**Email Template for Pro Bono Counsel/Firm Leadership**

Subject Line Example: Preserve the Access to Justice Initiative

Subject Line Example: Prioritize the Access to Justice Initiative

Subject Line Example: Why the Access to Justice Initiative Matters to Me

Councilmember [CM name]:

Our law firm is reaching out to express our concern about the drastic cuts to the Access to Justice Initiative and to ask the Council to restore funding to $31.668M. [*If applicable, please add:* I am also a resident of Ward #.]

Our law firm partners with many Initiative-funded organizations, including the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Center. While we are grateful that the Judiciary Committee identified funds to partially restore the program, there is still a $18.9M or 60% gap in funding that we hope the D.C. Council will prioritize filling in the coming weeks.

While we are dedicated to our pro bono commitments, pro bono service could never fill the service gaps that will result from this reduction in support. This cut will undoubtedly diminish our ability to provide pro bono support since we are dependent on an appropriately resourced legal services community to screen potential pro bono cases and support our lawyer volunteers, who’d be reluctant to practice in unfamiliar areas without that help.

These services are crucial for District residents. [*Insert case example where a firm attorney represented a D.C. resident pro bono*.]

As you consider the proposed FY25 budget, please keep the Access to Justice Initiative among your highest budget priorities. We support the D.C. Access to Justice Commission’s efforts to restore funding of $31.668M to this vital program.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Title]

[Firm]