

NCCRC

National Coalition for a
Civil Right to Counsel



Civil Right to Counsel E-Alerts

April 17, 2024

[Donate](#)

Celebrating National Fair Housing Month

April is [National Fair Housing Month](#), and 2024 marks the 56th anniversary of the passage of the [Fair Housing Act](#). At the NCCRC, our team is dedicated to advancing the right to counsel for tenants in cases that impact tenant housing stability, accessibility, and affordability, including evictions and administrative cases that strip people of their housing subsidies or tenancies. We see this work as a key way to advance fair housing, in no small part because of the well-established data that the vast majority of tenants facing eviction are [disproportionately people of color and most disproportionately Black women](#). This work is a part of making the promise of the Fair Housing Act real. [Read more about the fair housing / RTC connection](#).

In recognition of the Fair Housing Act's importance and the growing movement for a right to counsel for tenants, please join us for an important webinar tomorrow April 18, at 1:30 p.m. ET: **Beyond the Courtroom**. (more information below).

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



April 18

1:30 pm ET | 10:30
am PT

REGISTER

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. **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!**

ADDITIONAL UPCOMING EVENTS

Accessing Legal Services and Changing Laws to End Youth Homelessness

April 18

4pm ET | 1pm PT

REGISTER

The [National Homelessness Law Center](#) and [True Colors United](#) continue their series on the [Youth State Index](#) with this webinar. You'll hear from a youth advocate and their attorney about the importance of engaging a lawyer and how that can be a game changer in removing hard stops and barriers affecting youth, whether it's a criminal issue, an access issue, or preventing eviction/increasing stability - and more!

Addressing the Epidemic of Evictions: What Advocates Can Do on the Local, State, and National Levels

April 24

2pm ET | 11am PT

REGISTER

Please join the ABA's Commission on Homelessness & Poverty, RESULTS Educational Fund, and National Coalition for Civil Right to Counsel on Wednesday, April 24, at 2pm ET for **Addressing the Epidemic of Evictions: What Advocates Can Do on the Local, State, and National Levels**. Attendees will hear perspectives on the impact of evictions in communities and most importantly, what actions advocates can take to solve the eviction crisis, and what advocates, lawyers and non-lawyers alike, can do to help.

RIGHT TO COUNSEL FOR TENANTS FACING EVICTION

State and Local Updates

***Note:** In the updates below, Maryland and Detroit are the only jurisdictions that have enacted a right to counsel for tenants. New York City has a right to counsel for tenants, but there is no statewide right yet.*

Detroit. The [Detroit Free Press](#) recently covered the city's right to counsel program and issues with funding, as current federal funding ends in 2026 and the private funding ends in 2025. The story also notes that the funding problem extends to Michigan as a whole: pandemic-related funding that was made available to expand legal services in evictions across the entire state is ending, according to a recent [report](#). Learn more about [Detroit's RTC](#).

Maryland. The Access to Counsel in Evictions Task Force [published a new report](#) on the "Access to Counsel in Evictions" (ACE), the right to counsel, program in Maryland. We have a write-up on the report on our [website](#).

New York State. As the [RTCNYC Coalition](#), in collaboration with tenants and organizers across New York, leads the fight to establish a [statewide RTC](#), the [Indydependent](#) recently published an op-ed from two tenants in Queens facing eviction and supporting [statewide RTC](#).

Oklahoma. A piece in [KGOU](#) recently spotlighted Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma's (LASO) "[Right to Counsel](#)" program, currently operating in three Oklahoma City zip codes. (*NOTE: the program uses "right to counsel" in its title, but without a law underpinning it, it is not a right to counsel as we define it.*)

RIGHT TO COUNSEL AND MENTAL HEALTH

Idaho enacted [SB 1247](#), creating a new procedure for "emergency protective placement" through which the involuntary care and treatment of persons likely to have a neurocognitive disorder in acute crisis may be sought. **If the person is unrepresented, the court shall appoint counsel.**

CIVIL RIGHT TO COUNSEL RESOURCES

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



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 [unsubscribe](#).

CAUTION : This message originated from **outside of the Public Justice Center** email system. Be mindful before clicking on links, attachments, or **providing personally identifiable information** or financial information. Be especially careful when replying to messages that **contain personally identifiable information**.