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## **DC Affordable Law Firm Awarded \$500,000 from the Department of Housing and Community Development to Assist Heirs in Probate**

**WASHINGTON, DC** — On September 26, 2023, DC’s Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) Announced DC Affordable Law Firm (DCALF)’s receipt of \$500,000 in grant funding to assist modest- and low-income individuals or households in the District with the process of obtaining clear legal title to real estate upon the death of a family member or loved one.

*“The probate clients we serve at DC Affordable Law Firm are often navigating a multitude of challenges – grief and loss, a technical and tedious legal process, and unfamiliarity with the steps required to ensure cherished family homes are conveyed properly and shielded from tax sales or foreclosure,”* said DCALF’s Executive Director, Gabby Mulnick Majewski, *“Through this grant, we are committed to dismantling information barriers, establishing new partnerships with community stakeholders to enhance accessibility, and bridging this critical justice gap through our provision of free legal assistance to residents seeking clear title to DC properties. We deeply appreciate the District’s investment in this program, and are grateful for the opportunity to partner with DHCD and Legal Counsel for the Elderly to advance this important work in our city.”*

The Heirs Property Assistance Program will deliver free legal services to eligible low-income DC households, or individuals who have a potential legal claim to residential real estate in the District of Columbia involved in probate or which otherwise does not have a clear legal title as the result of the death of a former owner. Through this work, DCALF will be able to focus on serving the modest-income clients who are at the core of DCALF’s mission, while continuing to address unmet legal needs within our community, working alongside Legal Counsel for the Elderly to expand the reach and breadth of services offered through the Heirs Property Assistance Program.

Applicants need to be current District residents or make a formal commitment to reside in the residential real property that is part of the estate in the District of Columbia after probate is completed, or to use the proceeds of the sale of the assets for the benefit of District residents. The program starts Monday, October 2, 2023.

More information about the program can be found in the DHCD Press Release, available at <https://dhcd.dc.gov/release/dhcd-awards-1-million-assist-heirs-probate>.

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DC Affordable Law Firm delivers accessible justice to modest-income DC residents who do not qualify for traditional sources of free civil legal services and cannot afford standard representation. Our innovative programming expands access to justice by empowering community members with unmet legal needs while also launching the careers of public interest lawyers committed to accessible justice. Through our dignified no-cost and low-cost representation options, DCALF bridges the gap in legal services, changes DC's legal landscape, and makes accessible justice a reality. Learn more and get involved at [www.dcaffordablelaw.org](http://www.dcaffordablelaw.org).