

**Tzedek DC Launches Crime Victims Support Program  
and Announces Equal Justice Works Fellowship Opportunity**

WASHINGTON, D.C. April 19, 2018 – Tzedek DC today announced the launch of its financial crime victims support program. This program builds on work in support of survivors of financial abuse associated with intimate partner violence that the organization has been doing as part of our efforts to increase access to justice for low- and moderate-income DC residents. The program will be staffed full time by an Equal Justice Works Crime Victims Justice Corp Fellow through June 2020 and will include work and supervision from Tzedek DC’s staff lawyers. The Fellow will serve survivors of fraud, identity theft, and financial abuse associated with intimate partner violence, and will also coordinate on legal, policy, and community education work with other DC area-providers.

Interested applicants for the Fellowship are encouraged to apply by May 1.

The position announcement and details on how to apply are posted at:

<https://www.tzedekdc.org/work-with-us/>

Tzedek DC’s President and Director-Counsel Ariel Levinson-Waldman said: “We’re honored to be selected to host an Equal Justice Works Crime Victims Justice Corp Fellow and look forward to our continued partnership with the outstanding people at EJW. Nearly all intimate partner violence is accompanied by some form of financial abuse as well. The Fellowship allows Tzedek DC to increase our capacity to serve survivors of this dual form of abuse, as well as victims of identity theft, scams and other financial crimes.”



[Tzedek DC’s](#) mission is to safeguard the legal rights of low-income DC residents dealing with often unjust, abusive, and illegal debt collection practices, as well as other consumer protection problems like credit reporting issues, identity theft, and predatory lending. As an independent public interest center headquartered at the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law, Tzedek DC provides direct legal services, engages in policy and systems reform, and conducts outreach and preventative financial and legal education programs with DC community partners. Drawing on a central tenet of Jewish teachings – “*Tzedek, tzedek tirdof,*” or “Justice, justice you shall pursue,” – Tzedek DC aims to level the playing field by facilitating access to the civil justice system. By addressing debt-related legal issues before they become irreversible, catastrophic crises, Tzedek DC works to enhance the overall stability and financial health of low-income DC families.

[Equal Justice Works](#) is a nonprofit that funds public interest fellowships for attorneys every year. These fellows focus on a number of areas, including foreclosure, civil rights, immigration, and so many others, with the goal of closing the justice gap. Equal Justice Works also provides resources and opportunities for law students to encourage and prepare them for careers in public interest.

The [Crime Victims Justice Corps Fellowship Program](#) is a new program designed to increase access to civil legal assistance for crime victims, particularly victims of human trafficking, fraud or identity theft, campus sexual assault, hate crimes, and immigrant victims of crime. Selected

fellows will work at nonprofit organizations across the country to provide direct representation, outreach, and education to victims of crimes. This program is supported by an award from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime in the Office of Justice Programs, as well as private funding.