



President Biden, Congresswoman Norton, and the Washington Post Salute DC Appleseed

March 2, 2022



As Chair of the board for DC Appleseed Center for Law and Justice, I would like to commend Walter Smith and the staff at DC Appleseed, for their tremendous service working on many of the toughest issues facing the District. I also want to acknowledge all the support that our Board and our pro bono partners have provided in addressing these issues. Without the pro bono support from our Board and others, none of our accomplishments would have been possible.

This past week has been truly special for DC Appleseed as [President Biden thanked Walter Smith for his service to the District](#), the Washington Post commented on [the mighty work of DC Appleseed](#) and Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton introduced a [tribute into the Congressional Record](#) that recognized Walter's leadership over the course of twenty years at DC Appleseed. Speaking on behalf of the Board of Directors, we are truly grateful to Walter for building an organization that has had an enormous impact on the lives of countless residents in the District.

Among the list of our accomplishments during Walter's tenure include: spearheading the cleanup of the Anacostia River, leading the fight for an elected Attorney General in the District, helping transform the District's response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, successfully advocating for the creation of the University of the District of Columbia Community College, leading a number of advocacy initiatives fighting for DC voting rights including to help write the proposed DC Constitution and testifying before Congress addressing the issue. In addition, under Walter's leadership, DC Appleseed wrote a report responding to the city's lead in the water crisis, which led in part to the establishment of the city's Department of Energy and the Environment. And just last year, DC Appleseed and our tremendous pro bono partners secured a settlement with CareFirst in our long fight to hold the health insurer accountable -- resulting in a \$95-million-dollar settlement that will bring much needed funds to underserved people in the District.

During my years as a board member and my current tenure as Chair, it has been my pleasure working closely with Walter and our pro bono partners on many of these issues. The future for DC Appleseed remains bright and as we move into a new era. I am pleased that the foundation he solidified and nurtured will continue to grow under new leadership. Congratulations to Walter Smith and all the amazing people who have worked at DC Appleseed over the years...as Walter always says "**there is much more work to be done**".

If you would like to help us advance this important work, please click [here](#) to donate.

Many thanks.

Sincerely,

Annemargaret Connolly
Board Chair
DC Appleseed Center for Law and Justice

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