Council for Court Excellence
Improving Justice for the Community

2026 Board of Directors Membership Information

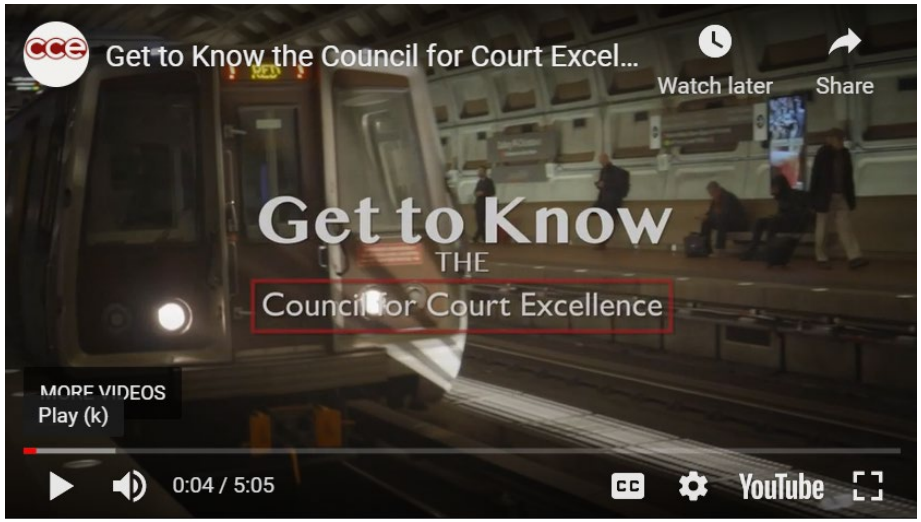
"CCE has developed a reputation as an excellent nonpartisan resource for identifying, analyzing, and facilitating needed reforms of the District of Columbia's justice system."

- Former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor

About CCE

The Council for Court Excellence (CCE) is a nonpartisan nonprofit that has spent over 40 years bringing D.C. communities and government together to build a trusted legal system that protects rights and ensures justice for all.

Our **mission** is to bring people together to conduct research, educate, and advocate to make D.C.'s unique legal systems more just, equitable, and accountable to the community.



We can't do this alone.
Join us in **building better justice.**

CCE's History & Impact



CCE was founded in 1982 by leaders in the District's civic, legal, government, and business sectors in the wake of a major report by the D.C. Bar's Court System Study Committee. Determined to turn the recommendations into action, our founders created an independent organization dedicated to making D.C.'s local and federal courts more effective, efficient, and fair.

Over time, CCE's work has evolved beyond the courthouse to address broader challenges within the District's legal systems and communities, while remaining grounded in our founding mission and interdisciplinary approach.
Over the past 44 years, CCE has led more than 70 initiatives and public education efforts to strengthen D.C.'s **criminal, civil, and youth justice systems** and empower residents across the District.



The Need

D.C.'s unique justice system — shaped by both federal and local authority — creates complex challenges and opportunities in the pursuit of justice.

District residents remain deeply affected by systems over which D.C. lacks full control. People convicted of D.C. Code offenses are housed in federal prisons, and the D.C. courts are federally funded despite serving local community needs.



Navigating these overlapping jurisdictions and competing priorities requires expertise, independence, and trusted leadership.

In this environment, CCE plays a critical role. With deep knowledge of the District's civil, criminal, and youth justice systems, CCE helps ensure that local and federal policymakers pursue equitable, evidence-based reforms that center the needs of D.C. residents.

Benefits of Board Membership

CCE's Board of Directors brings together leaders from more than 60 law firms, 20 businesses, and the District's courts, government, and civic community. Our Directors help advance CCE's mission, strengthen our governance and financial sustainability, and support meaningful justice reform in the District. See the full list HERE.



Serving on the Council for Court Excellence's Board of Directors connects you – and your organization – with local leaders who share your commitment to the effective and equitable administration of justice in our community.

As a Board Director, you will shape CCE's impact and ensure that we meet our vision of a better justice system for the District of Columbia.

Benefits (Cont.)

As a CCE Board Director, you will have opportunities to:

- **Participate in one or more of CCE's committees** and contribute directly to impactful projects, including research reports, community legal education guides, policy proposals, and legislation that improve justice in the District.
- **Engage in unique programs and public-facing initiatives**, such as teaching students about jury service, testifying at legislative hearings, and speaking on expert panels.
- **Build meaningful relationships** with leaders across the D.C. legal, business, judicial, government, and nonprofit communities. Many Board members have developed valuable professional connections, business opportunities, and lasting friendships through CCE.
- **Access exclusive pro bono opportunities** that directly support criminal justice reform, civic education, youth rights, and government accountability. Projects are designed with clear expectations and manageable time commitments—typically around 15 hours—and may involve research, drafting practical legal resources, public transparency efforts, or creative communications work.
- **Receive recognition** for your personal or organizational support through CCE publications, events, and communications, including prominent visibility at our annual Justice Potter Stewart Award Dinner and other special events.



Our Work

Here's how CCE identifies and proposes innovations to support D.C.'s legal systems:

- We **convene** diverse stakeholders to discuss important issues of justice in our community;
- We **evaluate** through research and study, digging deep into issues of law and policy, and making data-driven recommendations;
- We **advocate** for change to advance policy; and,
- We **educate** the public and increase civic engagement.



CCE does our work through four programmatic committees, featuring a dynamic group of **Board members** and volunteers that include lawyers, judges, business executives, professionals from local and federal government agencies, D.C. residents impacted by our legal system, and other civic leaders – all of whom are dedicated to improving justice in our community.

Criminal Justice

CCE's criminal justice work focuses on advancing practical, evidence-based reforms that improve fairness, safety, and outcomes across D.C.'s justice system.

Our work has addressed issues including decarceration, police overtime, criminal record sealing, community perceptions of safety, barriers to employment for returning citizens, and behavioral health treatment for justice-involved individuals.



CURRENT EXAMPLE: CCE has been a leading voice in efforts to replace D.C.'s outdated jail with a safer, more humane facility. Since 2019, CCE has convened and facilitated the District Task Force on Jails & Justice, bringing together leaders from government, advocacy organizations, and the community to develop recommendations for the future of incarceration in D.C. Most recently, CCE partnered with the Office of the D.C. Auditor to produce *Urgent Need for New D.C. Jail*, the most comprehensive review to date of jail operations. The report has helped elevate public awareness and inform policymakers as the District considers the future of its correctional system.

Civil Justice

CCE's civil justice work focuses on ensuring that D.C.'s legal systems are accessible, efficient, and fair for all residents. Through research, public education, and advocacy, CCE advances reforms that improve how people interact with the courts and resolve legal issues that affect their daily lives.

Our work has addressed issues including jury reform and modernization, probate reform, civil case delay reduction, administrative hearings, and public access to court records.



CURRENT EXAMPLE: CCE is leading efforts to improve D.C.'s probate system, which governs the transfer of property and assets after death. Through research, stakeholder engagement, and advocacy, CCE helped shape reforms that simplify court procedures, reduce costs, expand protections for low-income families, and make it easier to preserve and transfer generational wealth. CCE continues to work with the D.C. Council, Superior Court, and community partners to implement these changes and improve access to justice for District residents.

Youth Justice

CCE's youth justice work focuses on improving outcomes for young people involved in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. Through research, public education, and advocacy, CCE works to ensure that youth and families receive the support, services, and opportunities they need to thrive.

Our work has addressed issues including child welfare reform, legal representation in Family Court, juvenile justice reform, school discipline, and youth behavioral health.

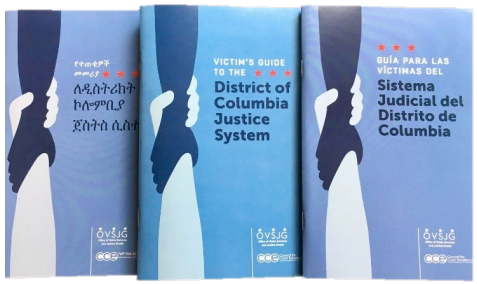


CURRENT EXAMPLE: CCE has focused significant attention on "crossover youth"—young people involved in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems who often face some of the greatest barriers to success. Through its report, *A Broken Web*, CCE identified gaps in services and opportunities to better support these vulnerable youth. Following the report's release, District agencies committed funding to improve the identification and support of crossover youth. CCE continues to advocate for reforms that strengthen prevention, coordination, and outcomes for young people and their families.

Justice Education

CCE's justice education work empowers D.C. residents with the knowledge and resources they need to navigate the legal system and engage with issues affecting their communities. Through plain-language publications, public programs, and strategic partnerships, CCE helps make the justice system more accessible and understandable for all.

Our work includes community education guides, public forums and events, and initiatives that connect residents, practitioners, policymakers, and community organizations around important justice issues.



CURRENT EXAMPLE: Launched in 2023, CCE's Second Chance Hiring Alliance brings together employers, workforce development organizations, reentry service providers, and government partners to expand employment opportunities for justice-impacted individuals. Through educational resources, convenings, and collaboration, the Alliance helps employers adopt second-chance hiring practices while supporting economic mobility for returning citizens. The Alliance serves as a growing network dedicated to reducing barriers to employment and strengthening successful reentry in the District.

Expectations of Board Members

Board Member Expectations

CCE Board Directors play an important role in advancing our mission and strengthening the organization. Key expectations include:

- Payment of annual Board dues*
- Attendance at CCE's semi-annual Board meetings, held each June and December
- Participation in at least one programmatic or governance committee (encouraged)
- Annual personal giving at a level that is meaningful to you (encouraged)



Organizational Membership

Businesses and law firms that join CCE as organizational members may designate up to three representatives to serve on the Board. This provides multiple opportunities for employees to expand their professional networks, deepen their community engagement, and develop leadership skills while advancing CCE's mission.



Check out the Board Member job description.

* CCE is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Annual dues, event sponsorships, and additional contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

Annual Board Dues Policy

The following annual dues schedule shall apply to all CCE Board Directors:

Law Firm Directors

Number of Lawyers in D.C. Region	Dues Requirement
1	$300
2-9	$600
10-49	$1,750
50-99	$2,900
100-199	$4,100
200-249	$5,800
250+	$8,500

Business or Nonprofit Directors

Number of Employees in D.C. Region	Dues Requirement
1	$300
2-99	$600
100-499	$1,500
500-1,499	$2,600
1,500-4,999	$3,800
5,000-9,999	$5,000
10,000+	$6,500

Individual Civic Directors

$200 (general); $75 (nonprofit employee or under 30 years old)

Ex Officio, Judicial, and Certified-Exempt Directors

$0 for Ex Officio, sitting judges, and any individual civic Director who attests that they cannot afford to pay the individual dues rate for the current year, but can meet all other requirements of board service.

Thank You & Contact Us

Thank you for your consideration – and we're happy to answer any additional questions or concerns you may have about CCE Board membership.

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Sign up for our newsletter to stay up-to-date on our work.
Follow us on Instagram and LinkedIn.

"Justice is too important a matter to be left to the judges, or even the lawyers; the American **people** must think about, discuss, and contribute to the future planning for their courts."

- Former Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist