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Civil Justice

PRESS RELEASE

April 5, 2017

The D.C. Affordable Law Firm ("DCALF") (www.dcaffordablelaw.org) is pleased to announce that it has been awarded a \$50,000 grant by the District of Columbia under the Immigrant Justice Legal Services Grant Program. DCALF will be working with Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area, as well as the Ethiopian Community Center, in reaching out to immigrants and asylum seekers, teaching them their rights under U.S. immigration law, and working with them to formalize and upgrade their immigration status, and potentially to become United States citizens.

DCALF is a non-profit, tax exempt law firm formed in 2015 by Georgetown University Law School and the law firms Arent Fox, LLC and DLAPiper, LLC. DCALF, as a relatively new entrant into the D.C. non-profit legal services market, already represents dozens of clients whose incomes generally fall within 200-400 percent of poverty guidelines, and therefore are not eligible for free legal services. DCALF practices in family, housing, employment, and immigration law, as well as representing small businesses working in distressed communities or with lower-income populations. DCALF has seven lawyers, all graduates of Georgetown Law Center and members of the D.C. Bar.

Marc Fleischaker, DCALF Executive Director, commented: "We are very pleased to be selected as a grantee to help D.C. residents comply with their obligations as immigrants to the United States, as well as upgrade their immigration status and ultimately become U.S. citizens. We are grateful to Mayor Bowser and the District of Columbia for the opportunity to help."

Kelly Hughes, a DCALF lawyer and the DCALF Administrator of the grant, expressed her enthusiasm for the project: "We are thrilled to be working with two high quality non-profit service agencies which are particularly well equipped to work in this important area. One of the reasons I wanted to work with DCALF was to assist recent immigrants and asylum applicants in becoming legal U.S. residents and citizens. All of us are looking forward to doing exactly that."

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