



MURIEL BOWSER
MAYOR

July 27, 2020

The Honorable Phil Mendelson Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 504
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

In accordance with section 2 of the Confirmation Act of 1978, effective March 3, 1979 (D.C. Law 2-142; D.C. Official Code § 1-523.01), and pursuant to section 2 of the Uniform Interstate Enforcement of Domestic Violence Protection Orders Act of 2002, effective April 11, 2003 (D.C. Law 14-296; D.C. Official Code § 16-1052), I am pleased to nominate the following person:

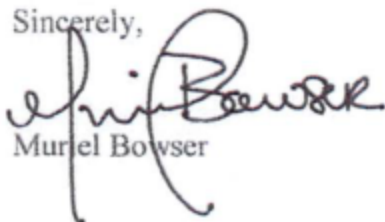
Ms. Amelia French
13th Street NE
Washington, DC 20017
(Ward 5)

for appointment as a community representative member of the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board, replacing Laurie Kohn, for a term to end July 20, 2022.

Enclosed you will find biographical information detailing the experience of the above-mentioned nominee, together with a proposed resolution to assist the Council during the confirmation process.

I would appreciate the Council's earliest consideration of this nomination for confirmation. Please do not hesitate to contact me, or Steven Walker, Director, Mayor's Office of Talent and Appointments, should the Council require additional information.

Sincerely,


Muriel Bowser


Chairman Phil Mendelson
at the request of the Mayor

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To confirm the appointment of Ms. Amelia French to the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board Amelia French Confirmation Resolution of 2020".

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia confirms the appointment of:

Ms. Amelia French
13th Street NE
Washington, DC 20017
(Ward 5)

as a community representative member of the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board, replacing Laurie Kohn, pursuant to section 2 of the Uniform Interstate Enforcement of Domestic Violence Protection Orders Act of 2002, effective April 11, 2003 (D.C. Law 14-296; D.C. Official Code § 16-1052), replacing Laurie Kohn, for a term to end July 20, 2022.

Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia shall transmit a copy of this resolution, upon its adoption, to the nominee and to the Office of the Mayor.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.



Executive Office of the Mayor - Office of Talent and Appointments
John A. Wilson Building | 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 600 | Washington, DC 20004

Amelia French



Amelia C. French is a Staff Attorney and DC VOCA Fellow at Tzedek DC, committed to serving marginalized communities and the greater public interest.

Prior to working at Tzedek DC, Ms. French was a Volunteer Attorney at both DC Volunteer Lawyers Project (DCVLP), and Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service (MVLS). At DCVLP, she represented victims of domestic violence seeking divorces from their abusive spouses and custody of their children from abusive former partners. At MVLS, Ms. French represented clients petitioning for expungement of their criminal records, who were often excluded from certain jobs and barred from certain educational programs.

As a Student Attorney in the Community Development Law Clinic (CDC), Ms. French represented low income District of Columbia housing cooperatives, assisting these families in avoiding displacement. She received the Earl H. Davis Award from the Jack and Lovell Olender Foundation for her demonstrated commitment to public interest law and her exemplary performance in CDC.

A Ward 5 resident, Ms. French received a Juris Doctor from the University of the District of Columbia, David A. Clarke School of Law.





Amelia C. French

ATTORNEY

CONTACT

EXPERIENCE

EDUCATION

JURIS DOCTOR
*DAVID A. CLARKE SCHOOL OF LAW,
UDC*

*Awarded the Earl H. Davis
commendation by the Jack and Lovell
Olender Foundation*

B.S. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION,
Concentration: Financial Analysis
SUNY BUFFALO
2004 – 2008

*Dean's List
Daniel Acker, full-tuition scholarship
recipient*

PARALEGAL CERTIFICATE
MILLARD FILLMORE COLLEGE
2009

BAR ADMISSION

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
JULY 7, 2017

Tzedek DC 11/2018 – Present
Staff Attorney/Victims of Crime Act Fellow

Advocate on behalf of victims of crime whom, as a result of crimes, are faced with fraudulently-obtained debt.

- Compose hardship declarations and send them to debt collectors to persuade them to dismiss pending lawsuits against indigent clients.
- Counsel clients through mediation in defensive debt collection matters.
- Educate the community on illegal debt collection practices, and what remedies are available if they are subjected to such practices.
- Represent the interests of the Latinx community, at roundtable and ongoing discussions with the FTC to combat deceptive practices of major debt collectors.

Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service 08/2017 – 11/2018
Volunteer Attorney

Analyze criminal records to determine eligibility for expungement. Counsel clients through the successful expungement of their criminal records.

- Compose briefs utilizing statutory interpretation principles to expunge cases under the newly-enforced Justice Reinvestment Act.
- Craft arguments for expungement hearings explaining why the client is entitled to expungement under the statute.
- Negotiate with State Attorneys to obtain support of expungement petitions.

DC Volunteer Lawyers Project 08/2017 – 11/2018
Volunteer Attorney

Litigate child custody and divorce cases before the Superior Court of the District of Columbia on behalf of domestic violence survivors.

- Draft terms of proposed custody orders for settlement conferences.
- Negotiate with opposing parties and guardians ad litem to reach custody agreements amenable to clients.
- Appear in court for hearings with little time to prepare.
- Guide clients through mediation and explain the implications of any custody agreements on child support.

CORE SKILLS

Developing a rapport with indigent communities

Advocating on behalf of domestic violence victims

Negotiating with opposing counsel and District agencies

Drafting motions

Drafting amendments to regulations

Handling competing deadlines

EXPERIENCE (Continued)

Unite Here, Local 25
Union Leader

04/2017 – 10/2017

Enforced the collective bargaining agreement by representing members in employee disciplinary meetings.

- Advocated on behalf of workers in the hotel and food service industries.
- Lobbied DC Councilmembers to protect affordable housing and living wages in the District of Columbia.

INDEPENDENT STUDY, UDC
Human Rights Advocate

08/2015 – 12/2015

Wrote a 25-page paper analyzing a Dominican Republic (DR) constitutional court's decision to strip individuals of Haitian descent of their Dominican birthright to citizenship. Paper called for economic sanctions against DR because the order breached international law because it discriminated against children and descendants of Haitian immigrants, and called for economic sanctions.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CLINIC, UDC 01/2015 – 05/2015
Student Attorney

Represented indigent DC housing cooperatives and small businesses in transactional matters in the District of Columbia.

- Prevented the initiation of tax foreclosure proceedings on a DC housing cooperative by negotiating with the DC Office of Tax and Revenue.
- Wrote a proposal to the Department of Housing and Community Development requesting separation of a blanket housing cooperative mortgage.
- Advised a housing cooperative client on whether a co-owner or heir had the legal right to sell a share in the housing cooperative.

REFERENCES

LOUISE HOWELLS

*Community Development Clinic
Supervisor*

David A. Clarke School of Law, UDC
202-274-7325
lhowells@udc.edu

ENZE HOLMAN

Colleague

Tahirih Justice Center
202-751-9542
enze.esq@gmail.com

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Executive Office of Mayor Muriel Bowser



Office of the General Counsel to the Mayor

To: Ronan Gulstone, Steve Walker
From: Betsy Cavendish
Date: March 2, 2020
Subject: Legal sufficiency review of a resolution nominating Amelia French to the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board

This is to Certify that this office has reviewed the above-referenced legislation and found it to be legally unobjectionable. If you have any questions in this regard, please do not hesitate to call me at 202-724-7681.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Elizabeth A. Cavendish'.

Elizabeth Cavendish