ackermann & Tilajef	DC Share Fund	Jewish Federation of Greater Washington	Temple Sinai Eugene K. Lipman Social Action Fund
Association of Accessible Medicines	Diane & Norman Bernstein Family Foundation	KaiserDillon	UDC School of Law Foundation
American College of Trial Lawyers	Equal Justice Works	Katz, Marshall & Banks	Venable Foundation
Bernard & Anne Spitzer Charitable Trust	Eugene & Agnes Meyer Family Foundation	Lerner Family Foundation	Washington Hebrew Congregation
Bernstein Private Wealth Management	Eversheds Sutherland	Levy Firestone Muse	WilmerHale
Capital Area Asset Builders	Ford Foundation	Lois & Richard England Family Foundation	Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati Foundation
Capital One	Foundation of the Bar Association of the District of Columbia	Miller & Chevalier Charitable Foundation	Ava Abramowitz
Capitol Hill Community Foundation	Fried Frank	Mizrahi Charitable Trust	Nancy Abramowitz & Mark Ellenberg
Citi Foundation	Gallogly Family Foundation	Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation	Janet Beth Abrams
Color of Change	Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation	Murphy & McGonigle	Craig Ackermann
Council for Court Excellence	HUNGRY	Omidyar Network Fund	Michael & Wendy Moy Akin
Crowell & Moring	Inter-American Development Bank	Righteous Crowd	Prasanth & Laura Akkapeddi
DC Bar Foundation	Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse	Spitzer Charitable Trust	Anthony Alexis
DC Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs		Step toe Foundation	Michael & Amanda Alter
			Steve Arenson



Nilo Azad & Ezra Reese	Darrell Clark	Kristin Foti	Karen Kane
Allyson Baker	Linda Coe & Michael Waldman	Daphne Frydman & Scott Bourn	Brian Kannry
Rebecca Baker & Ryan Plasky	Marc Cohen & Deborah Levine	Charles Gerstein	Robert Kapp & Jane Lang
Cecily Baskir & John Freedman	Yedidya Cohen	Margie Glancz	Stephen & Shirley Kaufman
Vivian & Raymond Bass	Thomas Corwin	Andrew & Eleanor Glass	Sean & Laura Klein
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Susan Berson	Taryn Deaton	Barry Goldstein	Peter Kolker
Lori Bettinger & Jeffrey Francer	Shannon & Michael Diamant	Alex Gordon & Samantha Mazo	Barbara Kraft & Peter Winkler
Eric Biel & Dana Rosenfeld	Justin Dillon & Katherine Mineka	Jamie Gorelick	June Kress
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Shelley Broderick	David Eisenstein	Frank Greve	David & Lucy Kurtzer-Ellenbogen
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Reg Brown & Tiffeny Sanchez	Paul Entis	Brian Haag	Dick & Edie Lasner
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Patricia Byrne	Suzanne & Enrique Fefer	David & Margaret Hensler	Joshua & Debra Fried Levin
James Cain	Patrick Findlay	Andrew Herman	Marshall Levine
Jonathan Cedarbaum & Alice Winkler	Cathy & Donald Fogel	Hamilton Hill	Cynthia & Sanford Levinson
Gail Chambers	Lisa Foster & Alan Bersin	Ken & Debbie Jaffe	Ariel & Rachel Levinson-Waldman
		Mark Kahan & Carol Mates	
		Edie Kane	

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Judith & Elliott Lichtman	Ellen Oberwetter	Estelle Schwalb	Kenneth Trombly & Nancy Barskey
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Nancy Liebermann & Joseph Godles	Ryan & Deborah Palacheck	Rhea Schwartz	Mark Valkenburgh
Debbi Lindenberg	Daniel Pariser	Jessica Sebeok & Scott Shuchart	Charles & Virginia Vance
Marc Lipsitch & Meira Levinson	Anjali Phillips	Chris & Mara Senn	Seth Waxman & Debbie Goldberg
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