

The Promise of Transformation



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

A Message from the Chairman of the Board

In July, Gideon's Promise's Class of 2023 completed the three-year Core 101 Program, marking our 16th graduation ceremony. These lawyers will join their predecessors and the graduates of our Maryland and Texas partnerships (launched in 2014 and 2022, respectively) on the front lines of the fight to ensure that accused individuals that cannot afford lawyers receive zealous representation and a chance at equal justice. Our graduates face profound challenges, from lack of resources to hostile judges to even more hostile prosecutors and skeptical jurors. But they continue to fight because they understand how their fight humanizes their clients and because they have the Gideon's Promise community behind them to lift them up and keep them in the struggle.

On behalf of all the members of the Gideon's Promise board, I offer our gratitude and admiration for our many graduates, and we are excited for the classes to follow. In these trying times, the mission of Gideon's Promise is more critical than ever. We are grateful for the support of our donors, the amazing work of the Gideon's Promise staff, and the courage and perseverance of public defenders across this country. The work has never been easy but the mission is clear and success is non-negotiable.

Gratefully,



ANDREW WISE

Board of Directors, Chairman





The Promise of *Transformation*

Gideon's Promise, a nationally recognized nonprofit, is on a mission to reshape the criminal justice system by empowering public defenders to deliver equal justice to marginalized communities.

Since its founding in 2007, Gideon's Promise has expanded from a small training program from just 16 attorneys in Georgia and Louisiana to a formidable national organization with over 3,000 public defenders.

3,000+

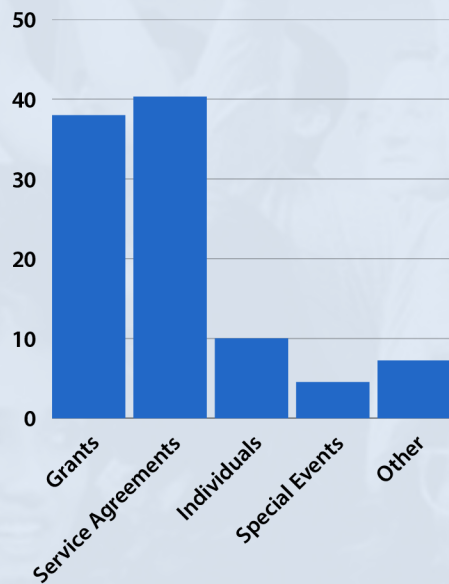
PUBLIC DEFENDERS SERVED

Financial Report Summary

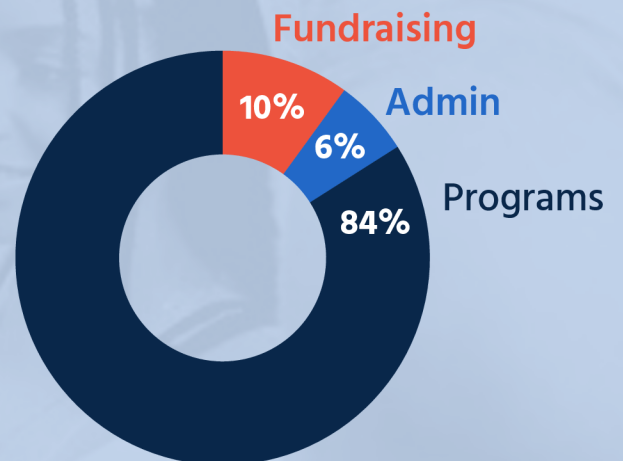
In 2024, we supported six programs. Over half of the budget was dedicated to our training programs including Core 101 training, the Alumni, Leadership, and Mentorship programs, Trainer Development, and the Law School Partnership Program. New regional programs expanded our reach in Oregon, Philadelphia, and Oklahoma. Our management efforts focused on strengthening internal operations and enhancing technology to improve the organization.

Fundraising efforts supported these programs through a variety of campaigns, virtual initiatives, and in-person events, including A Night to Celebrate in New York City, Igniting Change in Atlanta, and the Fall Promise Party in Washington, D.C.

2024 Income Distribution



2024 Statement of Functional Expenses



Training Ground for Public Defense

WINTER INSTITUTE

2024 Annual Conference

148

PARTICIPANTS

32 Leaders

88 Alumni & Returners

28 New CORE 101 Members



SUMMER INSTITUTE

2024 Annual Conference

164

PARTICIPANTS

26 Leaders

110 Alumni & Returners

28 Current CORE 101 Members

FUTURE INDIGENT DEFENSE LEADERSHIP (FIDL)

Texas

We partnered with the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, the Texas Indigent Defense Commission, and the Harris County Public Defender's Office

to offer the Texas Future Indigent Defense Leaders (FIDL) program. FIDL is a three-year initiative modeled on Gideon's Promise's nationally recognized CORE 101 curriculum, tailored for Texas law and practice. The training is designed for early-career public defenders with less than four years' experience, and helps empower them to uphold dignity, equal justice, and the constitutional right to counsel for low-income clients. The experience helps guide public defenders through their crucial early years and beyond.

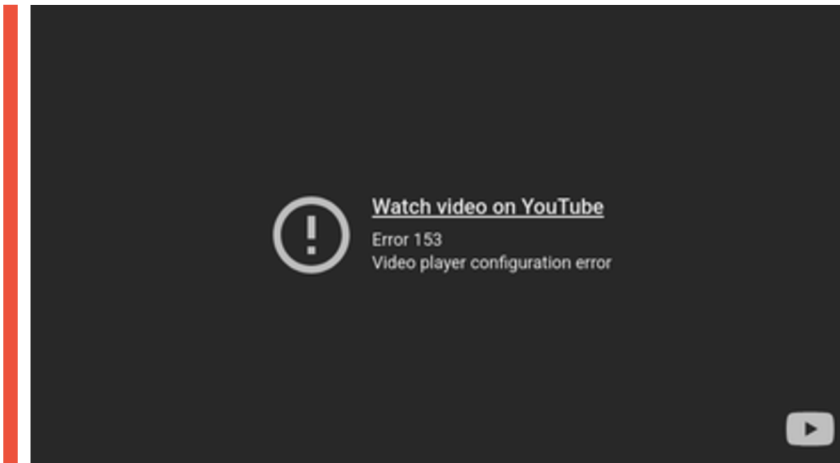


GA CORE 101

We launched the Georgia CORE 101 Program as a five-week training initiative designed for public defenders in Georgia to provide client-centered training, support, and mentorship. Each one of our regional programs brings us closer to implementing our vision of providing nationwide quality public defense.



GA CORE 101 Program Participants in Atlanta, GA



SCAN TO WATCH



UNITED IN THE PURSUIT OF JUSTICE

STARTING A NEW JOURNEY

Announcing a groundbreaking partnership between Gideon’s Promise (GP), The Barristers Society (TBS), and Atlanta’s John Marshall Law School (AJMLS) to launch the **Criminal and Civil Justice Institute (CCJI)** at Atlanta’s John Marshall Law School.

This initiative establishes an unprecedented collaboration between legal education and frontline advocacy to prepare the next generation of legal advocates—developing compassionate lawyers for everyday people.

With a mission to advance justice for the underserved, the institute aims to raise the standard of representation in criminal and civil cases while providing invaluable hands-on training, mentorship, and professional development to AJMLS students and alumni.

The CCJI will connect AJMLS students with accomplished legal professionals to participate in externships, internships, and mentorship programs. These experiences will bridge the gap between classroom learning and real-world practice. The CCJI will also host workshops, seminars, and continuing legal education programs designed to benefit both students and practicing attorneys, particularly those working in solo or small-firm practices.

AJMLS joins forces with Gideon’s Promise, and The Barristers Society, an organization dedicated to educating and developing attorneys who are conscious of the various challenges clients who come from communities that have historically lacked access to justice. Together, they form a partnership that not only addresses the urgent need for high-quality legal representation but also redefines the way future lawyers are trained.

The Criminal and Civil Justice Institute at Atlanta’s John Marshall Law School embodies a shared vision for a legal system that delivers just outcomes for all. This innovative partnership marks a transformative moment in legal education and advocacy, setting a new standard for collaboration and impact.



“AJMLS has long enjoyed a reputation for preparing practice-ready lawyers to represent people who lack access to justice.”



EVENT SEASON

Events hosted in 2024 brought together advocates, supporters, and champions of justice to celebrate and uplift public defenders.



Igniting Change 2024: Dawn of a New Day spotlighted criminal and social justice leaders in Georgia, honoring Ed and Judy Garland with the John R. Lewis Lifetime Achievement Award and Mawuli Davis and Jana Johnson-Davis with the Community Impact Award, hosted by Dr. Rashad Richey. We also honored co-founders Ilham Askia and Jonathan Rapping for their decades of service to Gideon’s Promise and our community.



Later in the year, **A Night to Celebrate** was held in New York City, honoring the vital work of public defenders nationwide and recognizing Judge John Gleeson with the Ian Yankwitt Equalizer Award and Natali Todd, Esq., with the Champion of the Community Award for their steadfast commitment to justice. Together, these events affirm our unwavering mission to support and celebrate those who fight for justice every day.

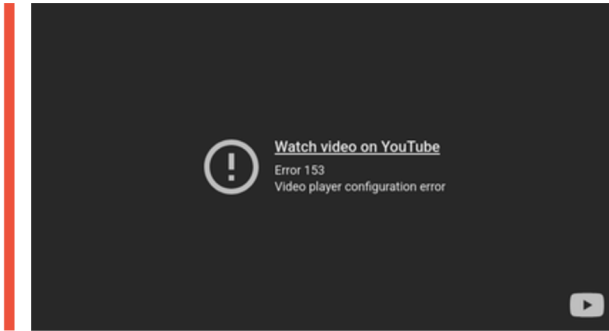


The D.C. Fall **Promise Party** recognized the work of Gideon's Promise, honored the contributions of its D.C. supporters, and renewed our efforts to make sure Gideon’s Promise can continue to pursue its transformative work. Our longtime partner, Miller & Chevalier hosted the event at their headquarters in the heart of our nation’s capitol.



JUSTICE IN MOTION: SOCIAL MEDIA & STORYTELLING

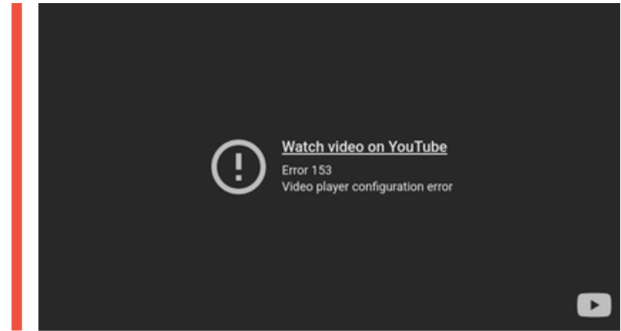
Every video and every post tells the story of public defenders standing with marginalized communities.



**Public Defender
Spotlight:
Madison D.**



**SCAN TO
WATCH**



**The Soul of
Public
Defenders**



**SCAN TO
WATCH**

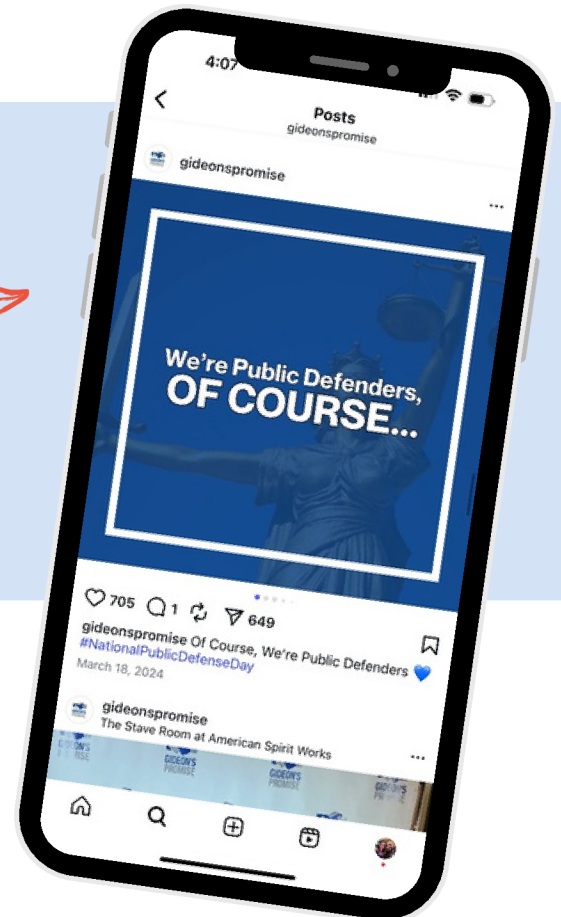


Social Media | A Viral Moment

TOP SOCIAL POST OF 2024

On Public Defense Day, we celebrated the critical work of public defenders. Last year, we tapped into a social media trend to share our message in a fresh and fun way. We aimed to spark conversation, raise awareness, and connect with new audiences beyond our usual reach.

We are dedicated to creating a robust online platform that champions the cause of public defenders, advocates for social justice, and fights for civil rights. Our online presence aims to raise awareness, provide resources, and promote meaningful change in the system.

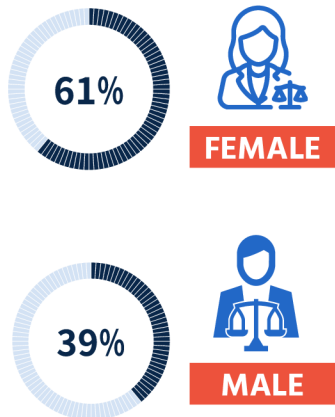


Follow Us!



QUICK FACTS

Our program participants are rich in their diversity and passion for justice.



White: 51%
BIPOC: 49%



Over 3,000 public defenders trained

102 Partner Offices
in 29 states

ONBOARDING FOR THE MOVEMENT

2024/2025 Board of Directors Additions



Our Board of Directors prioritizes amplifying the public defender experience and seeks to restore humanity within the courtroom. We welcomed three new board members, and since their appointments, they have been vital in generating funds and ideas to expand our training programs.

OUR TEAM



Jarrett R. Ransom, MBA
Interim Chief Executive Officer



Alia Coy-Smith
Advancement & Marketing Assistant



Hanxi Sun
**Project Coordinator
Defender Development**



Sean Maher
Director of Defender Development



Kelly O'Neal
Executive Assistant



Toni S. Paz, CFRE
Interim Advancement Director



JP Pennie
**Project Coordinator
Defender Development**



Amma Williams, MBA, CPIA
Chief Operating Officer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Andrew Wise, Chairman
Washington, D.C.



Serena Nunn
Atlanta, GA



JaKathryn Ross, Vice Chairman
Atlanta, GA



David E. Patton
New York, NY



Justin Anderson, Treasurer
Atlanta, GA



Naveen Ramachandruppa
Atlanta, GA



Ilham Askia, Co Founder
Atlanta, GA



Alejo Rodriguez, Jr.
Brooklyn, NY



Jonathan Rapping, Co Founder
Atlanta, GA



Sam Starks
Atlanta, GA



Clinton Browning
Berkeley, CA



Paul Song
Los Angeles, CA



C. Dawn Deaner
Nashville, TN



Jon M. Talotta, Secretary
Washington, D.C.



Mina Malik
New York, NY



For 20 years and counting, the mission of Gideon's Promise is to transform the criminal justice system by building a movement of public defenders who provide equal justice for marginalized communities.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT



You don't have to be a public defender to stand for equal justice. By becoming a donor, you'll help reduce incarceration, diversify the next generation of defenders, expand law school partnerships, and ensure more families stay together through client-centered defense.

Every gift protects the promise of zealous counsel for all—because justice can't wait.

gideonspromise.org/join-the-movement

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