



Justice In Action

2026-2027 Corporate Partnership Program



THANKS TO OUR 40TH ANNIVERSARY CORPORATE PARTNERS!

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GEORGIA'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

GEORGIA JUSTICE PROJECT'S INTERVENTION

HOLISTIC CRIMINAL DEFENSE

- Legal Representation with Social Services
- Restorative Justice
- Warrant Resolution
- Early Termination of Probation
- Survivor Justice Act re-sentencing

POLICY/27 LAWS CHANGED

- SB 207 - Fair Chances for Licensed Careers
- HB 162 - Modernizes the First Offender Act
- HB 535 - Brings Consistency to Time-Served Calculations

UNDER CORRECTIONAL CONTROL

- Metro Reentry Facility (MRF)
- Reentry Lawyering
- Family Support
- Driver's License Reinstatements
- Prison Visitation

CRIMINAL RECORDS

- Record clearing (expungement)
- Record Clearing Events
- Second Chance Desks
- Pardon Clinic



ABOUT GJP

Georgia Justice Project's mission is to strengthen our community by demonstrating a better way to represent and support individuals in the criminal justice system and reduce barriers to reentry into the community. GJP's work touches every aspect of the criminal justice continuum with three goals:

1. Reducing the number of Georgians under correctional control (e.i., people in jail or prison or on probation or parole)
2. Increasing opportunities for successful reintegration into the community
3. Improving community safety through innovative partnerships with systems stakeholders

Our work encompasses our three-pronged approach to drive impact: direct service, policy work, and community engagement.

GJP's approach (or theory of change) is to simultaneously work on three distinct levels:



1 INDIVIDUAL

Legal consultation, representation and social services

2 POLICY & SYSTEMIC

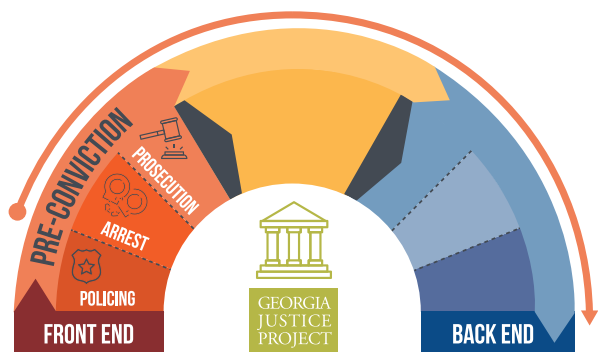
Working toward system change

3 COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Building community awareness and creating partnerships

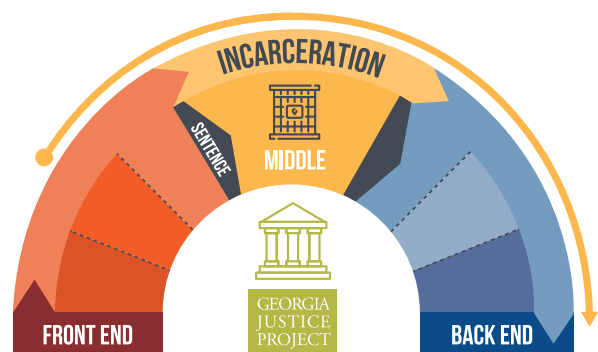
GJP INITIATIVES

YOUR SUPPORT HELPS FUND LONG-TIME PROGRAMMING AND NEW INITIATIVES ACROSS THE LEGAL JUSTICE SPECTRUM.



PENDING CASES DIVERTING FROM INCARCERATION TO SERVICES

- **Criminal Defense & Social Support:** Legal and social services to address underlying needs
- **Warrant Resolution:** Treatment access and reduced jail time for court absences
- **Restorative Justice:** Prosecutor partnerships for victim-centered dialogue and accountability
- **Survivor Justice Act** re-sentencing



REENTRY SETTING CLIENTS UP FOR SUCCESS

- **Family Support:** Facilitating in-custody visitation
- **Reentry Planning:** Comprehensive transition support with peer mentorship
- **Barrier Removal:** Legal and employment help, including license reinstatement
- **Probation Reform:** Early termination for rehabilitated clients



RECORDS REMOVING BARRIERS TO OPPORTUNITY AND STABILITY

- **Record Clearing:** Employment-focused expungement and pardon support
- **3 Second Chance Desks:** And statewide clearing events with prosecutor partners
- **Pardon & Record Review Clinics:** Volunteer-led eligibility screening and legal guidance

SYSTEMIC CHANGE ADVANCING EQUITY ACROSS GEORGIA

- **Policy Reform:** Partnering with systems stakeholders to improve laws and practices
- **Community Education:** Providing training to thousands of Georgians each year
- **Grassroots Involvement:** Training hundreds of community members to meet service demands



IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

DEFENSE

- Provide holistic criminal defense and reentry legal services
- Resolve barriers related to probation, warrants, suspended licenses, and incarceration
- Partner with organizations across Georgia to support successful reentry and long-term stability
- Develop innovative pilot projects with systems stakeholders



404 INDIVIDUALS SERVED

CLIENTS REPRESENTED WITH PARTNERSHIPS:



**Metro
Reentry
Facility-
State Prison**

Social Services support with **140 individual connections** to housing, medical care, and mental health.

1704 INDIVIDUALS ASSISTED

Through **3** Second Chance Desks
across **80** counties.



SERVED **924** INDIVIDUALS AT RECORD CLEARING EVENTS.

RECORDS



- Clear eligible criminal records and restore opportunities
- Expand access to expungements and correction remedies
- Deliver services through clinics, record clearing events, and Second Chance Desks statewide

VOLUNTEERS

- Engage attorneys, paralegals, and law students
- Expand access to justice through community partnerships
- Connect more Georgians with legal assistance and second chance opportunities



257 VOLUNTEERS ENGAGED

ATTORNEYS • PARALEGALS • LAW STUDENTS

BlackRock

ALSTON & BIRD



An estimated **\$450,000** in
donated volunteer services and
corporate partners.

6289 INDIVIDUALS REACHED

Delivered **115 presentations** and
11 training sessions to educate and
engage communities across Georgia.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

- Educate communities, employers, attorneys, and government stakeholders about legal remedies and criminal justice reform through trainings, presentations, and public engagement.



CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

BENEFITS AND EVENTS

The role of corporations in philanthropy has never been more important. While donations are still a key part of supporting the work of Georgia Justice Project, we understand that companies frequently want to engage their employees in volunteerism, support initiatives with direct community impacts, and utilize their influence to move the needle for systemic change. The Justice in Action Corporate Partnership Program engages corporate donors across varying channels of giving. Each donation receives recognition for one year after donation. For a breakdown of sponsorship benefits and annual events, see graph below.

ANNUAL RECOGNITION	PATRON \$2,000	DEFENDER \$5,000	PROTECTOR \$10,000	ADVOCATE \$15,000	CHAMPION \$25,000
NAME LISTING One Selected Event					
LOGO PLACEMENT Annual Report					
LOGO PLACEMENT Website (Year-Round)					
LOGO PLACEMENT Newsletter (Monthly)					
LOGO PLACEMENT Print Media (Year-Round)					
TICKETS & RECOGNITION Grass Roots Justice Awards	2 TICKETS	4 TICKETS	8 TICKETS	8 TICKETS	10 TICKETS

GJP Holiday Party



HOSTED IN WINTER

Grass Roots Justice Awards



HOSTED IN SPRING

VOLUNTEER & CORPORATE ENGAGEMENT

For years, Georgia Justice Project (GJP) has worked with dedicated talent from the legal community to serve those in need of a second chance. Our volunteers not only break down barriers for our clients, but they also build a better future for the whole community.



“Not only am I fulfilled in doing this work, but I feel compelled, because I feel like I have a role that I can serve, and I can help the many people in this state that need help with their criminal record.”

Julie Wood, Senior Attorney,
Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP

LESS THAN 3 HOURS

- **Criminal Records Intake:** initial assessment of criminal record and barriers*
- **Legal Needs Assessment:** assist returning citizens at the Metro Reentry Facility (MRF) with completing a legal needs assessment
- **Industry Engagement:** engage a volunteer’s own industry about second chance hiring and other GJP policy initiatives
- **Policy Research:** data collection and analysis to support policy agenda

* Volunteer opportunities also available to non-lawyers



3-10 HOURS

- **Pardon Clinic:** assist with pardon application in a clinic setting. Pardons create a path for expunging certain felony convictions*
- **DDS Letter Writing Clinic:** provide returning citizens at MRF with information about their driver’s license status*
- **Restriction Events:** consulting at large scale record-restriction events
- **Policy Research:** data collection and analysis to support policy agenda

* Volunteer opportunities also available to non-lawyers



10+ HOURS

- **Criminal Records Clinic:** direct representation on a criminal record issue
- **Appeals:** research, writing and oral advocacy on appellate issues
- **Policy Research:** data collection and analysis to support policy agenda



WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Many of our opportunities require prerequisite training. GJP offers volunteer training CLEs several times a year that teach the skills needed to get involved with our work. We also provide mentorship from experienced attorneys and malpractice insurance.

Contact Brenda Smeeton at 404-520-1512 ext. 235 or brenda@GJP.org to learn more about both legal and non-legal volunteer opportunities.

SECOND CHANCE HIRING

Georgia Justice Project conducts training on criminal justice issues and best practices in second chance hiring. Additionally, GJP offers individual consultation and representation for candidates on potential issues including expungement, driver's license, probation, occupational licensing, and other reentry barriers.



APPLICANT SUPPORT

- **Applicant Support**

REMOVING BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT

GJP helps qualified applicants address legal barriers that can prevent them from moving forward in the hiring process. We provide criminal record review and, when eligible, assistance with record restriction and sealing, pardons, First Offender relief, driver's license issues, occupational licensing, probation, and other reentry-related concerns. GJP operates Second Chance Desks, offers record clearing clinics, and provides self-help resources to expand access to record clearing across Georgia.



HUMAN RESOURCES (HR)

- **Human Resources (HR)**

EDUCATION, TOOLS & SECOND CHANCE HIRING SUPPORT

GJP helps employers build informed second chance hiring practices through customized training, consultation, and practical resources for HR professionals. Topics include understanding Georgia criminal records and record clearing, employer liability protections, evaluating applicants with records, occupational licensing barriers, and strategies for creating fair and effective hiring practices. Our employer engagement work connects second chance hiring with stronger workforce pipelines and greater economic opportunity.



POLICY SUPPORT

- **Policy Support**

EXPANDING OPPORTUNITY THROUGH POLICY

GJP's policy work has helped advance 27 changes to Georgia law, with a strong focus on reducing barriers to employment, licensing, record clearing, probation, and successful reentry. Recent wins include modernizing Georgia's First Offender Act through HB 162, improving occupational licensing access through SB 207, and addressing unnecessary incarceration related to probation revocations through HB 535. Corporate and business partners can strengthen this work by lending their voices to practical policy solutions that expand Georgia's workforce and create greater access to opportunity for people with records.

2026 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



POLICY THAT EXPANDS OPPORTUNITY

Informed by decades of direct service and the experiences of those we serve, GJP advances practical policies that remove barriers and create pathways forward. During the 2025–26 legislative session, four GJP priorities became law, addressing occupational licensing, First Offender protections, unnecessary incarceration, and the criminalization of survivors.

SUPPORTED BY

METRO
ATLANTA
CHAMBER



GEORGIA CHAMBER



SB 207 | OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING

Passed in 2026, expanding fair access to licensed professions.

The law strengthens standards across more than 40 licensing boards and adds due process protections for applicants. Beginning July 2027, a new pre-determination process will allow job seekers to learn whether their background may be disqualifying before investing time and money in education and training.



HB 162 | FIRST OFFENDER ACT

Went into effect July 1, 2026, modernizing Georgia's First Offender Act.

The law requires eligible First Offender case records to be sealed, including new cases at sentencing and active or successfully completed First Offender sentences. This helps ensure that people who receive First Offender treatment receive a true second chance without unnecessary barriers to opportunity.



HB 535 | PROBATION

Passed in 2026 to reduce unnecessary incarceration for people on probation.

The law requires time spent in jail awaiting a probation revocation hearing to be counted consistently with time served while awaiting adjudication in a new case. It restores Georgia's longstanding practice and helps prevent people from effectively serving the same time twice.



HB 582 | SURVIVOR JUSTICE ACT

Went into effect July 1, 2025, creating new protections for survivors of abuse.

The Survivor Justice Act helps prevent survivors of domestic violence and child abuse from receiving harsh penalties for conduct related to their survival and allows eligible people currently serving sentences to seek resentencing. The law also creates evidentiary protections that support survivor-centered approaches such as restorative justice.

LEVERAGING MOMENTUM



LOOKING AHEAD 2026-2027

COURT NOTICES



Improve court appearance rates through effective notices and text reminders, reducing unnecessary license suspensions, warrants, and incarceration.

SURVIVOR JUSTICE



Represent incarcerated survivors seeking resentencing while providing training and technical assistance to attorneys and other stakeholders.

RECORD CLEARING



Expand eligibility for Georgians with old felony convictions, removing barriers to employment and opportunity.

OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING



Prepare applicants, licensing boards, and educators for new processes taking effect in July 2027 through education, resources, and training.



EARLY TERMINATION OF PROBATION

Continue supporting effective and equitable implementation of Georgia's 2021 early termination law.

Learn more: [GJP.org/advocacy](https://gjp.org/advocacy)

For more information, email policy@GJP.org

**CHANGE IS BOTH VITAL FOR THE STATE'S LONG-TERM PROSPERITY AND
THE RIGHT THING TO DO FOR REHABILITATED INDIVIDUALS.**

"If someone has made a mistake, not only should we NOT hold it against them for the rest of their lives, but we should also honor their rehabilitation and give them access to life's essentials."

Doug Ammar, GJP Executive Director



OUR MISSION

Georgia Justice Project strengthens our community by demonstrating a better way to represent and support individuals in the criminal justice system and reduce barriers to reentry. GJP promotes innovative change through direct legal representation, policy advocacy, education, and coalition building.



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