



D I S T R I C T O F C O L U M B I A B A R  
*District of Columbia Affairs Section*

**One-Page Summary of Public Statement  
of the District of Columbia Affairs Section of the District of Columbia Bar  
In Support of the Efforts of the District of Columbia  
to Count All Residents in the 2010 Census**

The members of the Steering Committee of the D.C. Affairs Section of the District of Columbia Bar<sup>1</sup> voted 7 in favor, 0 in opposition, and 2 not present, nor voting, on May 7, 2010 to issue the following Public Statement on behalf of the Section in support of the efforts of the District of Columbia to count all of its residents in the 2010 Census:

The statement lauds the work of the District and Federal governments to get an accurate census count and to make sure all District residents are actually counted. It indicates that, as officers of the court and members of the Bar, lawyers have a civic duty to ensure that colleagues and clients understand that the census counts all persons, including children, living in the United States as outlined in the U.S. Constitution -- both citizens and non-citizens. It provides statistics indicating the financial impact of undercounting District residents.

The statement urges, especially with a history of population undercount for the District, and the current economic downturn, that everyone take the approximately ten minutes it should take to complete the questionnaire form to ensure that D.C. families and the D.C. community get their fair share of funding.

The statement lists some reasons why some of the District's population is categorized as hard-to-count:

- 12 percent foreign-born
- 15 percent speak a language other than English at home
- 16.4 percent live in poverty (2007)
- 10 percent unemployed
- 6,000 homeless
- 48 percent live alone
- 55.5 percent renters
- 23,000 students in university housing

The Statement says that it is of paramount importance that everyone what they can to get the word out about how important completing and submitting their Census questionnaire.

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<sup>1</sup> The views expressed herein represent only those of the D.C. Affairs Section of the District of Columbia Bar and not those of the D.C. Bar or of its Board of Governors.



D I S T R I C T O F C O L U M B I A B A R  
*District of Columbia Affairs Section*

**Public Statement of the District of Columbia Affairs Section  
of the District of Columbia Bar In Support of the Efforts of the District of  
Columbia to Count All Residents in the 2010 Census**

The members of the Steering Committee of the D.C. Affairs Section of the District of Columbia Bar<sup>1</sup> voted, by a vote 7 in favor, 0 in opposition, and 2 not present, nor voting, on May 7, 2010 to issue the following Public Statement on behalf of the Section in support of the efforts of the District of Columbia to count all of its residents in the 2010 Census:

The D.C. Affairs Section of the District of Columbia Bar supports both the District of Columbia government and the Federal government in the effort to get an accurate census count and to make sure everyone residing in the District is actually counted. As officers of the court and members of the District of Columbia Bar, it is part of our civic duty to ensure that our colleagues and clients understand that the census counts all persons, including children, living in the United States as outlined in the U.S. Constitution -- both citizens and non-citizens. Dozens of federal programs rely on census data to distribute funding. States and cities, including the District, are at risk of losing millions of dollars for persons not counted. Here in the District, each resident represents over \$4,600 for essential public services.

Across the country as well as communities in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area have received their Census 2010 questionnaire forms. With the present economic crisis and a history of population undercount for the District, it is critical that each person takes the approximately ten minutes it should take to complete the questionnaire form to ensure that all the District's families and community get their fair share of federal funding.

According to information released by the U.S. Census in December 2009, the District's population is estimated to be approximately 599,000. The District's Federal allocations based on the census data is approximately \$2.7 billion in FY 2008. Nevertheless, there are some reasons for why some of the District's population is considered hard-to-count. The enumeration difficulties that make some parts of the District's population hard-to-count include:

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- 48 percent live alone
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- 23,000 students in university housing

Given the challenges that these difficulties represent for the District to complete a full and accurate count for the census, it is of paramount importance that we all do what we can to get the word out for how important replying to the questionnaire from the Census is and to complete it.

D.C. Affairs Section Steering Committee on the date of this vote:

Esther Bushman and Nicola Whiteman, Co-chairs  
Claudia McKoin  
Jon Bouker  
Edward Rich  
Lawrence Mirel  
Nicolas Majett  
Tonya Sapp  
Brian Flowers

Sally Kram and James Bubar, D.C. Affairs Section Program Committee co-chairs, participated in the drafting and discussion of this Public Statement.