

JULY 2019 NEWSLETTER

Increased Funding for Reentry Services in the District's Budget

CCE is proud to have played a part in supporting successful advocacy for reentry services funding in the city's 2020 budget. CCE not only testified before D.C. Council about the importance of increased support for returning citizens this spring, but we also trained and empowered returning citizens to advocate for their own needs. As part of our technical support to the D.C. Reentry Action Network (RAN), CCE hosted a communication and advocacy training session this March, which equipped more than a dozen returning citizens and over 20 representatives of small local non-profits with tools to better understand the legislative process, testify effectively before D.C. Council, and tell their story in relation to a specific policy ask. After our training, a record number of people testified regarding reentry services in April, including more than 22 returning citizens and RAN members. Their collective advocacy led to roughly \$2 million additional dollars for community-based reentry services, including: dedicated housing vouchers, transportation subsidies, social work services for people originally sentenced as teenagers, and business grants for returning citizen entrepreneurs.

Building on Our History, CCE's 23rd Annual Justice Potter Stewart Award Dinner

CCE's signature event, the Justice Potter Stewart Award Dinner, was held on May 23 at the Organization of American States. It was a truly moving evening, full of heartfelt speeches, a surprise guest, and a celebration of the accomplishments of our esteemed honorees. CCE was thrilled to honor Mark E. Herzog, Pro Bono Counsel at Sidley Austin LLP, Michele A. Roberts, Executive Director of the National Basketball Players Association, and Charlie and Pauline Sullivan, founders of Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants (CURE). This year's honorees have made lasting impacts on civil and criminal justice, through advocacy on behalf of their clients and for systemic change, and their commitment to improving the lives of some of the District's most underserved residents. When discussing the awardees' service, CCE Board Chair and Co-Chair of the Dinner, Tamika L. Tremaglio said, "Tonight, we have the opportunity to celebrate those in the field of law who, by example, live a life of significance."



2019 Awardee Michele A. Roberts with former client and surprise guest Halim Flowers.



2019 Awardees (left to right) Michele A. Roberts, Pauline Sullivan, Charlie Sullivan, and Mark E. Herzog.

How can we reimagine justice in the District?

Take this ten minute survey and tell us what you think the future of corrections and criminal justice in D.C. should look like: <https://tinyurl.com/JusticeDC>

DC Council to Consider Restoring the Right to Vote to Currently Incarcerated Residents

In June, CCE announced its support of the “Restore the Vote Amendment Act of 2019,” which was introduced by Councilmember Robert White and is designed to expand voting rights to all of D.C.’s adult residents, including those who are currently incarcerated. In studying barriers to reentry for our Beyond Second Chances report, we learned that people with robust civic engagement while in jails and prisons, through practices like voting, are statistically more likely to be successful when returning to the community. Additionally, in the District, more than 99% of people with felony convictions are African American, leading this group to almost exclusively bear the burden of felony disenfranchisement. Restoring the right to vote to people who are currently incarcerated would be one important part of helping to alleviate the disproportionate impact the criminal justice system has on African Americans and supporting successful reentry.

“This bill is a win-win: it is likely to have positive effects on public safety and criminal justice outcomes while helping to restore a civil right that is essential to our democracy.”

– Misty Thomas
CCE’s Executive Director

CCE Hosts Panel on Supporting Seniors and Preventing Elder Abuse

On June 12, CCE hosted a panel, “When Adults Need Help: The Continuum of Approaches to Promoting Independence and Preventing Abuse in D.C.” This discussion was prompted by the publication of our newest guide for seniors, people with disabilities, and others who may need support in making major life decisions. Moderated by CCE Board Director Jim Tuite, panelists Robert Dinerstein of American University, Monique Gudger of the Office of the Attorney General, and Dari Pogach of the ABA’s Commission on Law and Aging discussed common scenarios where a loved one needs assistance, legal options to assist and protect seniors in D.C., the rise in elder financial abuse in our area and nationally, and the Attorney General’s increased focus on addressing that abuse. You can download a copy of *When Adults Need Help* on our website: <https://tinyurl.com/ADMGuideDC>.

CCE Honors Outgoing President and Welcomes New President

Last month, CCE recognized Irvin B. Nathan for his distinguished service as our Board president and welcomed our new president, Patrick McGlone. Following a unanimous vote from the Board, Mr. McGlone, Senior Vice President and General Counsel at Ullico, Inc., accepted the position on June 12. Mr. McGlone previously served as the president of the D.C. Bar from 2017-2018, received the Justice Potter Stewart award in 2018, and was CCE’s Vice President from 2010 to 2016.

Vice President Jay Hulme presented Irv Nathan with the 2019 Charlie Horsky Award in recognition of his exceptional service to the District of Columbia and CCE. During his acceptance remarks, Mr. Nathan said, “My time on the Executive Committee has been truly excellent. I’m really blessed by the friendships I’ve made.” CCE was incredibly productive during Mr. Nathan’s tenure. Some examples of work completed under his leadership include: the award-winning *Jury Service Revisited: Upgrades for the 21st Century*, major efforts to improve chances of success for returning citizens, a proposal to D.C. Council that became the basis for the first local clemency board, audits of the Office of Administrative Hearings and the Department of Behavioral Health, and, most recently, an opportunity to make recommendations for a future jail in the District. During his time as President, Mr. Nathan also ensured that CCE championed the importance of our local courts and guided us through a time of organizational transition.



CCE Vice President Jay Hulme presents the 2019 Charlie Horsky Award to outgoing President Irv Nathan.

“This is a truly wonderful organization and I’ve been honored to serve as president.”

– Irv Nathan

Interested in joining our Civil Justice, Criminal Justice, Youth Justice, or Justice Education committees?

Email communications@courtexcellence.org to get involved!