

# Georgia Justice Project: Who We Are

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.

## **We provide diligent criminal defense with ongoing social service support.**

- GJP provides pro bono criminal defense for about 90 low-income clients annually.
- Fewer than 5% of GJP's clients receive jail or prison time, compared to 80% nationwide.
- We serve our clients for about \$2,500 per person. In Georgia, the annual incarceration cost is \$21,039.

## **We work to reduce the collateral consequences of a criminal record.**

- GJP attorneys provide assistance with record restriction, pardons, and record corrections for approximately 560 individuals annually.
- We provide educational sessions about current and new laws throughout the state, reaching over 4,600 legal professionals, court staff, directly affected individuals, and other service providers each year.
- GJP leverages approximately \$352,650 worth of donated legal services annually through our Criminal Records Clinic.
- GJP has participated in around 20 Record Restriction Summits (including Clarke, Fulton, DeKalb, Troup, Gwinnett, Clayton, Rockdale, Richmond, and Thomasville Counties) over the last two years.

## **We advocate for better laws and policies to improve opportunities for second chances.**

- GJP advocates for laws to reduce barriers to reentry for the 4.2 million individuals with a Georgia criminal history.
- We provide data and policy recommendations to the Governor's Criminal Justice Reform Council.
- GJP's advocacy has resulted in 19 new laws that include: expanded access to record restriction for non-convictions; the removal of questions about criminal history on state employment applications ("ban the box"); and the ability to restrict certain convictions.
- GJP was successful in the Georgia Supreme Court case upholding record restriction law in 2016 (*Mosley v. Lowe*).

## **Awards and Selections**

- GJP, True Colors Theater Company's *Boldness Award* – 2019
- Doug Ammar, GJP's Executive Director, Urban League of Greater Atlanta's 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Equal Opportunity Day Dinner Honoree – 2018
- GJP, The King Center's *Dream Forward Award for Social Justice* – 2018
- GJP selected for Leadership Atlanta's non-profit project – 2016
- GJP's Criminal Records Clinic, the State Bar's *William B. Spann Jr. Award* – 2016
- Michele Young, a GJP volunteer attorney, State Bar's *H. Sol Clark Award* – 2016
- Doug Ammar, Davidson College's *Game Changer* recognition – 2016
- Marissa Dodson, GJP's Policy Director and Attorney, National Association of *Criminal Justice Lawyers' Champion of State Criminal Justice Reform Award* – 2015
- GJP, *Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Service Award* from Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health and the Goizueta Business School – 2013
- GJP, Anti-Defamation League's *Elbert P. Tuttle Award* – 2011

## **Feature Articles, Publications, and Media**

- *News & Views* – "Georgia's Re-Entry Efforts" – February 2019
- *Pacific Standard* – "In the South, an Aggressive Effort to Purge Former Felons from Voting Rolls" – November 2018
- *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* – "Fulton County offers one-day record restrictions on Veterans Day" – October 2018
- *Athens Banner Herald* – "Athens Event to Help those Wishing to Restrict Criminal Records" – October 2018
- *Northwest Georgia News* – "Breaking Down Barriers to Work" – September 2018
- *Georgia Courts Journal* – "Georgia Justice Project" – May 2018
- WALB – "Georgia Justice Project Starts Conversation about Life after a Criminal Record" – February 2018
- 11 Alive – "Arrested: No Conviction But Still Paying the Price" – January 2018
- Featured in film *Released* by U.S. Attorney's Office – June 2017
- *Living Cities Magazine* – "Not Ex-Offenders, but People" – May 2017
- *Columbus Ledger* – "Georgia Has Highest Percentage of People Under Correctional Control" – February 2017
- Featured in *Transforming Justice, Lawyers, and the Practice of Law* – May 2017
- *New York Times* – "After a Crime, The Price of a Second Chance" – December 2016
- Featured in *Tikkun Magazine* – "Spiritual Evolution and the Law" – May 2016
- Featured in *Forces for Good: The Six Practices of High-Impact Nonprofits* – May 2012

## **Partial List of Foundations Supporting GJP's Work**

- The Annie E. Casey Foundation
- The Atlanta Bar Foundation
- The Kendeda Fund
- The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta
- The Georgia Bar Foundation
- The Harland Foundation
- The Kresge Foundation
- The Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation
- Joseph B. Whitehead Foundation
- The Sartain Lanier Family Foundation
- The Tull Charitable Foundation
- The UPS Foundation