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## **Marc Fleischaker, DC Affordable Law Firm Co-Founder, Awarded the 2023 Mayor Muriel Bowser DC Hope Award**

**WASHINGTON, DC** — On October 7, 2023, Marc Fleischaker, Chair Emeritus of ArentFox Schiff, was presented with the 2023 Mayor Muriel Bowser DC Hope Award, one of Serve DC's 2023 Spirit of Service Awards. Fleischaker was honored for his significant impact on the DC community through his co-creation of DC Affordable Law Firm (DCALF), a groundbreaking organization providing free and low-cost legal services to the District's more than 100,000 modest-income residents.

Serve DC- The Mayor's Office on Volunteerism is the DC Government agency dedicated to promoting service as an innovative, sustainable solution to pressing social challenges. The Spirit of Service Awards is an annual celebration honoring District residents, community-based organizations, and businesses that have displayed an outstanding commitment to service in the areas of volunteerism, national service, philanthropy, and community resilience.

Since co-founding DCALF in 2015, Fleischaker has been an active member of the organization's Board of Directors, volunteering as Executive Director or Board Chair until March 2023. Under his leadership, DCALF has represented over 1,800 DC residents in family law, probate law, estate planning, and immigration law while training and mentoring more than fifty young lawyers to launch their careers in public interest.

To date, DC Affordable Law Firm remains the District's only nonprofit legal services organization delivering a wide array of free and low-cost legal services to DC residents living just above the poverty level, while also running a one-of-a-kind annual post-graduate, in-house legal fellowship program through partnerships with Georgetown University Law Center and the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law.

Fleischaker's volunteerism extends beyond DCALF and builds on his fifty-year career in for-profit law, where he represented thousands in class-action civil rights litigation. He has served on and chaired the Boards of the Public Defender Service of the District of Columbia, the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights, the DC Bar Foundation, and other civil rights institutions.

*“Marc is a compassionate innovator. His dedication to the DC community and his commitment to making a difference through DC Affordable Law Firm make him deserving of this prestigious award,”* says DCALF’s Executive Director Gabby Mulnick Majewski. *“DCALF has come so far in the past eight years, and none of it would have been possible without Marc’s leadership and vast contributions.”*

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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).