



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

Our organization is headquartered in Atlanta's Old Fourth Ward, with a budget of \$1.1 million and fourteen full-time and four part-time staff. Our work is bolstered by a robust volunteer program and highly competitive internships. We offer effective, proven programs that overcome barriers to economic stability and promotes productive community engagement.

Georgia Justice Project Highlights and Service Numbers

- Only 5% of GJP's criminal defense clients received jail/prison time (vs nearly 70% nationally)
- 82% of GJP's criminal defense clients' cases dismissed or received a not guilty verdict
- 600 legal clients, either criminal defense or criminal records
- Published a comprehensive manual "*Understanding Criminal Records in Georgia*" (3rd Edition 2015)
- Conducted over 60 presentations for over 3,000 people across the state on the collateral consequences of a criminal record and changes to the new record restriction (expungement) law
- 935 social service recipients: events, counseling, or prison/jail visits
- Over 150 participants attended our 2015 Lobby Day at the GA Capitol
- Nearly 100,000 hits to the FAQ/Manual section of our website
- New opportunity for lawyers to volunteer with our thriving "Criminal Records Clinic." See <http://www.gjp.org/about/volunteer/volunteer-opportunity-monthly-legal-clinic/> for details
- Office building completely renovated in 2014 – see photos here: <http://www.gjp.org/photo-gallery/gjps-renovation>

Policy Successes

Our 29 years of experience providing direct service to people in the criminal justice system gives us the credibility to advocate for policy change. We point to our success over the last four years as indicators of our effectiveness and Georgia's unprecedented openness to criminal justice reform.

- **2012** GJP proposal to reform Georgia's expungement law is included in the Governor's Criminal Justice Reform Package and signed into law, expanding eligibility and eliminating the onerous application process and costly fees. ***On the day the law went into effect, nearly 2 million people in Georgia had an eligible record restricted.***
- **2013** GJP proposal to expand expungement law so new criteria would apply to old cases is included in the Governor's Criminal Justice Package (HB349) and signed into law.
- **2014**
 - SB 365 passed: Eliminates automatic suspension of drivers' licenses for some drug offenses, creates Certificate of Program & Treatment Completion, and protects employers who hire people with Certificate or a pardon.
 - November: GJP held its' first Policy Forum, creating a dialogue between the private sector and policymakers about the concerns, challenges and possible solutions to improving employment outcomes for people with a criminal record.
- **2015**
 - HB 310 passed: Requires all Georgians eligible for a second chance under the First Offender Act are informed before it is too late and that those who were not informed can still get their second chance.
 - HB 328 passed: Provides a state remedy when private companies fail to: provide notice to an applicant when they are going to report negative information to an employer, or check with the courthouse before reporting the information.
 - February 2015: Georgia recently become the first in the South to "ban the box" and remove questions about criminal history from the state's employment application.

Awards and Recognition

- GJP featured in Peter Gabel's "Another Way of Seeing: Essays on Transforming Law, Politics and Culture" - 2014
- Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health and the Goizueta Business School's, Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Service Award – 2013
- GJP featured in Forces for Good: The Six Practices of High-Impact Nonprofits – May 2012
- Anti-Defamation League's Elbert P. Tuttle Award - 2011
- Thomas Moore Society, Law Award (Atlanta) 2008
- Annie E. Casey Foundation Fellowship, 2007-2008
- Annie E. Casey Foundation's The National Honors Program – Families Count Award for GJP, 2006
- Georgia Center for Nonprofits' Evelyn G. Ullman Innovative Leadership Award, 2006
- Fulton County Daily Report, Young Lawyer on the Rise, 2002
- Omicron Delta Kappa (Alumni inductee) at Washington & Lee University, 2001
- Emory Law School's Public Interest Committee Inspiration Award, 2000
- University of Georgia Equal Justice Foundation's Knox Award, 2000
- Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers Indigent Defense Award, 1999
- Davidson College's John W. Kuykendall Award for Community Service, 1999
- Atlanta Catholic Social Services' Award for Exemplary Service, 1998
- Davidson College Alumni Admissions Program Award, 1998
- The Georgia Indigent Defense Council's Commitment to Excellence Award, 1997