



Exciting updates abound!

We're excited to welcome new members to our staff, our Board of Directors, and our Young Professionals Board. We've launched our strategic plan, toasted to 35 years of service, and have opened registration for our annual Celebration of Courage event (mark your calendars for June 13th!). It's a time of growth, celebration, and commitment to our community's wellbeing.

Join us as we move forward with purpose and passion!

Celebration of Courage

Tickets are now on sale for the **2024 Celebration of Courage**!

When: Thursday, June 13, 2024 from 6PM - 9PM (VIP hour: 5PM - 6PM)

Where: The Old Post Office, 433 W Van Buren St, Chicago

Why: To support the **mission of Ascend Justice** as we celebrate the work of our community of supporters and honor survivors, volunteers and those who champion our mission.

Who: This event is open to all who support the mission of Ascend Justice and/or would like to learn more about our work in a setting that brings together like-minded advocates in a welcoming environment.



CELEBRATION OF COURAGE

In the coming weeks, we will be making some exciting announcements including this year's special guest emcee, our 2024 Champion of Justice award recipients, and details on this year's raffle. Be sure you are following us on all of our social media platforms and checking your email so you are the **FIRST** to receive these details!

[Buy Your Tickets](#)

[Meet Our Sponsors!](#)

[Learn More](#)

Can't make it?

Support a Community Member and make our event more accessible by defraying the cost of a ticket for those who could otherwise not attend.

[Make A Donation](#)

Follow us online!



A New Look for Advocacy



is now...



We've updated our call to action! Now, when we have advocacy opportunities available, be on the lookout for our new image. This makes it easy to cut through the noise on social media and easily identify when your help is needed...and with the swiftness that legislative processes occur, they usually involve a fairly quick turnaround time (sometimes just a few hours to show your support).

When opportunities to help advocate for our clients arise, we put out calls for action on our [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#) pages but you can [join our dedicated group of advocates](#) and receive advocacy opportunities directly to your email.

Sign
Up

Learn
More

Your Advocacy in Action!

On March 5, we reached out for your help with 2 initiatives and we are pleased to announce that both passed out of committee!

Senate Bill 3285 / House Bill 5646 Amending the Gender-Based Violence Resentencing Bill

This initiative amends the Gender-Based Violence Resentencing Bill to explicitly state that convictions resulting from plea deals are also eligible under this act.

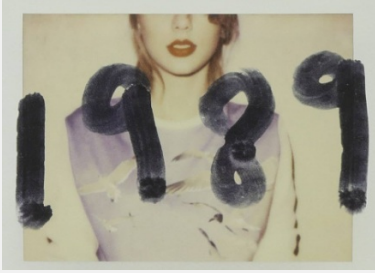
Senate Bill 3713 / House Bill 3596 Amending the Crime Victims Compensation Act

This initiative amends the Crime Victims Compensation Act, making it more accessible, impactful, equitable, and just for victims of violent crimes.

Thank you!

Don't miss your next chance to advocate

Sign
Up



What Ascend Justice and Taylor Swift have in common

Who would've thought that 1989 would mark not just the birth of Taylor Swift but also the inception of our journey here at Ascend Justice? While Taylor's been strumming her guitar and topping charts, we've been busy making waves of our own. Sure, we might not have millions of fans screaming our name (yet!), but our commitment to justice and empowerment is just as rock-solid. Here's to the class of '89, where legends were born – both in pop

culture and in our mission to make a difference!

[Learn our history](#)

Strategic Plan officially launched

Our Strategic Plan is a significant milestone in our 35-year journey. From our beginnings as a program of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law in 1982 to our current form after a merger between the Family Defense Center and the Domestic Violence Legal Clinic in 2019, we're continuously evolving.

Our mission is to empower those affected by gender-based violence or the child welfare system through holistic legal advocacy. Now, with expanded legal services such as economic justice, family defense, and immigration, we are focused on building strong communities where individuals can overcome violence.

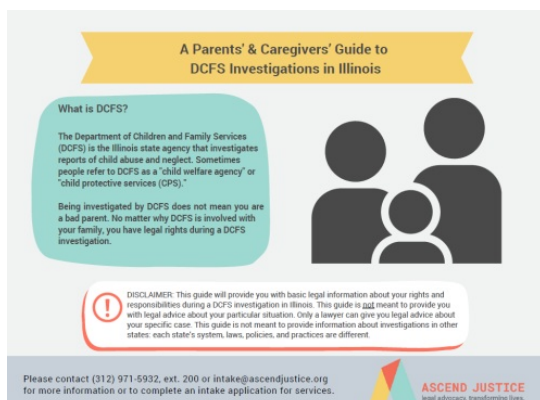
The Strategic Plan, developed in collaboration among staff, board members, partners, clients, and peers, underscores our commitment to centering the leadership and lived experiences of clients in decision-making and organizational development. Your ongoing support has been instrumental, and we invite you to explore more details on [our website](#) as we embark on this transformative journey together.



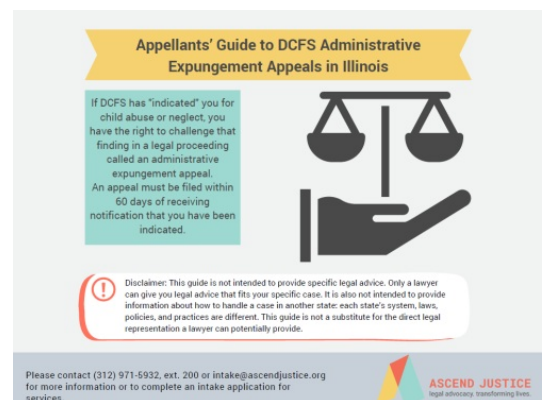
Our Strategic Plan

DCFS Guides Now Available

2 new guides from our Family Defense team are now available on our [website](#) to help parents and caregivers know their rights and responsibilities when it comes to investigations from the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) in Illinois as well as a guide for those who wish to appeal a DCFS indication.



Parents' and Caregivers' Guide to DCFS Investigations



Appellants' Guide to DCFS Administrative Expungement Appeals

Board of Director and Young Professionals Board Updates

Both of our boards continue to grow! We are excited to announce the new members of our Board of Directors and our Young Professionals Board.

Join us as we welcome these dedicated volunteer leaders to the Ascend Justice family.

Board of Directors



Wendy Bloom
Kirkland & Ellis



Humble Mohammed
Sunrun

Young Professionals Board



Victoria Barnhill
Loncar Law, Ltd.



Rachel Cheng
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher &
Flom LLP



Chloë White
Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP

Interested in joining either of our boards? Contact us to learn more!

Board of Directors

Margaret Duval, Executive Director
mduval@ascendjustice.org

Young Professionals Board

Christyn Schnell, Director of Development
cschnell@ascendjustice.org

Meet the newest members of our staff





Diana Arroyo

Diana joins the Ascend Justice team as an Attorney in the Family Law Division. Diana has worked extensively in domestic relations matters, including clerking for the Domestic Relations Division's Presiding Judge, Judge Regina A. Scannicchio. Diana also teaches Family Violence at Marquette University and Legal Writing at DePaul College of Law. Diana is "incredibly excited to...represent monolingual Spanish-speaking survivors of gender-based violence." Thank you for bringing your passion to Ascend Justice, Diana!



Kayla Martinez

Kayla comes to Ascend Justice from one of our partner organizations, Mujeres Latinas en Acción. Her background in training, communicating, and advocating awareness of domestic violence allows Kayla to lead our Client Support team in a thoughtful and purposeful manner so they may provide our clients with the resources and support required for success outside the courtroom. A big welcome to you, Kayla!



Meggan Trevey

Meggan, our new Communications Manager, brings her strong, passionate commitment to identifying and communicating injustices to this new role at Ascend Justice. Her background in teaching, politics, and marketing, gives Meggan the ability to connect supporters - just like you! - with the work that we do in an impactful and beautiful way that is easy to understand. Meggan, we're excited to see what you have in store.

Join Our Team

- * Anti-Trafficking Service Coordinator
- * Senior Attorney - Order of Protection Program
- * Staff Attorney - Immigration

Working at Ascend Justice is truly a joy. As part of our growing team, you'll find yourself surrounded by caring, intelligent, and passionate individuals who foster a supportive environment. We acknowledge the challenges that accompany the work that we do and so we have active and dedicated committees - our Vicarious Trauma Committee, Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Committee, and our Culture Committee, all staff-led, ensuring everyone receives the support necessary to excel both professionally and personally. Join us today and become part of a team dedicated to making a difference in the lives of others while keeping self-care in focus.



Connect with us and **be the first to hear our special announcements, receive important news updates, learn ways you can support Ascend Justice, and unite with others in our community who uplift survivors of gender-based violence and those impacted by the child welfare system!**



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.

Make a One Time Donation

Become a Monthly Donor

legal advocacy. transforming lives.



Ascend Justice | 177 N State St, Ste 500, Chicago, IL 60601 (312) 971-5932

[Unsubscribe mduval@dvlcchicago.org](mailto:mduval@dvlcchicago.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by development@ascendjustice.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!