

A CALL TO GOSPEL JUSTICE

LAUNCHING A LEGAL AID CENTER IN YOUR CHURCH

Seeking justice for the vulnerable is a call to God's people throughout scripture, but it's hard to know where to start. Food pantries and homeless shelters are meeting needs, but they don't address what is causing the need.

Lack of legal advice is frequently at the root of poverty. Low-income Americans receive little or no legal help for 92% of their legal issues.

Without legal advice, simple problems become big problems, and the result can be devastating.

To access justice, these vulnerable neighbors need the simple help of a lawyer to answer their questions and chart a path forward. With legal help from a caring team of volunteers at your church, they will:

- > Find freedom from legal burdens.
- > Experience God's love for them through his people.
- > Gain a new appreciation for the church.

Sadly, less than 0.1% of churches are providing legal help.

Administer Justice exists to equip churches like yours with our simple model of legal ministry so lives are transformed and communities impacted.

What is a Gospel Justice Center?

A Gospel Justice Center is a church-based legal aid center led by a team of volunteers once a month. Most centers operate for 4 hours on a Saturday morning.

Hosting a Gospel Justice Center allows your church to invite vulnerable neighbors into your church every month to find legal help and gospel hope.

Join the growing number of churches nationwide who are answering the call to gospel justice.

GOSPEL JUSTICE CENTER LAUNCH TIMELINE

In as little as six months, your church can be serving clients with legal needs and sharing the hope of God's love.

Schedule a Discovery Call

Connect with our team to learn about our model, get questions answered, and discuss next steps.

Commit to Host

Complete the Church Commitment Form.

Find Your Justice Champions

Share the model and find your lead volunteers using the Justice Champion Primer.

Establish a Legal Ministry at Your Church

Sign the Ministry Agreement with Administer Justice to officially form a legal aid center at your church.

Launch the Center

Begin caring for clients as you receive ongoing support from our National Support Center.

START SERVING YOUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED WITH 3 SIMPLE STEPS:



1.
Schedule a conversation with our team



2.
Commit to host and identify your team



3.
Launch a Gospel Justice Center



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Does church leadership have to recruit volunteers?

Yes and no. Church leadership must identify a qualified team leader (Justice Champion). Once the Justice Champion is invited to join a Launch Cohort, the Launch team equips them to recruit a team of volunteers through online training and coaching. The volunteer team can be as small as 4 volunteers or much larger. Regular pastoral promotion of the center within the congregation and community will increase volunteers and clients.

Does church leadership have to recruit volunteer attorneys?

Yes and no. The Justice Champion will lead in volunteer recruitment, including attorneys. But, if you have attorneys in the church, this is an ideal service opportunity for them, and we encourage connecting them with your Justice Champion. If you do not have attorneys in the church or community, AJ can help your Justice Champion connect with attorneys in your state. We do not have a pool of existing volunteer attorneys to serve at centers – they will need to be recruited by the Justice Champion and AJ together.

Will the volunteer attorneys take cases to court?

No. The volunteer attorneys provide limited advice and counsel by providing the information needed for the client to take next steps in resolving their legal issue. Attorneys will coach the client and offer referrals, but not provide representation.

Is our church taking on liability?

No. Volunteers are trained by and operate under AJ. As our agents, they are covered by our malpractice insurance, volunteer liability insurance, and premises liability insurance (covering church premises). We provide a secure online database so sensitive client information is not stored or handled by the church.

Why do clients pay \$30 to visit the center?

The \$30 copay invites clients to be part of the process. This is a great opportunity for clients to receive trusted guidance for a small amount of money—and they won't have to pay again if they return for additional help on the issue. All copays (including scholarships awarded to clients unable to pay) are paid to AJ for the ongoing cost of insurance, database, and other support systems. These copays are the only ongoing fees between the center and AJ.

How much does it cost to launch a center?

AJ expends approximately \$5,000 in the initial launch of each legal aid center. While covering the cost is not required, all donations toward the launch support expanding access to justice. We invite churches on the commitment form to indicate whether they will donate a one-time gift of \$5,000, a one-time gift of a lesser amount, or a recurring monthly donation to support Administer Justice. They can also indicate if they do not have capacity to make a donation. Church donations to AJ can be made at any time.

What space and equipment is needed?

Space: The church needs an open space to serve as a reception area with a table for check-in and a table for refreshments. Two additional spaces/rooms are needed for the Attorney and the Client Advocate, and a small storage space (for supplies and the retractable banner) is helpful.

Equipment: The secure client database is cloud-based and requires internet access; volunteers are encouraged to use a personal laptop to access it. A printer is useful but not required.

Does the church need to budget for any ongoing costs?

Apart from scholarship money for clients unable to cover the \$30 copay, the church is only responsible for paper and supplies once the original launch kit resources are depleted.