

ABOUT US

Our Mission: We provide holistic legal services that include social support services and advocacy for individuals and communities negatively impacted by the criminal legal system.



CGLA was founded in 1973 to meet legal needs arising from a lack of opportunity, criminalization of poverty, and racial inequity within the Cabrini Green community. Since then, CGLA has grown beyond a single neighborhood to become a citywide, countywide, and now recognized statewide leader. Since 1973 CGLA has removed barriers to equity for people impacted by the criminal legal system.

JOIN US



SUPPORT US
www.cgla.net



CGLA EXISTS TO REMOVE BARRIERS TO EQUITY IN THE CRIMINAL LEGAL SYSTEM.

6 S Clark St.
Chicago, IL 60603
Phone: (312) 738-2452

HOW WE WORK

CGLA is one of a kind.

- 8,000 people helped per year
- Evictions prevented
- Families reunited
- Barriers to safe housing, jobs & education removed
- Holistic criminal defense fights for the rights of people accused of crimes
- Systemic criminal legal system reform

We believe that *how* we do our work is just as important as the outcomes we achieve.

Racial justice is core to our mission.

Movement lawyering means working with directly impacted people to support and build collective power for systemic change.



CURTIS'S STORY

Curtis grew up on the Southside of Chicago, navigating the challenges of the streets without a role model to guide him. At 21, he found himself incarcerated after an aggravated UUC gun charge, and was unsure of what the future held. Through his connection with Precious Blood, Curtis was introduced to Cabrini Green Legal Aid, whose dedicated team crafted a robust mitigation packet and built strong relationships with Curtis and his community to highlight his strengths and potential. With CGLA's unwavering support, Curtis received time served and was granted his freedom, opening the door to a new chapter. Today, Curtis is a mentor at Precious Blood, pursuing a bachelor's degree in Social Work, and living proof that second chances can transform lives.



OUR DISTINCTIVES

Holistic Client focus

Client experience is priority number one and CGLA delivers with holistic wraparound services in partnership with social workers, attorneys and clients.

Integrated Advocacy

Systemic reforms are informed by directly impacted community leaders, like CGLA's Leadership Council, our Coalition partners, and strategic partnerships.

Who We Serve

Criminal legal system focus. We are one of the only organizations providing criminal defense for adults and youth accused of crimes. Our criminal records program is widely recognized as the leader in the field. Our housing and family law practice focus on family reunification and eviction prevention for families with criminal justice system involvement.