Administer Justice

Attorney Recruitment Process

Living out our mission to "empower vulnerable neighbors with the help of a lawyer and the hope of God's love" requires attorneys! Attorneys comprise only 0.4% of the population yet their profession touches nearly every aspect of life. Low-income individuals with a legal issue are unable to access the most important resource to resolve their situation: An Attorney.

Today there is a crisis in America. It goes beyond the economy, polarized politics, or race relations. When you look carefully, even within your own neighborhood, the crisis that is leaving a devastating wake is in our Justice System.

Today, 1 in 3 Americans cannot afford the high cost of lawyers. Every second, one of your neighbors is turned away from legal help – that's 120 people in the time it takes to read this page. That is 36 million requests this year. Without legal guidance, individuals are 21% more likely to be abused, 47% more likely to experience financial, physical and emotional loss, and 70% more likely to need public assistance.

No one does justice alone!

Because we love our neighbor, we care about more than their legal problem. Attorneys on a Gospel Justice Center team will serve with a 5-9+ person team once a month for about 3 hours. Together, they will do legal ministry with, not for, neighbors in need.

Start with Your Church and Community

Administer Justice's National Support Center encourages you to seek and find attorneys from within your church membership. If there are no attorneys within the congregation, we next encourage you to recruit from within the community or a nearby community. This allows your church and community to use the assets and skills at hand to seed their Christian family and their neighborhoods for growth and empowerment. This is also a great way to share your church's heart for the community which is something younger generations are looking for in finding a church home.

We are committed to helping you find attorney support to complete your center team. Here are some guidelines and tools to help you navigate the recruitment process.

Word of Mouth

Church. One of the most effective ways to recruit is through word of mouth. Reach out to members of your church congregation and leadership. Advertise this call for volunteer attorneys through church events, service announcements, and social media.

Community. If you are active with your local community outside of church, advertise this opportunity to those in your circle of contacts. There is a good chance that another community member is connected to an attorney interested in serving.

Family and Friends. Reach out to family and friends. Ask around for any attorney connections they may have. Again, there may be the chance that a family member or friend is an acquaintance of an attorney interested in serving.

Recruitment Tools

Videos. We have created specific videos for the purpose of recruiting attorneys <u>here</u>. They include testimonials of past and present volunteer attorneys who share their passion for volunteering at a Gospel Justice Center. These videos are available for your center team to share with attorneys who are interested in the serving opportunity.

Attorney Webpage: We have a page on the Administer Justice website that can be accessed from the button in the navigation under **Get Involved** > **Serve as a Lawyer**, located at <u>www.administerjustice.org/lawyer</u>. It includes various documents, videos and links created to answer the types of questions and concerns attorneys often have.

Justice Made Simple. We have an attorney-specific electronic guide titled <u>Justice</u> <u>Made Simple</u>. This guide presents the call to action for attorneys interested in learning more about Administer Justice and God's call on their lives to pursue justice for vulnerable neighbors.

Explore Call for Attorneys. We host a virtual event called <u>Explore Gospel Justice</u> specifically for attorneys interested in learning more about Administer Justice and our Gospel Justice Center model. This is a live interaction with our Director of Attorney Engagement, Judy Miller.

Exhausting Recruitment

If you have exhausted all recommended recruitment guidelines and tools, please reach out to our Director of Attorney Engagement, Judy Miller, at 630-204-1464 or judy@administerjustice.org. She will work alongside you with a local recruiting plan. Please notify her at least one month in advance for further recruiting.

*Please note that it is crucial for prospective and current Gospel Justice Center teams to communicate if you do not or no longer have an available volunteer attorney. We may not be able to source an available volunteer attorney on short notice.