

# Over 92% of tenants facing eviction are unrepresented

## We need to change this!

### Evictions are going up

Over the past 10 years, on average nearly 40,000 eviction cases have been filed a year in Massachusetts. At stake in each of these cases is someone's housing.

### Trauma of eviction

The trauma of eviction is devastating. Losing a home sends families into shelters and onto the streets. It invites depression and illness, spirals into job loss, is uprooting neighborhoods.

### Most tenants are unrepresented

Over 92% of tenants last year were forced to fight their eviction case in Housing Court without an attorney, while most landlords have an attorney.

### Representation matters

Having an attorney and access to right resources, education, and support can change the outcome for the better for a tenant and preserve a tenancy. The Massachusetts Right to Counsel Coalition is working to ensure that low income people have access to resources and assistance that can prevent their eviction.



*Iris had no way to get in and out of her apartment and her landlord refused to install a wheelchair ramp, even though he was required to by law. Instead the landlord tried to evict her for non-payment of rent, even though she had paid the rent. Greater Boston Legal Services with the Disability Law Center represented Iris, who won her case and was able to move into a renovated, accessible apartment.*

**“It is David versus Goliath,” says Sal DiDomenico, a state senator from Everett. “People who are low income don’t have the resources to compete.”**

***Hard Times, High Rents***  
***Globe Magazine***  
**Feb. 19, 2019**

# The Growing List of Supports for Right to Counsel in Eviction Cases

To join go to

[www.MassRTC.org](http://www.MassRTC.org)

- AIDS Action/Fenway Health
- Allston/Brighton Community Develop Corp
- Beacon Communities
- Beacon Residential Management
- Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority
- Black Economic Justice Institute
- Boston Bar Association
- Boston Tenant Coalition
- Casa Myrna
- Chelsea Collaborative
- Chelsea City Manager, Tom G. Ambrosino
- Chelsea Police Department
- Children's HealthWatch
- Chinese Progressive Association
- Citizens' Housing and Planning Association
- City Life/Vida Urbana
- City Mission Boston
- City of Boston
- City of Cambridge (City Council Resolution)
- City Northampton (City Council Resolution)
- City of Springfield (City Council Resolution)
- Community Action Agency of Somerville
- Community Health Network North Central Mass
- De Novo Center for Justice and Healing
- Father Bill's & MainSpring
- Fenway Community Development Corporation
- Greater Boston Legal Services
- Grow A Strong Family
- Harvard Legal Aid Bureau
- Heisler, Feldman & McCormick
- Holland & Knight LLP
- HomeStart
- Homes for Families
- Housing Families
- Immigrant Service Providers Group/Health
- Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action
- Justice Center of Southeast Massachusetts
- Law Office of Laura M. Unflat
- Legal Services Center of Harvard Law School
- Lexington Housing Partnership Board
- Lynn United for Change
- Maloney Properties, Inc.
- Mass Alliance of HUD Tenants
- Mass Association of Community Develop Corp
- Mass Association of Community Health Workers
- Mass Communities Action Network (MCAN)
- Mass Fair Housing Center
- Mass Senior Action Council
- Mass Coalition for the Homeless
- Mass Housing and Shelter Alliance, Inc.
- Mass Law Reform Institute
- Mass Public Health Association
- Mass Smart Growth Alliance
- Mass Teachers Association
- Mass Union of Public Housing Tenants
- Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone, Somerville
- Metro Housing| Boston
- Metropolitan Area Planning Council
- MetroWest Legal Services
- National Assoc of Social Workers, Mass. Chapter
- National Lawyers Guild, Mass. Chapter
- Northampton Survival Center
- NuLawLabs at Northeastern Univer Law School
- One Family
- Project Hope
- Regional Housing Network of Massachusetts
- Right to the City Boston
- Rosie's Place
- Springfield Dementia Friendly Coalition
- Springfield No One Leaves
- Springfield Partners for Community Action, Inc.
- Society of St. Vincent de Paul Boston
- Solidarity Lowell
- Stop Bullying Coalition
- The Neighborhood Developers
- Tenant Advocacy Project at Harvard Law School
- United Food and Commercial Union Local 1445
- United Way of Mass Bay and Merrimack Valley
- 123 Up And Adam, Inc.
- Western Mass Network to End Homelessness
- WinnCompanies