

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

MAKING IMPACTFUL, SYSTEMIC CHANGE IN D.C.



DECEMBER 2022

CCE Reconvenes District Task Force on Jails & Justice for Phase III

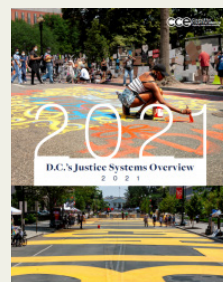
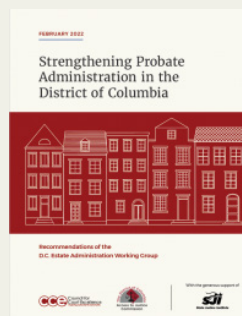
Thanks to three years of hard work by CCE and the District Task Force on Jails & Justice, D.C. leaders included \$250M in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-2028 capital budgets to build a reimagined treatment and residential facility annex to replace D.C.'s jail. In light of this significant and positive development, CCE reconvened the Task Force in 2022 to ensure that the planning for that facility meets the needs and priorities of the community.

Over the summer, CCE led a series of five community conversations on behalf of the Task Force to gather feedback on the proposed new facility in partnership with DC Justice Lab and Neighbors for Justice. We synthesized [feedback from over 200 residents](#) to share with District leaders, which called for rehabilitative and humane elements in a future facility. Additionally, the Department of Corrections agreed to many of the Task Force's recommendations about community engagement in its 2023 annex planning phases. Finally, CCE supported the Task Force by testifying six times before D.C. Council in 2022, helping advance many Phase II report recommendations.

CCE Publishes Reports Focused on D.C.'s Probate and Criminal Legal Systems

CCE and the D.C. Access to Justice Commission published [Strengthening Probate Administration in the District of Columbia](#) in February. The report reflects more than two years of research into other jurisdictions' laws, case file reviews, and interviews with self-represented people, court employees, and lawyers on the challenges faced during probate. Its recommendations span 20 topic areas and include calls to simplify processes and increase access to self-help materials and legal advice for low- and moderate-income people. Since its release, CCE has been developing model legislation to enact many of the recommended reforms.

In May, CCE published [D.C.'s Justice Systems Overview 2021](#), which details the challenges faced, the progress made, and data trends about the District's adult and youth criminal legal systems. We hope this report serves as a timely primer for advocates, policymakers, journalists, and interested residents who care about addressing systemic issues in D.C.'s criminal legal systems and enacting meaningful, lasting reforms.



Celebrating Our 40th Anniversary, 1982-2022

To commemorate CCE's 40th Anniversary in 2022, we invited past CCE leaders to participate in our new Oral History Project. Their first-hand reflections highlight four decades of our most influential projects, participants, and impacts.

Watch their stories on [YouTube.com/CourtExcellence](#).



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CCE Hosts 2022 Juror Appreciation Week

For the first time in several years, CCE proudly hosted Juror Appreciation Week at D.C. Superior Court, in partnership with the Bar Association of the District of Columbia, Trial Lawyers Association of Metropolitan Washington, and Washington Bar Association. The 500+ D.C. residents reporting for jury duty the week of September 12 received handwritten thank you cards, branded gifts, special refreshments, and a [gratitude video](#) featuring the Chief Judges from both D.C. courts and other legal luminaries. The D.C. Council also passed a [ceremonial resolution](#) recognizing Juror Appreciation Week 2022 as an expression of gratitude to residents who fulfill this important civic duty.



CCE Informs Government Spending for Lasting Community Impacts

CCE staff and Board leaders testified before D.C. Council a record thirteen times this year. In the spring, we successfully advocated for a wide range of our research-based recommendations and coalition priorities. These efforts resulted in:

- \$251 million in the capital budget, plus \$4 million in FY23 for [planning and design, to build a reimagined correctional annex](#)—the first major step toward closing the outdated D.C. Jail;
- \$1 million to [study how to prevent the displacement of long-term D.C. families](#) by supporting heirs through the process of inheriting real estate;
- Funding for needed improvements within the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH), including the [development of a public portal for OAH decisions](#), a full-time employee in its Resource Center to help unrepresented litigants, and a benchmark study on its operations;
- Dedicated [funding for a full-time staff attorney for D.C.'s Clemency Board](#); and
- A [cost study of the School-Based Behavioral Health program](#), plus long term funding to ensure its continued success in serving D.C.'s school children.



CCE Recognized for Contributions to the D.C. Community

CCE is honored by the recognition its work has received from top District organizations in 2022. Recently, the Bar Association of the District of Columbia (BADC) held its 150th Anniversary Gala, where it presented CCE with a 2022 Presidential Award for its distinguished service to the legal profession. And, earlier this year, the Catalogue for Philanthropy named CCE as a [new member organization in its Class of 2022-2023](#). The Catalogue is a respected local guide to giving that vets and highlights a select few D.C. area nonprofits.



CCE Establishes and Advances Race Equity Goals

CCE's 40th Anniversary presented a special opportunity to build on our unique model, while also clarifying our organizational identity, naming our anti-racist values, and right-sizing our staff and Board capacities. With our ambitious [2022-2024 Strategic Plan](#), CCE's work will be approached with an intentional focus on race equity for the first time. In response to that Plan's goals, we have expanded our staff to nine full-time employees and fellows, adopted equity- and inclusion-focused meeting norms and accountability policies, established a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice (DEIJ) committee, and completed programmatic plans and charters for each of our Youth, Civil, Criminal, and Education committees, and more.

Looking Forward to 2023

While CCE's team has been busy in 2022, it is ramping up for an even busier 2023. Here are a few CCE projects you can look forward to seeing in the new year:

- An audit on the unique needs of crossover youth (youth involved in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems);
- Our Second Chance Hiring Alliance, which will focus on empowering and educating employers on hiring people with criminal records;
- The Empowered Youth Spaces series, developed to help CCE better understand issues facing D.C.'s youth and how it can address those in its Youth Justice work more effectively;
- Several new reports, including *D.C.'s Justice Systems Overview 2022* and a Report Card on Task Force recommendation implementation to date.