



CCE's COVID-19 Update

Dear Friend,

I hope that this message finds you and your loved ones safe and healthy during this truly unprecedented and challenging time. At the Council for Court Excellence, we are keeping you and all of the valued members of our community ever-present in our thoughts, and we are mindful that the pandemic is likely to present deep personal and professional concerns for everyone. We also would like to share some updates about how CCE is responding in this time of crisis. There is positive news that should give us reason to be hopeful about the future.

CCE is adapting in real-time. Our staff and leadership remain hard at work and are committed to sustaining our mission of ensuring an equitable justice system in our community. Fortunately, CCE's staff is all healthy and able to telework to maintain operations. We are grateful to each of them for their energy, flexibility, and focus on our goals.

CCE remains committed to our public education efforts, which are particularly important at this time. We are enhancing our ongoing efforts to inform D.C. residents about some of the resources and legal tools available to them, and are advocating for and supporting underrepresented and marginalized communities in the District. Below you will find information about CCE guides and resources that may be of assistance to you and your loved ones right now, an update on our annual Justice Potter Stewart Awards Dinner, and opportunities to help during this time.

CCE is grateful for our dedicated Board leaders, volunteers, and community partners. CCE is proud to work alongside all of you to support D.C. during this trying time. In the coming weeks, we will keep our community of supporters informed about CCE's continued momentum and ways you can help. I hope you will [support us](#).

All my best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick McGlone', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Patrick McGlone
President, Council for Court Excellence

D.C. Reentry Action Network Supply Drive to Help Returning Citizens

As part of our coordination of the [D.C. Reentry Action Network \(RAN\)](#), CCE helped facilitate an emergency response to help returning citizens confined in halfway houses. Because of COVID-19, these men and women have been under strict lock-down restrictions and many have reported inadequate access to health and hygiene supplies. In response, CCE, RAN, and other community partners rallied together to get critical supplies to halfway house residents. The first 400 kits were delivered on April 1. Special thanks to the Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants and CCE Board Director/RAN Co-Chair Paula Thompson and her team at Voices for a Second Chance, as well as RAN Co-Chair Chiquisha Robinson, who were instrumental in this effort.



Supplies donated by D.C. residents, RAN member organizations, and purchased by RAN



Volunteers of America picking up their kits

2020 Justice Potter Stewart Award Dinner Postponed

After careful consideration, we are postponing this year's Justice Potter Stewart Award Dinner, originally scheduled for May 28, 2020. Although we are sad to delay this opportunity to recognize our [phenomenal 2020 honorees](#) – Wade Henderson, Patty Mullahy Fugere, and Kojo Nnamdi – we know it is the right decision to prioritize the safety of our supporters and community. We hope to reschedule later in the year and will promptly share the new date as soon as it is known. We hope you will all join us then!

Our Community Guides Offer Helpful Information During COVID-19

A key pillar of CCE's mission is educating the public. In this rapidly changing landscape, it is important to know what tools are available to navigate some of the uncertainty created by COVID-19. Fortunately, several of CCE's publications offer relevant guidance. For example, our latest guide, [When Adults Need Help Making Decisions and Managing Daily Affairs: A Non-Lawyer's Guide to D.C.'s Legal Tools for Assisting Adults](#), explains how to establish a "Supported Decision Making Arrangement" or how to designate a "Substitute Health Care Decision-Maker." Both of these options can offer help – for you or a loved one - during difficult times and do not require a lawyer to set up. These tools, along with the others discussed in the guide, can be especially useful for people who are impacted by COVID-19.

Additionally, for individuals who are victims of domestic abuse or other crimes, shelter-in-place orders and governmental closures can create risk and confusion. CCE encourages anyone who is a victim of crime or knows someone who may be at risk to check out our [Victim's Guide to the District of Columbia Justice System](#) for information about their rights and available resources. This guide is available in English, Spanish, and Amharic.

Finally, it can be more difficult to help loved ones who contract COVID-19 without the right information about their personal or financial affairs. While it is always important for you and your family to have essential paperwork in order, that is particularly true right now. CCE's [Personal Affairs Record Book](#) can help you gather important personal and financial details all in one place. While this resource was originally developed to [support estate planning](#), it can also be helpful for generalized preparations in a time of crisis.

Thank You to Our Donors

The generosity of all of our donors powers what we do and allows us to look forward during this difficult time. CCE extends a special thanks to our most generous Scarlet Oak Circle donors and the foundations that support our work. With all of you at our side, we are able to keep working towards justice, be nimble and respond to changing needs in our community.

Our 2019 Scarlet Oak Circle members are:

Caryl Bernstein	Patrick McGlone
Jay Brozost	Irvin Nathan
Laura Handman	Benjamin Razi
Michael Hays	Earl Silbert
James Hulme	Steuart Thomsen
Peter Kolker	James Tuite
Maryanne Lavan	Roger Warin
Julia Matthews	Joanne Zimolzak

Our current foundation supporters include:

Arcana Foundation	Mary & Daniel Loughran Foundation
Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation	Max & Victoria Dreyfus Foundation
Foundation of the Bar Association of the District of Columbia	Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation
Galena Yorktown Foundation	Philip L. Graham Fund
Herb Block Foundation	Public Welfare Foundation

Request for Your Support

During this uncertain time, CCE is relying on the support of our donors more than ever. We know that this crisis poses financial challenges for many individuals and businesses. However, for those who remain able to give, your generous gifts will be used to share helpful information to District residents, advocate for our most vulnerable D.C. neighbors, and respond to a changing legal landscape.

We hope that you will [join us](#) in a time where education and advocacy are critical to our community's health and success.

Support CCE Today