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November 5, 2025

Executive Office of the D.C. Courts
ATTN: Civil Legal Regulatory Reform Task Force (CLRRTF)
500 Indiana Avenue, NW
Suite 6680
Washington, DC 20001

Via email: CLRRTFTaskForce@dccsystem.gov

Re: Comments of the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia on the
Final Report of the Civil Legal Regulatory Reform Task Force (July 31, 2025)

Dear Members of the Task Force:

On behalf of the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia ("WBA"),
thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Final Report of the Civil Legal
Regulatory Reform Task Force.

Founded in 1917, the WBA is one of the oldest women's bar associations in the
country. Its mission is to maintain the honor and integrity of the legal profession,
promote the administration of justice, advance and protect the interests of women
lawyers, promote their mutual improvement, and encourage a spirit of friendship.
With this mission, the WBA has a long history of advocating for the advancement of
women, historically oppressed communities, as well as advocating for voting rights
and home rule for the citizens of the District.

The WBA commends the Civil Legal Regulatory Reform Task Force ("Task Force")
for its thoughtful work in examining new approaches to expand access to civil justice
in the District of Columbia. We write to express our support for the Report's
endorsement of the Community Justice Worker ("CJW") model. We focus our
comments on the CJW model as we believe it presents the solution most likely to
garner widespread support from the D.C. legal community and therefore the
recommendation most able to be implemented without undue delay.

The WBA recognizes that large numbers of District residents face civil legal problems
- housing, family and consumer matters - without legal representation. In its 2019
report, Delivering Justice, the D.C. Access to Justice Commission describes how the
unmet legal needs of low-income District residents affect their livelihoods, their
families, and their safety. With many of these unrepresented litigants being women,
we see the access to justice issue in the District as a barrier to women being able to
effectively avail themselves of the legal system. Our sister organization, the Women's
Bar Association Foundation, provides grants to

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organizations that support the legal and social needs of women and children in the court efficiency, and help residents resolve problems before they escalate. We think this model is particularly well-suited for the many family matters that often affect District. From that perspective, the WBA has seen how access to legal representation improves the lives of women in our community. Thoughtful ways of increasing that representation is a worthy cause that the WBA supports.

The CJW model offers a practical, well-structured mechanism to extend the reach of the civil justice system while maintaining appropriate safeguards. By training and supervising nonlawyer community-based advocates to provide limited, well-defined forms of assistance, this framework has the potential to reduce barriers, improve women and children.

The WBA therefore supports the Task Force's recommendation to move forward with development and pilot implementation of the Community Justice Worker framework, accompanied by appropriate training, supervision, and evaluation mechanisms. We believe this approach represents a responsible and forward-looking step toward expanding equitable access to justice in the District of Columbia.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments and for your continued leadership on behalf of the D.C. community.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia,



Jennifer Mammen
President