

# Ascend Justice Fall 2024 Internships

## Job details

### Job Type

Part-time Internship- Unpaid, Eligible for Externship Credit or Outside Funding

### Student Type

Undergraduate, Graduate, Law Student

### Location

555 W Harrison St., Suite 1900 (Order of Protection)  
177 N State St., Suite 500 (Main Office)



Internships are mostly in person with potential hybrid opportunity depending on the division.

## THE ORGANIZATION

At Ascend Justice, our mission is to empower individuals and families impacted by gender-based violence or the child welfare system to achieve safety and stability through holistic legal advocacy and system reform. We are working toward strong communities where people have the power to navigate fair systems and overcome violence. Ascend Justice provides comprehensive services in the following areas:

### *Economic Justice Project*

Economic Justice Project interns assist survivors of domestic violence with employment law issues under the Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act (VESSA), housing law issues under the Illinois Safe Homes Act, Crime Victims Compensation, bankruptcy screenings, identity theft, and other consumer debt issues. **Economic Justice Project interns must be law students. Spanish language proficiency is helpful, but not required.**

### *Family Defense Project*

The Family Defense Project serves parents, caregivers, and professionals with ongoing investigations by the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) investigations, appeals of DCFS indicated findings, and civil rights cases related to DCFS. **Family Defense Project interns must be law students. Spanish language proficiency and 711-License eligibility may be helpful, but are not required.**

### *Family Law Division*

The Family Law Division represents survivors of gender-based violence in divorce and parentage actions to help them achieve safety from abusive relationships. Family law attorneys also assist our immigration division's clients with Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) cases. **Family law interns must be law students. Spanish language proficiency and 711-License eligibility may be helpful, but not required.**

### *Incarcerated Survivors*

The Incarcerated Survivors Project assists people inside of women's jails, prisons and other forms of correctional control, as well as limited related services for their family members. **Incarcerated**

**Survivors interns must be law students. 711 license eligibility may be helpful, but it is not required.**

### ***Immigration Division***

We help immigrants with U visas, T visas, Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Self- Petitions, Battered Spouse Waivers, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, asylum, and non-detained removal issues. **Law students, graduate students, and undergraduate students are welcome. Spanish language proficiency is highly preferred.**

### ***Order of Protection (OP) Program***

The Order of Protection Program hosts a same-day order of protection clinic, housed at the Cook County Domestic Violence Courthouse, and a Remote Order of Protection Hotline. Ascend Justice provides brief services to most clients seeking an Emergency Order of Protection and also evaluates cases for representation in pending litigation. **Law students, graduate students and undergraduate students may apply for this internship. Spanish language proficiency and 711-License eligibility may be helpful, but are not required.**

## **JOB DESCRIPTION**

Interns choose one of the above practice areas for their internship. Specific duties vary by program, however general intern duties include interviewing and communicating with clients; performing legal research on related issues; drafting pleadings, motions, subpoenas, and client communications; working directly with attorneys in preparing for contested hearings; and other duties as assigned. Students licensed under Illinois Supreme Court Rule 711 may act as counsel in court under the supervision of an attorney.

Internships run for an entire academic term. Intern can also elect to work for the entire school year. Internship may be fully remote or partially in person depending on current conditions, state and local regulations, and individual preference. Interns must commit to a minimum of 12 hours per week during the school year. **Order of Protection interns MUST be able to work from 9-4, 9-1 or 12-4 although full days are preferred. Ascend Justice offices are only open Monday-Friday. There are no evening or weekend opportunities.**

## **APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS**

Visit our website at <https://www.ascendjustice.org/volunteer-application> and submit a cover letter indicating your program area of interest and resume. You can address your cover letter to Kimberly Washington, Director of Volunteer Services. If you have any questions, you can email [volunteerservices@ascendjustice.org](mailto:volunteerservices@ascendjustice.org).

*Ascend Justice is an equal opportunity employer and seeks to employ qualified individuals based on individual merit. Ascend Justice does not discriminate against any individual with respect to the terms and conditions of employment based on that individual's race, sex, age, religion, color, national origin, disability, genetic information, marital status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, housing status, or any other non-merit factor protected under state, local or federal laws. Equal Employment Opportunity applies to all personnel actions such as recruiting, hiring, compensation, benefits, promotions, training, transfer, termination, and opportunities for training. Ascend Justice is committed to a fair and equitable workplace where everyone is a respected and valued member of the team.*