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The Ascend Justice Newsletter • October 2026

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and our awareness campaign is in full swing! We are shouting from the rooftops this year so survivors know we are with them, always.

We know you are with us.

With your **support**, we can keep growing and helping more survivors find safety and thrive. Our attorneys practice across six areas to get survivors the legal help they need, including Orders of Protection, divorce and child custody, family defense and DCFS cases, immigration, economic justice, and incarceration. And while our lawyers work their cases, our Client Support team helps clients safety plan and connect to resources like shelter and temporary housing, mental health, child care, rent and utility assistance, public benefits, and so much more.

Your **support** makes all of this possible. So this Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we are asking you to help us help more people by **donating today!**

Let's show survivors we are with them, always.

Donate Today!

Trivia Night SOLD OUT

Every year, our amazing Young Professionals Board organizes Trivia Night, and every year it sells out!

This incredibly popular event is the highlight of our fall schedule, and we can't wait to see the 2026 teams go head to head on November 5. We'll highlight the winning teams in our next newsletter.

If you didn't get a chance to sign up this year, mark your calendars for next and be sure to get tickets early!

Help Us Fill Our Pantry

We frequently serve clients who have to leave home with nothing but the clothes on their back, so we keep a pantry filled with food, hygiene products, baby supplies, and safety equipment for them to take. With so many clients in need these days, it's time to restock!

Please take a look at our **Amazon wishlist** and purchase what you can for our clients, and be sure to ship to our State Street office (177 N State St, Suite 500, Chicago, IL 60601). Thank you for helping us help our clients!

Bringing More People Into Pro Bono

On October 1, two Ascend Justice attorneys provided trainings for other lawyers at the **Pro Bono Network**'s Training Conference. The conference helps lawyers who work in other practices and law firms across Chicago find flexible opportunities to volunteer their legal skills, including at Ascend Justice.

Our Managing Director of Immigration and Client Services, Angelica Gonzalez-Lopez, presented on U visas and how to help our clients adjust their immigration status and get green cards.

Our Senior Attorney for Family Defense and Incarcerated Survivors, Lauren Schroeder,

presented alongside Legal Aid Chicago on the Divorce Litigation Project, which provides simple divorces for low-income and incarcerated survivors.

We are very proud of Angelica and Lauren and the work they do to bring more attorneys to our field. If you are an attorney who wants to get more involved in helping survivors with legal issues, please contact our Director of Pro Bono, **Kimberly Washington**!

There are so many ways to support us!

Make a **one-time** contribution.

Join our **Sustainer Circle** with automatic, monthly donations.

Buy our **merch**.

Check out all the ways to get involved!

ASCEND JUSTICE
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