



**MURIEL BOWSER**  
**MAYOR**

December 1, 2022

The Honorable Phil Mendelson Chairman  
Council of the District of Columbia  
John A. Wilson Building  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 504  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

In accordance with section 2 of the Confirmation Act of 1978, effective March 3, 1979 (D.C. Law 2-142; D.C. Official Code § 1-523.01), and pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 16-1052, I am pleased to nominate the following person:

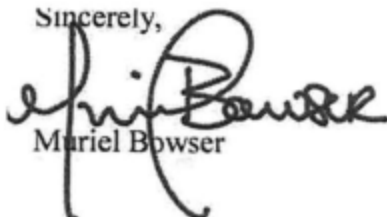
Ms. Laila Leigh  
Columbia Road, NW  
Washington, DC 20009  
(Ward 1)

for reappointment as a community representative member of the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board, for a term to end July 20, 2025.

Enclosed you will find biographical information detailing the experience of the above-mentioned nominee, together with a proposed resolution to assist the Council during the confirmation process.

I would appreciate the Council's earliest consideration of this nomination for confirmation. Please do not hesitate to contact me, or Steven Walker, Director, Mayor's Office of Talent and Appointments, should the Council require additional information.

Sincerely,

  
Muriel Bowser



Chairman Phil Mendelson  
at the request of the Mayor

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To confirm the appointment of Ms. Laila Leigh to the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board Laila Leigh Confirmation Resolution of 2022”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia confirms the reappointment of:

Ms. Laila Leigh  
Columbia Road, NW  
Washington, DC 20009  
(Ward 1)

as a community representative member of the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board, pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 16-1052, for a term to end July 20, 2025.

Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia shall transmit a copy of this resolution, upon its adoption, to the nominee and to the Office of the Mayor.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

# LAILA E. LEIGH

Washington, DC 20015

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**Columbus Community Legal Services, The Catholic University of America** Washington, DC

*Supervising Attorney/Qualified Tax Expert, Low Income Taxpayer Clinic* Aug. 2016 – Jun. 2021, Jan. 2022 – present

- Co-instruct 4-6 credit transition-to-practice course in federal income tax law and tax controversy practice and lawyering skills
- Mentor and supervise student attorneys representing clients in fast-paced, high volume clinical legal setting where we handle diverse Internal Revenue Service and U.S. Tax Court matters, ranging from audits of family-based tax credits and business expenses to Innocent Spouse relief for domestic violence survivors
- Supervise student attorneys in community service projects, including holding community educational workshops on tax topics, volunteering at IRS Counsel's Settlement Days, and the U.S. Tax Court's Calendar Call program to provide limited legal services to *pro se* litigants
- Cultivate and grow community partnerships to provide better service to our community
- Provide professional training and technical assistance on federal income tax law and practice
- Track program outcomes and prepare mandatory semi-annual and annual grant reports for grantor, and prepare for grantor site visits
- Manage full-time summer associate student attorneys in federal income tax, family law, and immigration matters
- Served as judge for national Seigenthaler-Sutherland Cup Moot Court Competition

*Acting Director, Families and the Law Clinic* May – Dec. 2021

- Instructed 4-6 credit transition-to-practice family law and domestic violence substantive law and practice course co-instructed lawyering skills course
- Mentored and supervised 8 student attorneys holistically representing clients in civil protection order, child support, and Special Immigrant Juvenile Status cases
- Supervised student attorneys on DC Superior Court's Family Court Attorney Negotiator community project, where we assisted *pro se* litigants resolve family law cases, and coordinated outcomes with court personnel
- Supervised student attorneys and coordinated with partnered clinics in cross-border clinical project where we examined campus sexual assault and sexual harassment policies in 3 countries

*Clinical Fellow* Aug. 2010 – Mar. 2011

- Researched and assisted in the implementation of the Clinic's community legal education initiatives
- Developed promotional materials for diverse audiences, including clinicians, alumni, and prospective students

### Break the Cycle

Washington, DC

*Legal Services Manager*

Jan. 2014 – Jun. 2016

- Conducted training and supervision of Staff Attorneys, volunteer attorneys, legal interns, and other volunteers
- Supervised, set goals with and for, and review the performance of legal services staff
- Represented youth ages 12 to 24 in all aspects of domestic violence and domestic relations litigation, and provided legal advocacy services in related criminal matters
- Cultivated cooperative partnerships and relationships with national and local agencies, community members, volunteers, and supporters with the goals of assessing, analyzing, and proposing solutions to issues and problems surrounding provision of domestic violence services for youth
- Provided training and technical assistance to key community partners and service providers
- Served as a public representative of the organization and expert on the issue of teen domestic and dating violence
- Developed and implemented legal services programs strategies and monitored progress toward goals
- Participated in writing legal services program budgets and manage expense budgets for legal services projects
- Tracked and reported program outcomes and efficacy for reports to funders and community partners
- Supported and assisted in fundraising, media and communications efforts to further program goals

**Legal Aid Bureau, Inc.**

*Family Law Staff Attorney*

**Rock, MD**

Mar. 2011 – Jan. 2014

- Represented low-income clients in all aspects of complex divorce, contested child custody, and domestic violence protective order litigation in three counties with a focus on immigrants and survivors of domestic violence
- Liaised with community organizations, police, court personnel, and team of eight staff to coordinate client care and ensure the safety and economic stability of clients and their children
- Chaired state-wide Family Law Task Force where responsibilities included coordinating trainings and providing leadership for family law attorneys

**Survivors and Advocates For Empowerment (SAFE)**

*Court Advocate/On-Call Advocacy Program Advocate*

**Washington, DC**

Dec. 2010 – Mar. 2011

*On-Call Advocacy Program Volunteer*

Aug. 2009 – Dec. 2010; Apr. 2007 – Feb. 2009

- Oriented survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking to the civil protection order process, provided legal information, assisted with drafting civil protection order petitions, and developed personalized safety plans
- Answered calls from Metropolitan Police on the scene of dating and domestic violence crimes
- Coordinated receipt of emergency services such as shelter, food, locksmith, transportation, and counseling after court hours

**Women Empowered Against Violence (WEAVE)**

*Legal Intern*

**Washington, DC**

May – Dec. 2009

- Conducted legal research, co-authored motions, briefs, and facilitated WEAVE's walk-in legal clinic
- Prepared and submitted 9 domestic violence-based immigration applications, i.e.: Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) self-petitions, U Visas for victims of crime, and I-192 Waivers of Inadmissibility

**International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers**

*Economic Research Analyst*

**Washington, DC**

Aug. 2006 – Apr. 2008

- Tracked and analyzed union membership and construction industry data, developed data reports and presentations for national conferences and Union-wide publication

**Park Jeong Edi English Academy**

*English Instructor*

**Daegu, South Korea**

Oct. 2004 – May 2005

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**ADMISSIONS TO PRACTICE**

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**Maryland, 2010**

**District of Columbia, 2014**

**United States Tax Court, 2016**

**United States District Court for the District of Columbia, 2018**

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**COMMUNITY SERVICE**

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**District of Columbia Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board**

*Co-Chair*

Jan. 2022 – present

*Community Member*

Dec. 2015 – Jan. 2022

- Review, analyze, and report on factual circumstances, system contacts, and patterns in domestic violence fatalities
- Recommend greater coordinated community response, prevention and education measures, and other systemic improvements to prevent domestic violence fatalities

**Schuyler Arms Condominium Association**

Oct. 2016 – Oct. 2019

*President*

- Planned monthly meeting agendas for ongoing and new issues affecting our community of 93 units, including both owner and renter occupants
- Prioritized, planned, and oversaw capital improvement projects with board members
- Managed transition to new property management company and hired new community manager

## SELECT PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATION

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Panelist, *Settlement Days: Partnering to Support Unrepresented Taxpayers in Tax Court*, Federal Bar Association Annual Tax Conference, Washington, DC, March 5, 2020.

Co-Presenter, *Healthy or Not?*, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Family Violence Prevention & Services Program, Washington, DC, February 9, 2016.

Presenter, *Domestic Violence Advocacy Certification Training (DVACT)*, Washington, DC, November 21, 2014, June 23, 2015, and November 19, 2015.

Co-Presenter, *Assisting Student Survivors of Sexual Assault, Domestic/Dating Violence, Stalking or Harassment in the On-Campus Grievance Process*, 2nd Annual You Are Not Alone District of Columbia College and University Conference, Washington, DC, July 14, 2015.

Presenter, *Advocating for Young Survivors*, National Training and Institute on Protection Order Practice for Attorneys and Advocates, Washington, DC, May 27, 2015.

Keynote Speaker, *Start Talking Tech! Relationships, Technology, and You*, Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence iStand Youth Summit, Tampa, FL, February 21, 2015.

Presenter, *Dating Violence, Response, and Intervention Strategies*, Department of Justice Office on Violence against Women Staff Training, Washington, DC, October 16, 2014.

Presenter, *Dating Violence: Advocating for Young Survivors*, Nebraska County Attorneys Association Fall Conference (3.5 hour training for CLE credit), Omaha, NE, October 9, 2014.

Colleen Gallopin and Laila Leigh, *Teen Perceptions of Dating Violence, Help-Seeking, and the Role of Schools*, 16(1) PREVENTION RESEARCHER 17 (2009).

## FOREIGN LANGUAGES

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**Spanish**, proficient in oral and written Spanish, provide direct representation to Spanish-speaking clients, experience insight translation and written document translation

**Farsi**, basic conversational

## EDUCATION AND HONORS

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**Columbus School of Law, The Catholic University of America**, Juris Doctor May 2010

- Clinical Legal Education Association (CLEA) Outstanding Student Award, 2010
- Charles and Louise O'Brien Fellowship for pro bono service, 2008

**Loyola University Chicago**, Honors Bachelor of Arts, International Studies, Political Science, *magna laude*, April 2004

- Gannon Award for women's leadership, 2004
- Presidential Scholarship for academic excellence, 2001 - 2004
- Damon Scholarship for academic excellence, 2000 - 2001



Executive Office of the Mayor - Office of Talent and Appointments

John A. Wilson Building | 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 600 | Washington, DC 20004

**Laila E. Leigh**



Laila Leigh has served as the Supervising Attorney/Qualified Tax Expert at Columbus Community Legal Services, the in-house firm and clinical legal program at the Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law since August 2016. In the Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic, Laila supervises students and post-graduate fellows representing clients with federal income tax controversies before the Internal Revenue Service and the U.S. Tax Court. Laila co-teaches the Clinic's course covering foundational lawyering skills and federal income tax practice. Laila directly advises clients, holds community educational workshops for taxpayers, and provides technical assistance to professionals. Between May 2021 and December 2021, Laila supervised the Families and the Law Clinic where she served as the Acting Director from July 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021. There, Laila managed all aspects of the clinical legal program including instructing the substantive family and domestic violence law course, mentoring student attorneys, and overseeing community outreach projects.

Prior to joining the Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic, Laila managed the Policy and Legal Services Program at Break the Cycle (now part of Network for Victim Recovery DC). Break the Cycle was a national non-profit organization serving youth who experienced dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Laila's professional interests include federal income tax issues affecting individuals and families, dating and domestic violence, domestic relations, the intersection of tax and gender-based violence, social justice lawyering and clinical legal education.

A Ward 1 resident, Ms. Leigh holds an Honors B.A., *magna cum laude*, from Loyola University of Chicago and a Juris Doctor from The Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law.



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Executive Office of Mayor Muriel Bowser



Office of the General Counsel to the Mayor

**To:** Bryan Hum, Steve Walker  
**From:** Betsy Cavendish  
**Date:** October 3, 2022  
**Subject:** Legal sufficiency review of Resolutions nominating Lisa Geller, Ashley Joyner Chavous, Laila Leigh, Shannarese Sims, and Varina Winder as members of the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board

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**This is to Certify** that this office has reviewed the above-referenced resolutions and found them to be legally unobjectionable. If you have any questions in this regard, please do not hesitate to call Vanessa Careiro, Deputy General Counsel, Executive Office of the Mayor, at 202-724-1303, or me at 202-724-7681.

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Elizabeth Cavendish