

Pro Bono and Legal Aid Organizations supported by The Chicago Bar Foundation

Access Living	Families' and Children's AIDS Network (FCAN)
AIDS Legal Council of Chicago	Farmworker Advocacy Project
Cabrini Green Legal Aid Clinic	First Defense Legal Aid
CARPLS (Coordinated Advice and Referral Program for Legal Services)	Health & Disability Advocates
Center for Conflict Resolution	Illinois Legal Aid Online
Center for Economic Progress	John Howard Association
Centro Romero	Latinos Progresando
Chicago Coalition for the Homeless	Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing
Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law	Lawyers for the Creative Arts
Chicago Legal Aid for Incarcerated Mothers (C.L.A.I.M.)	Legal Aid Bureau of Metropolitan Family Services
Chicago Legal Clinic	Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
Chicago Volunteer Legal Services (CVLS)	Life Span
Community Economic Development Law Project	Midwest Center on Law and the Deaf
Council on American Islamic Relations – Chicago Chapter	National Immigrant Justice Center
Domestic Violence Legal Clinic	Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI)
Equip For Equality	Roger Baldwin Foundation of the ACLU
Evanston Community Defender	Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
	Uptown People's Law Center
	World Relief - Chicago

Invest in Justice Today.

100% of your contribution will go toward supporting the greatest asset in our struggle to ensure that the most vulnerable Chicagoans receive critical legal assistance—the legal aid attorneys who have dedicated their careers to serving them.

All contributions count for the Illinois Supreme Court's Pro Bono Reporting Rule and are tax-deductible.

The Chicago Bar Foundation (CBF), the charitable arm of The Chicago Bar Association, works to ensure equal access to justice for all Chicagoans. The CBF builds the capacity of our pro bono and legal aid system through grants, advocacy and other support, and aggressively works to eliminate systemic barriers to equal access to justice. The CBF's work is made possible by the generous support of more than 100 law firms and corporations and thousands of individual donors.



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2007 Investing in Justice Campaign



The justice system is in crisis. *

Out of more than 42,000 lawyers actively practicing in Cook County, there are only about 250 civil legal aid attorneys devoting their careers to serving the more than 750,000 Cook County residents living in poverty. Despite the glaring need for more legal aid lawyers, financial barriers are making it nearly impossible for dedicated lawyers to pursue these careers.

- Almost half of all Illinois legal aid attorneys plan to leave their jobs in the next three years, primarily due to inadequate compensation.



“I feel fortunate because every day I use my skills to help kids tap into their knowledge and demand the power to fight their way out of a terrifying array of bad situations.”

Sarah Biehl

Staff Attorney, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago

- Most legal aid attorneys are fighting just to make ends meet. Starting salaries, averaging just \$38,500, have not kept pace with skyrocketing law school debt (often over \$100,000).
- The median legal aid salary of \$48,500 is almost 40% lower than comparable government salaries in Cook County, and in some cases less than the annual bonus that associates in large law firms receive.



“I knew that I could do nothing more important than devote my legal career to helping those who would otherwise have no voice in our justice system.”

Peter Ashmore

Director of Financial Issues, Chicago Volunteer Legal Services

*The recently released study, *Investing in Justice: A Framework for Effective Recruitment and Retention of Illinois Legal Aid Attorneys* is available at www.chicagobarfoundation.org.

A Call to Action for Chicago's legal community.



“We are going to lose extremely talented attorneys who are dedicated to legal aid unless we do something about this crisis. It's time for us to take ownership of this problem.”

Anton R. Valukas

2007 Investing in Justice Campaign Chair
Partner, Jenner & Block

Legal aid attorneys form the backbone of the more than 40 legal aid and public interest law organizations serving vulnerable Chicagoans. The focus of this first Annual CBF Investing in Justice Campaign is to give our community's pro bono and legal aid organizations the means to increase salaries to levels that will enable their attorneys to continue to provide these critical services.

As little as a \$10,000-\$15,000 increase in compensation would be enough to allow most legal aid attorneys to remain in their positions. The Campaign is an opportunity for lawyers to take ownership of this problem.



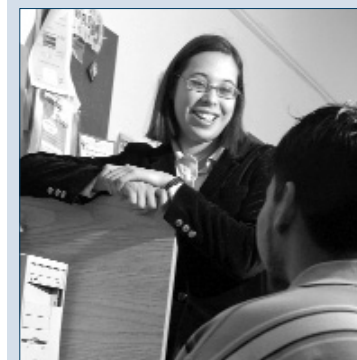
“I believe that no one should be deprived of life's greatest goods—family, home, job, education, health care—because they can't afford a lawyer.”

Daniel Lindsey

Supervisory Attorney, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago

Investing in Justice

Our community suffers when lawyers are unable to pursue careers in legal aid.



“Having been homeless myself and now having the opportunity to work in legal aid to help homeless youths makes me realize that maybe I was homeless for a reason.”

Zenaida Alonzo

Youth Futures Attorney, Chicago Coalition for the Homeless

Investing in legal aid attorneys is an investment in justice.

- Without adequate legal aid resources, we end up with a two-tiered system of justice, with those who cannot afford representation shut out of the process.
- In addition to providing critical assistance to the most vulnerable members of our community, legal aid programs provide the infrastructure to support the pro bono work of law firms, lawyers and corporations.

- Civil legal aid organizations act as a safety net, helping to protect families experiencing domestic violence, children in custody disputes and elderly victims of consumer fraud. If legal aid organizations cannot recruit and retain talented staff, this safety net will fall apart.
- Losing just 10% of the experienced legal aid attorney workforce in one year can result in almost 10,000 fewer Chicagoans being served.



“I am continually inspired by my clients and the hardships they overcome to pursue a better life for themselves and their children.”

Sherizaan Minwalla

Supervising Attorney, National Immigrant Justice Center