Legal Services

In 2011, the Legal Services Program celebrated 25 years of service to the community. What began in 1986 as a service to help people dying of AIDS put their legal affairs in order has grown into a thriving program that provides a wide range of legal assistance to people with HIV and to the LGBT community.

Throughout its existence, Whitman-Walker Legal Services has helped many thousands of persons living with HIV/AIDS in the Washington, DC metropolitan area to enforce their rights in the workplace; obtain access to health care; protect their medical privacy; obtain disability income; navigate U.S. immigration laws; and safeguard their own and their families’ futures.

Long recognized as a national and international model, the Legal Services Program was recognized in 2004 as a “Human Rights Hero” by the American Bar Association’s Section on Individual Rights and Responsibilities. In recent years, Whitman-Walker Legal Services has expanded to offer counsel and representation to medical and mental health patients of the health center regardless of HIV status. The program also helps lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals combat discrimination; access health care; obtain immigration relief if faced with persecution in their countries of origin; and protect themselves and their families with wills, advance health care directives and other planning documents. Whitman-Walker Legal Services also helps transgender women and men with name changes and gender changes in identity documents and other legal records.

Organizations

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American Dental Association
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Lambda Divers
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Merch Partnership for Giving
Meridian International Center
Merrill Lynch (Pierce, Fenner & Smith, Inc.)
Microsoft Matching Gifts Program
Morgan Stanley Smith Barney
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“i never thought i would need assistance of this kind – that said, i was treated with such dignity and respect. i’m very hopeful now.”

— WWWW LEGAL SERVICES CLIENT

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