



DC Appleseed Center for Law and Justice Appoints New Executive Director Vanessa Batters-Thompson



The DC Appleseed Center for Law and Justice Board of Directors is pleased to announce that it has named Vanessa Batters-Thompson as the organizations' new Executive Director effective May 2, 2022. Batters-Thompson brings a wealth of experience advocating for marginalized D.C. residents and a passion for creating positive change in the District of Columbia. She succeeds Walter Smith, who served as Executive Director for the past 20 years.

Speaking for the Board of Directors, "we are thrilled to bring on board someone with Vanessa's capacities and experience, truly someone who has fought for some of the most vulnerable residents in the city," said chair Annemargaret Connolly. "For more than two decades, DC Appleseed has been advocating for policies that serve all our residents across the city and help make District government more efficient... Vanessa is the right leader at the right time for this organization", said Josh Wyner, who was not only DC Appleseed's inaugural Executive Director but led the search committee.

Ms. Batters-Thompson is currently the Associate Director of Legal Services for Individuals and Families at the DC Bar Pro Bono Center, where she has worked since 2014. While at the Pro Bono Center, Ms. Batters-Thompson spearheaded the launch of the Family Law Assistance Network, oversaw volunteer training, and collaborated

with thousands of pro bono attorneys to meet the legal needs of people living on low incomes. Prior to joining the DC Bar, Ms. Batters-Thompson was a Senior Staff Attorney at Bread for the City and a Friedman Fellow in the George Washington University's Jacob Burns Legal Clinics. She received her Juris Doctorate in 2009 from The George Washington University Law School, and she earned her Bachelor of Arts from American University in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies in 2003.

“My sincere thanks to the DC Appleseed board for providing me this opportunity to continue the work of an inspiring organization. Building on an impressive track record of prior successes, I look forward to leading Appleseed as we help the District rebound from the pandemic and keep building towards a more equitable and inclusive city for all,” said Ms. Batters-Thompson.

For over 25 years, through litigation, teamwork, and advocacy, DC Appleseed has helped make the District of Columbia a better place to live and work. Throughout our history, we have taken on some of the District's toughest problems, developed proposed solutions to those problems, and then worked to get our proposed solutions adopted and implemented. DC Appleseed is empowered by the thousands of hours of pro bono time donated by our volunteer attorneys, business leaders, and community experts. DC Appleseed is a 501(c)(3) organization.

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<https://www.dcappleseed.org>