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Annual Report 2017-2018

Building Toward a Better Future

Fiscal year 2017–2018 was one of the most eventful in the history of the D.C. Bar. On February 12, 2018, after 45 years in five rental locations, the Bar moved into its new and permanent home at 901 4th Street NW in Washington, D.C. The move was the culmination of years of planning to provide Bar members with a vibrant and state-of-the-art space in which to learn, collaborate, and network. The new building, which is projected to save the Bar more than \$25 million over 30 years, marks the beginning of a new era for the organization.

The D.C. Bar also hit another milestone this year: With 106,000 members as of April, the Bar is now the largest unified bar in the country. And with a 1.1 percent administrative suspension rate last year — the lowest in the Bar’s history — the Bar delivered on its promise to enhance member experience through an array of outreach initiatives and self-service modules.

The Member Services Department handled over 25,000 inquiries from members and maintained a 97 percent satisfaction rating for its contact center. In the beginning of 2018, the Bar also began issuing Certificates of Good Standing on behalf of the D.C. Court of Appeals using an online request system that accepts credit card payments and provides expedited delivery options.

Continuing its commitment to quality legal education, the CLE Program conducted over 200 courses in the past fiscal year, with 96 new offerings. More than 140 of these classes were offered simultaneously as webinars, and over 100 courses were archived as on-demand CLE classes. Courses highlighted timely issues such as immigration enforcement, the new tax law, sexual harassment claims, e-discovery, and implicit bias.

The Bar’s Global Legal Practice Task Force worked to reduce barriers for qualified, foreign-educated attorneys seeking admission to the D.C. Bar. On March 14, 2018, upon the Task Force’s recommendations, the D.C. Bar Board of Governors submitted proposed revisions to D.C. Court of Appeals Rule 46 that, if adopted, would help make the Bar more competitive on the international stage.

The newly re-envisioned D.C. Bar Communities, launched in July 2017, received a positive reception from members. In its first year, Communities offered 275 events, presented over 150 webinar/on-demand programs, and registered over 5,700 attendees. Communities will soon add its 21st community — the Law Student Community — to welcome aspiring lawyers to the D.C. Bar.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Center, and today it remains as committed as ever to delivering equal access to justice to the District’s most vulnerable populations. In the past fiscal year, the Pro Bono Center served over 17,000 individuals, including 1,513 people who received assistance through its Advice & Referral Clinic. The Center also placed 327 cases for full representation with its Advocacy & Justice Clinic and fielded 6,154 calls through its Legal Information Help Line.

Technology is a continued focus at the Bar. The new building features a full-service broadcast studio where CLE classes, programs, events, and more can be created and shared by Bar members and staff. A total of 27 spaces throughout the Bar’s new home are wired for recorded and live programming.

The Communications Department launched D.C. Bar Connect, an online forum that enables Bar members to engage with other members via email, start discussion threads on topics of interest, access peer-uploaded resources in a safe and effective environment, and interface with thousands of attorneys instantaneously. While currently available to Communities members, the Bar plans to expand the new platform to the wider membership later this year.

The past fiscal year has been monumental for the D.C. Bar, with major investments and improvements across the board. As D.C. Bar President Patrick McGlone observed in his April/May *Washington Lawyer* column, the Bar’s new home marks the organization’s rise to a “new level of institutional maturity” and the beginning of an exciting future.

THE D.C. BAR AT WORK: A YEAR IN REVIEW

Communities

275 events
5,750 registrations
150+ on-demand programs
650+ volunteer attorney planners and speakers



D.C. Bar Pro Bono Center

17,107 individuals served
Helped **5,669** pro se litigants at D.C. Superior Court
Matched **69** nonprofits with pro bono counsel
Connected **461** small business owners with lawyer volunteers

Advocacy & Justice Clinic – Placed **327** cases
Bankruptcy Clinic – Provided counsel in **49** cases
Advice & Referral Clinic – Served **1,513** people
Immigration Legal Advice & Referral Clinic – Helped **175** individuals
Legal Information Help Line – Fielded **6,154** calls



CLE Program

200+ courses (90+ new)
140+ webinars
7,000+ attendees
100+ on-demand courses

Member Services

- Developed **online request system** for issuance of Certificates of Good Standing
- Maintained **97%** satisfaction rating for contact center
- Handled **25,000+** member inquiries
- Achieved lowest administrative suspension rate (**1.1%**) in recorded Bar history
- Helped launch new association management system to increase self-service for members
- **3,000+** new members during fiscal year



Global Legal Practice Task Force

PROPOSED revisions to Rule 46

Lawyer Assistance Program

- **80–100** new clients a year
- **1,300+** face-to-face and phone counseling sessions
- **40+** educational/outreach programs reaching more than **1,000** people
- Developed **Law Firm Wellness Consortium** to support wellness initiatives and programs at member law firms



Regulation Counsel

Attorney/Client Arbitration Board – **41** cases opened, **36** concluded



Legal Ethics Program

- **ESTABLISHED** a centralized Legal Ethics Helpline (ext. 1010)
- **30+** educational ethics presentations, including more than a dozen D.C. Bar CLEs
- Received **2,400** requests for guidance

Practice Management Advisory Service

- Responded to **1,400+** emails and telephone calls to the Management Resource Line and conducted **40+** office assessments
- Held **80+** educational sessions, with more than **1,000** total attendees
- **Practice 360°** – **20** programs and events, including **2** D.C. Bar ethics CLEs

PRACTICE 360°
PRESENTED BY THE D.C. BAR



Communications

- **LAUNCHED** D.C. Bar Connect
- **NEARLY DOUBLED** number of legal professionals subscribed to Legal Brief
- **DEVELOPED** branding elements at the Bar's new headquarters

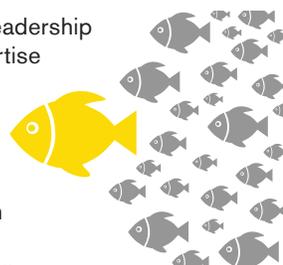
IT Department

- **IMPLEMENTED** Phase 1 & 2 of NetForum to manage Bar member accounts and services
- **IMPLEMENTED** Justware case management system for Attorney/Client Relations Program
- **CREATED** requirements plan for D.C. Bar's next-generation web portal
- **CREATED** Cybersecurity Risk Management Program
- **ENGAGED** an Enterprise Architect to accelerate transformation of the Bar's four-tier technology infrastructure



Leadership and Strategic Development

- **COLLABORATED** in the creation of the new Law Student Community
- **DESIGNED AND LAUNCHED** EmBARK, an internal leadership development program to develop and promote expertise in every Bar employee
- **IMPLEMENTED** new skills-focused programming for voluntary bar leadership meetings
- **BUILT** on the Global Legal Practice Task Force's recommendations and forged new relationships with international organizations
- **FEATURED** our chief judges, Council for Court Excellence, and Bar leaders' thoughts on judicial accountability and transparency for **18** chief judges from the Guangxi Province in China



THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BAR

Statements of Activities and Financial Position

Years Ended June 30, 2017 and 2016

REVENUE	2017	2016
Member Dues	\$28,219,027	\$26,190,962
Investment Income (Loss)	1,148,574	(43,838)
In-Kind Contributions	2,405,272	2,436,015
Admission and Registration	1,995,123	1,608,586
Contributions	2,900	2,750
Advertising	145,056	227,292
Royalties	107,090	57,795
Books and Publication Sales	236,923	187,349
Miscellaneous Fees and Services	124,402	76,659
Mailing List	16,670	13,463
Rental Income	830	1,545
Cost Center Transfers	(22,000)	(25,250)
Total Revenue	\$34,379,867	\$30,733,328

EXPENSES

Program Services

Board on Professional Responsibility	\$8,442,926	\$8,282,149
Continuing Legal Education	3,020,633	3,008,843
Regulation Counsel	3,338,531	3,089,906
Communications	2,771,622	2,622,867
Communities	1,611,294	1,557,101
Clients' Security Trust Fund	155,363	217,530
Bar Conference and Annual Meeting	305,209	124,657
Total Program Services	\$19,645,578	\$18,903,053

Supporting Services

Administration and Finance	\$10,733,682	\$10,650,950
Executive Office	2,588,810	2,438,936
Total Supporting Services	13,322,492	13,089,886

Total Expenses 32,968,070 31,992,939

Changes in Net Assets 1,411,797 (1,259,611)

Net Assets – Beginning of Year 23,052,533 24,312,144

Net Assets – End of Year \$24,464,330 \$23,052,533

ASSETS	2017	2016
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$19,967,620	\$16,722,875
Investments: Clients' Security Trust Fund	844,637	750,000
Investments	11,415,677	10,283,643
Other Assets	802,986	610,538
Property and Equipment	52,034,015	28,850,678
Total Assets	\$85,064,935	\$57,217,734

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities

Accounts Payable and Accrued Expense	\$10,822,686	\$5,581,019
Amount Due to Affiliate	347,228	61,479
Deferred Revenue	21,970,272	19,992,113
Landlord Improvement Allowance	1,409,103	1,768,873
Deferred Rent Liability	1,269,009	1,401,307
Other Liabilities	218,306	178,908
Loan Payable	24,564,001	5,181,502
Total Liabilities	\$60,600,605	\$34,165,201

Net Assets

Undesignated	1,758,541	1,563,211
Board Designated	-----	-----

Mandatory Dues Purpose	18,706,458	17,657,133
Communities	2,096,120	2,081,917
Continuing Legal Education	1,058,574	1,000,272
Clients' Security Trust Fund	844,637	750,000
Total Board Designated	22,705,789	21,489,322
Total Net Assets	24,464,330	23,052,533

Total Liabilities and Net Assets \$85,064,935 \$57,217,734

The above financial reports represent the District of Columbia Bar's Statements of Activities and Statements of Financial Position for the Years ended June 30, 2017 and 2016.