ASCEND JUSTICE

A word from our Executive Director

Dear Friends,

What does it mean to be part of a team? As anyone who has coached – or even witnessed – a first grade soccer match knows, it can look like a group of kids huddled around the ball and kicking each other in the shins. It can also manifest as coordinated efforts that elicit the very best from each member of the team. At Ascend Justice, our team is growing and we are working to make sure that each member of the team has what they need to thrive. From improving the ways that we respond to vicarious trauma to providing new opportunities for professional development, we are working to demonstrate our appreciation and refine the ways that we work together to advance our mission.

This month, take a look at what our team has been up to as we celebrate awards, promotions, learning, and milestones!

Sincerely,

Margaret

Margaret R. Duval
Executive Director
Ascend Justice

Board of Director and Young Professional Board Updates

Welcome the newest members of our Board of Directors!

Jacqui Giannini

A member of the Young Professionals Board since 2018, Jacqui has been an active participant, including heading the YPB's annual fall fundraising event. We are excited to have Jacqui as one of our

Leah Song

Leah Song joined our Young Professional's Board in the Spring of 2020. She immediately got to work as their Recruitment and Development chair and went on to be the YPB's most recent

newest members of our Board of Directors!

past President. Her leadership makes her a welcome addition.

Interested in joining our Board of Directors?

Learn More

If you are interested in learning more about joining our Young Professionals Board, please contact Christyn Schnell, Director of Development: cschnell@ascendjustice.org

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Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) and we continue to advocate, educate, and assist those effected by domestic violence.

In honor of DVAM, we co-hosted a powerful hybrid event on October 13 with the Chicago Community Bond Fund and The Women's Justice Institute called **Why Money Bond Harms Survivors of Gender-Based Violence** where we learned about the impact of money bond on survivors directly from incarcerated survivors at the Logan Correctional Institution.

On October 18, we participated in the **Domestic Violence Walk and Resource Fair** hosted by the Cook County States Attorney's Office where we were able to provide information and resources directly to those in the Cook County Domestic Violence Courthouse. The event ended with a 24 minute walk which symbolized the 24 people per minute who are victims of rape, physical violence or stalking by an intimate partner.

The national day of action was October 20th - also known as **#PurpleThursday** - and we wore purple to help spread awareness across social media. We have also been sharing powerful stories and disturbing statistics that we hope you will share with your community to help raise awareness all year long.

There is still time to make an impact during Domestic Violence Awareness Month!
Join a very special group of supporters who impact lives all year round and become a monthly donor today!

Make a difference this month

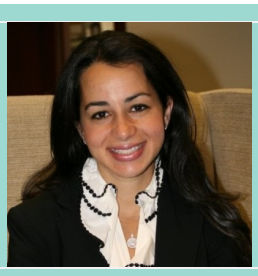
Staff Updates

Meet the newest members of our team

Karina Lopez
Karina is our new Client Support Coordinator in our Order of Protection Clinic. Karina's background makes her a perfect fit to provide survivors with the resources and support that they need during the hardest time in their life.

Hannah Abrahams
Hannah is joining us for a year-long post-graduate fellowship in the Order of Protection Program. Previously she was an Intern in our Order of Protection Clinic in 2021.

Well deserved promotions



Sara Block
Sara was recently promoted to Managing Director of Advocacy and Partnership. With the strides Sara has made in her policy-changing work, her new role will increase collaborative efforts across the board to increase the impact of her advocacy.

Alexis Mansfield
Alexis Mansfield was promoted to Director of Incarcerated Survivors. As our Incarcerated Survivors division grows, it was only natural for this important team to be led by such a knowledgeable and compassionate leader.

Our team keeps growing! Check out our current job postings here.

Special Announcements

Board of Directors members, **Lauren Reeves** and **Jessie Swider**, each welcomed new bundles of joy into their growing families.

Brianna Ambre from our Young Professionals Board got married.

Paige Barr Tinkham of our Board of Directors, was named as Crain's Chicago Business' 2022 Notable Women in Law.

Commemorate a significant life event or remember a loved one with a gift made in honor or in memory of those in your life. Every tribute gifts provides the support needed to end the cycle of domestic abuse. Make a tribute gift today!

Celebrate with a Gift

Mark Your Calendars!

Election Day - Tuesday, November 8*
Veterans Day - Friday, November 11*
Thanksgiving - Thursday, November 24**
#Giving Tuesday - Tuesday, November 29
Staff Retreat - Tuesday, December 6*

*our offices will be closed.
**in observance of Thanksgiving, our offices will also be closed on Friday, November 25.

Getting To Know You

Have you taken our brief 2-minute survey?

This is your last chance to take our survey!

We want to know more about you so you can receive more meaningful communications from us. Let us know how we're doing because your opinion matters and we would love to hear from you!

Take Survey

Worth Noting

This short documentary captures the intersection of two of Ascend Justice's practice areas - family defense of parents involved in the child welfare system and the representation of incarcerated survivors of gender-based violence in civil proceedings. At both the direct service and systemic levels, Ascend Justice works to prevent punitive responses to survivors, like the mothers in this documentary experienced.

Watch the documentary on YouTube here.

The Cook County Domestic Violence Division has expanded its hours!

In addition to the normal court hours, Monday - Friday 8:30AM - 4:30PM, a judge is now available *remotely* to hear Emergency Orders of Protection cases Monday - Friday 9:00PM - 3:00AM and on weekends from 1:00PM - 6:00PM

Domestic violence can happen at any time and now there is more immediate help available! Learn more.

Our **Director of Family Law, Lindsay Nathan**, discusses the sharp increase in demand for help in family law cases -- and how the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) funds will help us meet the need.

Listen now.

ONE.NPR.ORG

Listen Now: The Chicago Recovery Plan now helps survivors of domestic abuse

WBEZ Chicago on NPR One

As our team at Ascend Justice continues to grow, it's vital that our leadership team continues to learn how to be the best and maintain the best.

At the 2022 Nonprofit Conference in Rosemont entitled **Leadership Transformation: You, Your Team, Your Community**, our strong senior leadership team explored the connections between self-knowledge, healthy teams, and organizational excellence.

The work that we do at Ascend Justice is only possible because of donations made from supporters like you.

Make a difference in the lives of those impacted by gender-based violence or the child welfare system.

Help them achieve safety and stability through the holistic legal advocacy and system reform Ascend Justice provides with a donation today.

Become a Monthly Donor

Make a One Time Donation

legal advocacy. transforming lives.