

## **MEDIA ADVISORY: Historic City Council Vote Tomorrow**

### **Philadelphia Bar Association Strongly Urges Passage of Historic Right to Counsel Legislation Tomorrow**

#### ***Philadelphia City Council Scheduled to Vote TOMORROW on Councilmember Gym's Legislation Launching City to Forefront of National Movement***

**PHILADELPHIA, PA** – In advance of tomorrow's scheduled Philadelphia City Council historic vote on Bill #190386, "Right to Counsel Bill," Philadelphia Bar Association Chancellor Rochelle M. Fedullo released the following statement:

**"Tomorrow the Philadelphia City Council will consider legislation guaranteeing a right to counsel for low-income tenants facing eviction.**

**"We strongly urge all members of the City Council to vote in support of this critical legislation to combat the devastating effects of our city's eviction crisis by guaranteeing all low-income tenants have legal representation when faced with losing their homes.**

**"The research is clear, passage of Councilmember Gym's bill will save our city millions of dollars, strengthen our neighborhoods, prevent homelessness and protect children and families from the harm suffered by unfair evictions."**

Chancellor Rochelle M. Fedullo co-authored a recent [Philadelphia Inquirer op-ed](#) with the co-chairs of the Association's Civil Gideon and Access to Justice Task Force, Joseph A. Sullivan and Catherine C. Carr, published on October 17<sup>th</sup>. [Click here to read the full piece.](#)

In 2018, the Philadelphia Bar Association released a groundbreaking [study](#) conducted by Stout Risius Ross LLC, which found that if the City of Philadelphia invested \$3.5 million per year to fund counsel for eligible low-income tenants facing eviction, the city would save \$45.2 million per year in quantifiable eviction-related shelter, medical and social service costs and expenses, a return of over \$12 for every \$1 spent. A recent update by Stout found that if the city invested \$5 million in counsel for low-income tenants with household incomes under 200 percent of the federal poverty line, the City's total estimated savings would be approximately \$63 million.

**To interview Chancellor Fedullo about tomorrow's historic vote, contact Kristofer Eisenla at [kristofer@lunaeisenlamedia.com](mailto:kristofer@lunaeisenlamedia.com) or 202-670-5747**

# # #

*The Philadelphia Bar Association, founded in 1802, is the preeminent metropolitan association of lawyers in the United States. It is a keystone in the ongoing developments of the Philadelphia and Pennsylvania legal systems. With more than 200 years of dedicated service to stand on, the Philadelphia Bar Association is firmly rooted in the Philadelphia community as a steady and reliable bellwether. To learn more about the association, [visit here](#).*