

Amendment #1
FY 07 Budget Support Act of 2006
Engrossed Version
July 11, 2006

Title 3, Subtitle D
Sec. 3042

"Sec. 3042 is amended to read as follow:

"The Office of the Attorney General is hereby authorized to and shall award a grant, with funds appropriated through the fiscal year 2007 budget, of no less than \$3.2 million to the District of Columbia Bar Foundation, which shall in turn award grants to nonprofit organizations that deliver civil legal services to low-income people; provided, that no more than \$250,000 from the funds granted to the Bar Foundation shall be used to provide funding for a District of Columbia Poverty Lawyer Loan Assistance Repayment Program. The Office of the Attorney General shall permit the Bar Foundation a reasonable amount for administrative expenses, up to 5% of the funds granted under this Section."

Rationale

This section provides funding that will allow nonprofit legal services organizations to deliver critically needed civil legal services to the District's low-income population. As was recommended by the District of Columbia Access to Justice Commission, these funds should be used to provide legal services in underserved areas of the District; in housing-related matters; and to create a shared legal interpreter bank.

The proposed amendment assures an efficient process for awarding grants to nonprofit organizations for civil legal services by specifying that the District of Columbia Bar Foundation shall receive the funds from the Office of the Attorney General. The Bar Foundation has a demonstrated history of expertise and experience in making grants to nonprofit organizations that deliver these services. The amendment also permits the Bar Foundation to use a modest amount of this funding for administrative expenses. Finally, the amendment provides that no more than \$250,000 shall be used for funding a loan assistance repayment bill that is currently in the Judiciary Committee. The Committee's report on the fiscal year 2007 budget specifies that a portion of the funding approved by the Committee should be used for the loan repayment bill.