

NCCRC

National Coalition for a
Civil Right to Counsel



Civil Right to Counsel E-Alerts

April 3, 2024

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NCCRC UPDATES

The NCCRC is 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

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 Prochnick** | Director of Litigation and Policy, [Eviction Defense Collaborative](#) (EDC)

April 18, 2024

1:30 pm ET | 10:30 am PT

REGISTER

RIGHT TO COUNSEL FOR TENANTS FACING EVICTION

National

On March 30th, [NBC Nightly News](#) featured a story about the rise in eviction filings (*video link; story begins at 14:56*). Our Coordinator, John Pollock, appeared on the broadcast to address some of the causes of the increase.

State and Local Updates

Note: In the updates below, only St. Louis has enacted a right to counsel for tenants facing eviction. The other cities and states highlighted in this e-alert are exploring or building toward eviction RTC.

St. Louis. The City recently issued a [request for proposals](#) (RFP) to identify law firms that will provide services under St. Louis' eviction RTC program. The program has \$685K available, and the RFP deadline is April 19, 2024. We have more about St. Louis' eviction RTC on our [website](#), and the [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) has additional reporting (*subscription may be required*).

Boston. The City Council unanimously [adopted](#) a [resolution](#) in support of MA's statewide eviction RTC bills ([H. 4360](#) | [S.864](#)). Learn more about the bills from the [MassRTC Coalition](#). The Housing & Community Development Committee also held a hearing on March 21st to explore an eviction RTC pilot, and Andrew Ashbrook, the NCCRC's Eviction RTC Implementation Specialist, testified in support.

North Carolina. [WHQR Public Media](#) reported on the recent formation of the [North Carolina Tenants Union](#), which identified eviction RTC as a statewide priority.

Oklahoma. [Oklahoma Watch](#) recently covered the statewide and national eviction crises. Our Coordinator, John Pollock, was interviewed for the piece, which also dives into the national eviction RTC movement and efforts across Oklahoma to increase tenant representation.

Phoenix. The City Council's Economic Development and Housing (EDH) subcommittee is exploring ways to make the [Tenant Eviction Assistance Project](#) (TEAP), run by [Community Legal Services](#), permanent and to potentially expand eligibility. The City's Deputy Human Services Director reported at a recent [hearing](#) (*video link; timestamped to the TEAP discussion*), that in the second half of 2023, the project stopped evictions in 31 cases and won trials in 17 others. We testified at the request of local advocates. [12News](#) has more.

RIGHT TO COUNSEL AND IMMIGRATION

A recent op-ed in [USA Today](#) focused on the necessity of legal representation in immigration proceedings. Approximately [55 jurisdictions](#) are already publicly **funding a form of deportation defense program**, and nationally, [67% of likely voters surveyed](#) support government-funded attorneys for immigrants facing deportation. The authors call for the passage of the [Fairness to Freedom Act](#).

RIGHT TO COUNSEL AND CHILD WELFARE

Follow-up from recent webinar: ABC & G's of Representing Youth. If you missed this fascinating webinar about legal representation of young people hosted by the [Legal Services Funders Network](#) (LSFN) on March 25th, the recording and presentation deck are [now available](#).

CIVIL RIGHT TO COUNSEL RESOURCES

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



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