

June 8, 2018

Workers hold cleaning company accountable for unpaid wages

Michelle Henry and Robin Diesel spent a lot of time on the road. As employees of Majestic Maids, they traveled throughout Maryland cleaning homes and other properties. But their employer refused to pay for the hours of time they were required to travel each week, depriving them of thousands of dollars of hard-earned wages. [Read how they fought back to recover their wages and change the company's policies.](#)



Pennsylvanians have a right to an attorney when facing debtors' prison, court rules

Traffic tickets. Fines from criminal cases. Court fees. Even fines for catching a fish out of season. If you can't afford to pay fees and fines, the courts can often send you to jail. And even though your liberty is at stake, you are not necessarily entitled to an attorney to represent you. The National Coalition for a Civil Right to Counsel is working with advocates across the country to change this. The movement recently scored a victory in Pennsylvania, when the Superior Court held that defendants facing incarceration for failure to pay fees and fines have a right to appointed counsel. [Read about the decision here.](#) You can also check out where rights to counsel exist for fees and fines cases and where people are working to establish this right on the NCCRC's [interactive map](#) (choose the "recent activity" and "right to counsel status" options).

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2018 Legislative Report

Thank you! The 2018 session of the Maryland General Assembly wrapped up in April, and your voice was a critical part of the PJC's advocacy in Annapolis and Baltimore. Your calls and emails reminded legislators that Marylanders want earned sick and safe leave, rent court reform, and access to the courts when their rights are violated. While some bills passed and others didn't, you sustained our fight on the long road to justice. [Click here for a wrap-up of some of the bills that the PJC and allies worked on this year.](#)

Concert raises funds to honor Rikki Fleisher's passion for justice

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Spectacular Concert to raise money in support of the Rikki Fleisher Fund for Professional Development. We hope you had as much fun at the concert as we did. Julian Fleisher, Leon



Fleisher, and Lance Horne gave incredible performances and Mo Rocca led the audience in a fun, "Wait, Wait, Don't Tell Me"-style game. Thank you also to Paula Fleisher for sharing stories about her mom's legacy of working for justice. [Click here for photos from the concert.](#)

You helped us raise over \$10,000 for the Public Justice Center. Thank you! The funds raised will provide exceptional training opportunities for our legal staff. One way in which we have done this is to invest in an ongoing intensive staff-wide training on race equity. This training allows us to become more effective advocates and to impact the racial barriers and suffering that our clients face. If you couldn't attend the concert but would still like to contribute to the Fund, you can [make a gift here](#). Or mail your gift to Public Justice Center, Attn: Fleisher Fund, One N Charles Street, Suite 200, Baltimore, MD 21201.

Your gifts help build a just society. Contribute here.



PJC's e-newsletter is an occasional public notice to join, share, celebrate, or commiserate with the Public Justice Center's efforts to "pursue systemic change to build a just society." Please forward this information to others. To subscribe or unsubscribe to future e-newsletters, please send an email to info@publicjustice.org stating your preferences.

Movies that Matter

If you missed the May screening of films by youth filmmakers from Wide Angle Youth Media, you can check out a couple of the films here:

[Void](#)

[Violence in Baltimore:
A Community in Chaos](#)