

NCCRC

National Coalition for a
Civil Right to Counsel



Civil Right to Counsel E-Alerts

May 31, 2024

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Health, Housing, and Justice: What Kaiser Permanente Learned from Investing in Legal Aid

Tuesday, June 11

10am PT / 1pm ET

[**REGISTER**](#)

Join Kaiser Permanente, HealthBegins, and the National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership for a **90-minute webinar** highlighting the transformative impact of medical-legal partnerships on housing. Learn about effective upstream legal interventions, how access to legal assistance can improve health and housing stability, and why healthcare teams integrate legal aid expertise into their patient care efforts. Gain insights on how organizations can enhance collaboration to improve lives and communities.

RIGHT TO COUNSEL FOR TENANTS FACING EVICTION

New Resources

- **Building Support for CRTC by Anchoring Your Case in Racial Justice - *playbook now available!***

The NCCRC partnered with [The Case Made](#) and [New York Law School's Wilf Impact Center for Public Interest Law](#) to co-develop [Building Support for a Civil RTC by Anchoring Your Case in Racial Justice: A](#)

[Playbook for Justice Seekers Everywhere](#). Check out the [recording](#) and the [slides](#) from our launch webinar (held May 21, 2024). If you're interested in **learning more about the racial justice runway**, TheCaseMade's DrT is hosting a series of four free trainings **this June, Fridays at noon ET!** [Sign up](#) today.

- **National Center for Access to Justice (NCAJ) Solutions Symposium, panel recordings available.**

On February 9, 2024, the NCCRC's Coordinator, John Pollock, participated in "The Movement for a Tenants' Civil Right to Counsel," one of the panels for the Solutions Symposium hosted by the NCAJ. Access the panel recordings on the [NCAJ website](#).

National Updates

- **New article discusses why eviction RTC is a public health imperative.** A new article in [Health Affairs](#) articulates why the **public health field should "actively and enthusiastically support right to counsel efforts."** The article is a deep dive into why eviction RTC matters for public health and well-being. If you're interested in learning more about the RTC/public health connection, also make sure to check out [Advancing Racial and Health Justice Through a Right to Counsel for Tenants: A Primer for the Public Health Field](#), a resource we co-published earlier this year with our incredible partners at [Human Impact Partners](#), [ChangeLab Solutions](#), [PolicyLink](#), and [Results for America](#).

State and Local Updates

***Note:** In the updates below, San Francisco is the only jurisdiction with a right to counsel law for tenants. Updates from other cities or states are about efforts to build toward RTC.*

- **Dayton.** Two stories from ThinkTV look at Dayton, OH, evictions and the need to ensure representation for tenants. [One story](#) highlights a tenant's experience demanding repairs, facing eviction, and having her case dismissed after obtaining representation. The [second piece](#) explores efforts to pilot an eviction right to counsel program. Two cities in Ohio have enacted eviction RTC: [Toledo](#) and [Cleveland](#).
- **Pittsburgh.** Housing justice advocacy organizations throughout Pittsburgh recently held a press conference [calling for an expansion](#) of the Lawyer of the Day program.
- **San Francisco.** The [San Francisco Examiner](#) has a new piece exploring the impact that Open Door Legal (ODL), one of the eviction RTC providers, has had on homelessness in the district where its operating. Yet-to-be published evidence suggests homelessness decreased by 47% between 2011 and 2022 in the district where ODL operated despite rising 50% across the rest of the city.

RIGHT TO COUNSEL AND CHILD WELFARE

- **Louisiana.** Louisiana enacted [SB 39](#), removing a loophole where children were entitled to counsel in termination of parental rights (TPR) cases *unless* the TPR was sought due to the commission of a sex offense by the parent that resulted in the child's conception, in which case appointment was discretionary. The bill also specifies that representation continues through appeal. Read more on [our website](#).

- **Minnesota.** The state legislature passed [HF 5237](#), which clarifies that counsel should be provided to parents in matters where temporary or permanent removal of an Indian child is sought; provides for the discretionary appointment of counsel for Indian children younger than ten; and, specifies that counsel should be appointed prior to the first hearing on the petition. Read more on [our website](#) (see *Abuse/Neglect/Dependency*). The state legislature also enacted the **Minnesota African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act** ([SF 716](#)) which imposes a duty on social services agencies to "make active efforts to prevent the out-of-home placement of an African American or a disproportionately represented child." Read more [on our website](#) and [PreserveOurFamilies.org](#).

RIGHT TO COUNSEL IN OTHER CIVIL MATTERS

- **South Carolina.** The legislature enacted [HB 3682](#), which provides a right to counsel to indigent animal owners in civil matters related to compensation for animal care costs where the animals were seized due to the owner's alleged violation of laws against animal cruelty or animal fighting and baiting.

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.



c/o Public Justice Center
201 N Charles Street, Suite 1200
Baltimore, MD 21201
United States

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