

NCCRC

National Coalition for a
Civil Right to Counsel



Civil Right to Counsel E-Alerts

March 21, 2024

[Donate](#)

NCCRC UPDATES

We're seeking a nonprofit strategic planner & management/operations consultant! The National Coalition for a Civil Right to Counsel continues to grow. We have issued a comprehensive [Request For Proposals \(RFP\)](#) to hire a strategic planner/operations consultant to assist with internal and external planning for all our civil right to counsel work. Please share the RFP with anyone or any organizations that may be interested. If you have any recommendations for individuals or entities, please let us know at info@civilrighttocounsel.org.

Deadline to submit application materials: April 5, 2024 (*please e-mail jpollock@publicjustice.org to indicate interest in applying ahead of submitting your application materials*).

UPCOMING WEBINARS

The ABC & Gs of Representing Youth

March 25, 2024 | 12 pm PT | [REGISTER](#)

When do children have a statutory right to counsel? When do courts have discretion to appoint counsel for a minor? Who will be the child's representative? When does a youth have the right to voice their preferences? The answers to these questions vary based on the type of case, jurisdiction, and youth's age. Terms used, such as: Guardian ad Litem, Appointed Representative, Kids Counsel, Casa Representative and "the best interests of the child" are confusing and inconsistent.

On March 25, 2024, the Legal Services Funders Network will host an illuminating presentation that unpacks the various rules and roles, the efforts being made around the country to ensure that youth are able to access justice, and what legal services providers who work with youth want funders (and others) to know!

Join moderators **Jessie Hahnel**, Program Director of Democracy & Environment at Crankstart, and **Claire Solot**, Managing Director of the Bigglesworth Family Foundation, for a conversation with **Sneha Barve**, Senior Counsel at the ABA Center of Children and the Law, **Kim Dvorchak**, Executive Director of the National Association of Counsel for Children, and **John Pollock**, Coordinator, National Coalition for a Civil Right to Counsel.

BEYOND THE COURTROOM: Tenant Right to Counsel's Broader Impact

April 18, 2024 | 1:30 pm ET | 10:30 am PT | [REGISTER](#)

BEYOND THE COURTROOM:

Tenant Right to Counsel's Broader Impact

Thursday, April 18

1:30-3pm ET | 10:30-12pm PT

Register: bit.ly/3Vvh1FF



Prior to 2017, no tenant in the country had a right to counsel if they were facing eviction, an administrative proceeding to terminate their tenancy or subsidy, or an appeal/challenge of an eviction judgment.* That is no longer the reality: **as of today, there are 17 cities, 1 county, and 4 states with right to counsel laws/ordinances!** The data shows that these laws are helping keep more tenants in their homes and promoting long-term housing stability. (*Note that the proceedings covered by a right to counsel ordinance or law differ depending on the jurisdiction).

But RTC's benefits go beyond individual courtroom victories. During this webinar, we'll explore RTC's larger systemic impacts, such as how it has helped to increase tenant engagement in the eviction process, support tenants engaged in organizing and rent strikes, positively impact the behavior of systems actors like landlords and judges, improve the coordination and efficacy of legal services organizations, and lead to legislative advocacy around issues and patterns identified by RTC attorneys.

We hope you can join us for this timely conversation with:

- **Pablo Estupiñan** | Director, Los Angeles RTC Campaign at [Strategic Actions for a Just Economy](#) (SAJE)
- **Thomas Freeman** | Staff Attorney, [Greater Hartford Legal Aid](#) (GHLA)
- **John Pollock** | Coordinator, [National Coalition for a Civil Right to Counsel](#) (NCCRC)

- Ora Prochovnick | Director of Litigation and Policy, [Eviction Defense Collaborative](#) (EDC)
-

RIGHT TO COUNSEL FOR TENANTS FACING EVICTION

State and Local Updates

To learn more about existing RTC ordinances and laws, visit the [NCCRC's Enacted Eviction RTC Laws Matrix](#).

Washington. The State's legislature [approved](#) an additional \$3 million in funding over the next 2 years for the statewide tenant right to counsel, bringing the full budget for the next year to \$18 million. [TheRealDeal](#) has more. Additionally, there is new positive caselaw about RTC. In [MOSM v. Deegan](#), an appellate court reversed and remanded an eviction matter because the trial judge a) failed to send a tenant who had requested counsel to RTC screening; and b) failed to continue the matter until she had counsel. We have more on our [website](#).

Los Angeles. The [LA Public Press](#) recently covered this story of an eviction in Echo Park that took two attorneys to overturn (the first attorney lost at the jury trial, but the second obtained a judgment notwithstanding the verdict), demonstrating that evictions are legally complicated proceedings - *even for attorneys specifically doing this work*. [LA City and County are progressing with RTC efforts](#). [NOTE: this story contains some inaccuracies, such as: 1) stating the Stout report was prepared for the NCCRC as opposed to the LA RTC Coalition; and 2) inaccurately stating Stout's estimated cost of the RTC program in Los Angeles].

Nebraska. A proposed [amendment](#) to Nebraska [LB 840](#) would provide Omaha public housing tenants with a right to counsel. [Nebraska Public Media](#) has more.

New York City. The RTC NYC Coalition rallied in Albany to support a statewide right to counsel for tenants ([S2721](#)) and \$260 million in the FY 2025 budget to fund the work. [Harlem World](#) covered the rally.

Ohio. [Harpers Magazine](#) recently looked at eviction rates in Columbus, the work of Columbus's Tenant Advocacy Project, the national movement around RTC, nationwide efforts to control rapidly unaffordable rents, and the increasing automation of property management and evictions that further complicates matters.

New Resources

[Advancing Racial and Health Justice Through a Right to Counsel for Tenants: A Primer for the Public Health Field](#) (a collaborative effort of [Human Impact Partners](#), [ChangeLab Solutions](#), [PolicyLink](#), the [NCCRC](#), and [Results for America](#) have released a new policy brief), is a primer for public health practitioners and professionals to learn about right to counsel laws, their impact on racial and health justice, and ways in which the public health field can support these efforts. There's more about the primer on our [website](#).

RIGHT TO COUNSEL AND FORECLOSURE

New York. The New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU) [settled](#) a 2023 lawsuit, [Fainfair v. Knipel](#), against the Office of Court Administration (OCA) for failing to adhere to a [law](#) requiring parties to a foreclosure proceeding to participate in

a settlement conference where the court must decide whether to appoint counsel for the homeowner. Among other terms, the OCA has agreed to send notice to parties about the purpose of the conference and the information they need to provide to be appointed counsel.

RIGHT TO COUNSEL AND IMMIGRATION

New York. [NY State of Politics](#) covered a recent rally in Albany held in support of the Access to Representation Act (ARA) ([S999A](#) | [A170A](#)), which, among other services, would guarantee legal representation for immigrants facing deportation proceedings. Advocates are calling for a \$150 million investment in legal services for immigrants.

RIGHT TO COUNSEL AND CHILD WELFARE

[Imprint News](#) recently covered changes in federal funding policy that have helped increase the effective and high-quality legal representation of parents and children involved in the child welfare system. The article also discusses a [proposed federal rule](#) that would not only codify the prior policy change but also expand legal representation funding to other civil legal proceedings to help cases stay out of the foster care system.

CIVIL RIGHT TO COUNSEL RESOURCES

- [RTC Status Map](#)
- [RTC Comprehensive Bibliography](#)



The [National Coalition for a Civil Right to Counsel](#) (NCCRC) is an association of individuals and organizations committed to ensuring individuals have a right to effective counsel when facing the loss of their basic human needs in the civil legal system. www.civilrighttocounsel.org | [Donate](#)

The National Coalition for a Civil Right to Counsel is a project of the Public Justice Center, Inc. - a 501(c)(3) organization, gifts to which are deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. The Public Justice Center is incorporated in the State of Maryland. Copies of current financial statements are available upon request by contacting the Public Justice Center at 201 N. Charles Street, Suite 1200, Baltimore, MD 21201 or by telephone at 410-625-9409. Documents and information submitted to the State of Maryland under the Maryland Charitable Solicitations Act are available from the Office of the Secretary of State, Annapolis, MD 21401 for the cost of copying and postage. The Public Justice Center is registered to request contributions in the states that require charitable solicitation registration. See <http://www.publicjustice.org/en/charitable-solicitation-disclosures/> for more information.



The National Coalition for a Civil Right to Counsel
c/o Public Justice Center
201 N Charles Street, Suite 1200

Baltimore, MD 21201
United States

If you wish to no longer receive email from us, please (Unsubscribing is not supported in previews).