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The Ascend Justice Newsletter • February 2025

Year in Review 2024



Looking Back

We did some amazing things together last year! We have a lot to show for our hard work and a lot of gratitude for the people, funders, sponsors, and volunteers who helped us get here. We could not do this work without you all.

Over the last fiscal year, we grew our staff at a healthy pace, continued diversifying our funding streams, gained new supporters and sponsors, held unforgettable events, made a lot of headway on our strategic plan, and helped more clients than ever before!

[Take a look at our 2024 Annual Review](#)—hot off the presses—and see all the things we accomplished together.

Happy Anniversary to Us!

Earlier this week (February 16, to be exact), we marked 36 years as an agency.

We incorporated in 1989 as Pro Bono Advocates, changed to the Domestic Violence Legal Clinic in 2005, and became Ascend Justice in 2019.



Through it all, we have remained focused on helping survivors of gender-based violence.

Learn more about our history and mission:

<https://www.ascendjustice.org/about-us/>



Legislature Now in Session

We have a new Illinois legislature in session now, so it's the perfect time to sign up for our Advocacy newsletter!

Bills that impact survivors can pop up at any time from now through May, and we will need your voice! We send out our Advocacy newsletter whenever we need folks to fill out witness slips in support of legislation that helps survivors (or, more rarely, to oppose legislation that harms survivors). We also send out the Advocacy newsletter when we need people to join us in direct actions (like showing up to survivors' hearings when your presence would make a difference). We promise we only send it when we need your support!

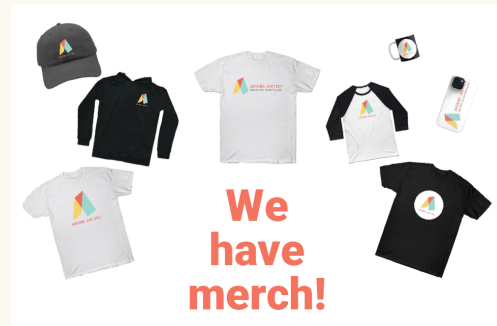
Sign up here: <https://www.ascendjustice.org/advocacy/>

Check out Our Merch!

We are thrilled to be able to provide our community with the Ascend Justice swag we know you've been waiting for: our new TeePublic store is now live!

Check it out: <https://www.teepublic.com/t-shirts/ascend-justice>

Now you can support us with your style. We have Ascend Justice hats, mugs, t-shirts, sweatshirts, phone cases, kids apparel, and more! Grab yours, and be sure to tell all your friends—every purchase helps fund our work.



Now Accepting Applications to Our Young Professionals Board (YPB)

Do you know any young professionals who are eager to make a difference with board work? Because our fun, engaged, and brilliant YPB is recruiting!

Applications are open now through February 28:

<https://www.ascendjustice.org/young-professionals-board/>

Be sure to contact our Director of Development, Christyn Schnell, at development@ascendjustice.org if

A Generous Gift

We are so grateful for the team of amazing attorneys at Kirkland and Ellis who have not only gone above and beyond to help our client regain her life ([see her story here](#)), but when Zac Ciullo, Laura Kempfues, Olivia Kim, Amiri Lampley, and Leah Warren were awarded well-earned pro bono recognition from their firm for their outstanding work, they donated the award money to Ascend Justice. Together, the team generously provided us with an unexpected \$1500 gift.

Thank you, Kirkland, for acknowledging this team! And thank you Zac, Laura, Olivia, Amiri, and Leah! We are in awe of your talent, your generosity (of both time and resources), and your willingness to stand up and fight for people who typically get overlooked.

#TogetherWeAscend



Save the Date: Celebration of Courage 2025

We know it's early to be thinking about June, but (not to brag) our annual Celebration of Courage is super popular. So save the date, get your tickets early, and make your plans to attend!

This year, we're celebrating on **June 12** at a new venue: the Chicago Athletic Association!

Check out our website to purchase tickets as an individual or for a group, and take a look at our sponsorship package while you're there:

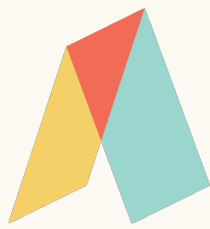
<https://www.ascendjustice.org/celebration-of-courage/>



Want a no-hassle way to support our work? Join our Sustainer Circle and become part of our reliable base of support that helps us serve more people throughout the year. No amount is too large or too small.



Join our Sustainer Circle!



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