

# 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**

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

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- AIDS Action/Fenway Health
- Allston/Brighton Community Dev Corp
- Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority
- Boston Tenant Coalition
- Chelsea Collaborative
- Chinese Progressive Association
- Citizens' Housing and Planning Assoc
- City Life/Vida Urbana
- City of Boston
- City of Cambridge (Resolution)
- Community Action Agency of Somerville
- De Novo Center for Justice and Healing
- Fenway Community Dev Corp
- Greater Boston Legal Services
- Harvard Legal Aid Bureau
- Heisler, Feldman & McCormick
- Holland & Knight LLP
- HomeStart
- Homes for Families
- Housing Families
- Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action
- Justice Center of Southeast Mass
- Law Office of Laura M. Unflat
- League of Women Voters - Salem
- Legal Services Center, Harvard Law School
- Lynn United for Change
- Maloney Properties, Inc.
- Mass Association of Community Development Corporation
- Mass Communities Action Network
- Mass Fair Housing Center
- Mass Senior Action Council
- Mass Coalition for the Homeless
- Mass Law Reform Institute
- Mass Public Health Association
- Mass Smart Growth Alliance
- 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.
- National Lawyers Guild, Mass. Chapter
- NuLawLabs, Northeastern Law School
- Project Hope
- Regional Housing Network of Massachusetts
- Right to the City Boston
- Rosie's Place
- Springfield No One Leaves
- Society of St. Vincent de Paul Boston
- The Neighborhood Developers
- Tenant Advocacy Project, Harvard Law School
- United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley
- Western Massachusetts Network to End Homelessness

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**To join the Growing List of Supporters for Right to Counsel go to [www.MassRTC.org](http://www.MassRTC.org)**