

Legal Services for People in Prison and Jail

These organizations provide legal assistance to people in prison. Each listing has been confirmed by the relevant organization within the last year.

Alabama

Southern Center for Human Rights (SCHR)

83 Poplar Street, N.W. Atlanta, GA 30303-2122 <http://www.schr.org> (404) 688-9440 fax(404) 688-1202 phone

Focus area/description: The SCHR represents prisoners in class action law suits challenging inhumane conditions of confinement, degrading or discriminatory treatment, denial of medical and mental health care, debtors' prisons, and other constitutional violations. The SCHR staff will respond to complaints sent through the mail by Georgia and Alabama prisoners. (Confirmed: Jun. 16, 2015)

Arizona

Middle Ground Prison Reform

139 East Encanto Drive Tempe, AZ 85281 <http://www.middlegroundprisonreform.org> middlegroundprisonreform@msn.com (480) 966-8116 phone

Focus area/description: Middle Ground Prison Reform is involved in advocacy for Arizona families who have a member in prison or jail. Also offers public education and training seminars for families coping with imprisonment, litigates for the rights of prisoners and their supporters, and provides specialized fee-based consulting services for inmates and their families; includes Clemency Board presentation preparation, protective custody, medical, visitation, probation supervision and restoration of civil rights. Middle Ground Prison Reform is not a direct social-service delivery agency. (Confirmed: Jun. 11, 2015)

California

ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) of SoCal

1313 West Eighth St., #200 Los Angeles, CA 90017 <http://www.aclusocal.org> (213) 977-5209 (213) 977-9543 (no collect calls please)

Focus area/description: The ACLU of Southern California works to preserve and guarantee the protections of the Constitution's Bill of Rights. It aims to extend these freedoms to segments of our population who have traditionally been denied their rights, including people of color; lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and transgendered people; women; mental-health patients; prisoners; people with disabilities; and the poor. (Confirmed: Jun. 15, 2015)

Root & Rebound

1730 Franklin St. Suite 300 Oakland, CA 94612 <http://www.rootandrebound.org> (510) 891-1287 Fax(510) 279-4662 Office

Focus area/description: We provide the highest caliber direct legal services to clients throughout the continuum of reentry. (Confirmed: Jun. 26, 2015)

Connecticut

ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) of CT

330 Main St, First floor Hartford, CT 06106 <http://www.aclu.org/> (860) 586-8900 Fax(860) 523-9146 Phone

Focus area/description: A nonpartisan, non-profit membership organization whose mission is to assure that the Bill of Rights and the rights guaranteed by the Connecticut Constitution are preserved for each new generation. (Confirmed: Jun. 25, 2015)

District of Columbia

D.C. Prisoners' Project

Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs 11 Dupont Circle NW, Suite 400 Washington, D.C. 20036 <http://www.washlaw.org/projects/dc-prisoners-rights> (202) 319-1010 Fax(202) 319-1000 General information, no collect calls(202) 775-0323 Prisoner help line, collect calls accepted

Focus area/description: Helps D.C. prisoners and ex-prisoners advocate for humane treatment, particularly with regard to medical and mental health services, safe conditions of confinement, access to the courts, and parole grant and parole supervision issues. (Confirmed: Jun. 15, 2015)

Florida

Florida Justice Institute (FJI)

Attention: Intake 100 SE 2nd St., Suite 3750 Miami, FL 33131-2113 <http://www.floridajusticeinstitute.org> (305) 358-2081 phone

Focus area/description: FJI handles civil rights actions affecting conditions in Florida's prisons and jails. Legal services provided to inmates also include damages suits and civil rights cases. No post conviction or criminal cases are accepted. Prisoners or family should contact this group by visiting the website and clicking "Contact Us." (Confirmed: Jun. 15, 2015)

A Jailhouse Lawyer's Manual--Columbia Human Rights Law Review

Columbia Human Rights Law Review, Attn: JLM Order 435 W. 116th St. New York, NY 10027 <http://www3.law.columbia.edu/hrlr/jlm> jlm.board@mail@gmail.com (212) 854-1601

Focus area/description: A Jailhouse Lawyer's Manual Tenth Edition (the "JLM Tenth Edition") explains the legal rights of prisoners, and how to navigate through the justice process to secure those rights. It contains information on how to address legal issues on both the federal level and the state level, with an emphasis on New York State law. To order the JLM, send your name, address, ID number, institution, and phone number to the address above. Please note that we can not fulfill orders without payment. (Confirmed: Jun. 12, 2015)

Georgia

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Hawaii

Hawaii Office of the Ombudsman

465 S. King Street 4th floor Honolulu, HI 96813 <http://ombudsman.hawaii.gov> (808) 587-0773 fax(808) 587-0770 phone(808) 587-0774 TTY

Focus area/description: Receives, and where deemed appropriate, investigates complaints from inmates regarding administrative acts of staff of the Department of Public Safety, State of Hawaii. Does not provide advocacy or legal services. Open from 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekdays, except for state holidays. (Confirmed: Jun. 15, 2015)

Louisiana

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Massachusetts

Prisoners' Legal Services

10 Winthrop Square Floor 3 Boston, MA 02110-1264 <http://plsma.org> (617) 451-6383 Fax(617) 482-2773 Main

Focus area/description: PLS provides civil legal services, not criminal defense services, to people in Massachusetts prisons and jails. The office focuses on four issues: health and mental health care, guard-on-prisoner violence, physical conditions of confinement, and segregation and isolation. PLS has a toll free speed dial number accessible to all state prisoners on the PIN system: #9004. County prisoners must call collect on (617) 482-4124. Prisoners who can not reach us by phone should write to the address above. Regular call-in hours are 9:00 to 11:00 and 1:00 to 4:00 on Monday afternoons unless you are in segregation, in which case you can call between 9:00 and 4:00, Monday to Friday. If you are calling from seg, please state your unit to get through. On weeks when Monday is a holiday, PLS accepts calls on Tuesday from 1:00 to 4:00. (Confirmed: Jun. 11, 2015)

Minnesota

Legal Assistance to Minnesota Prisoners (LAMP)

William Mitchell College of Law 875 Summit Ave., Room 254 St Paul, MN 55105 (651) 290-6413 phone

Focus area/description: Provides civil and family law legal services to prisoners currently incarcerated in Minnesota correctional facilities. Additionally, the William Mitchell College of Law runs a Reentry Clinic that provides reentry services to female prisoners who are nearing their release dates. (Confirmed: Jul. 2, 2015)

North Carolina

North Carolina Prisoner Legal Services, Inc.

PO Box 25397 1110 Wake Forest Road Raleigh, NC 27611 <http://www.ncpls.org> ncpls@ncpls.org Email(919) 856-2223 Fax(919) 856-2200 Main

Focus area/description: Provide legal services to people incarcerated in North Carolina to ensure that all prisoners are treated humanely. Although NCPLS cannot provide representation to every prisoner who contacts them, they respond to every inquiry they receive, and keep track of recurring complaints so they can identify and concentrate on areas of broad concern. (Confirmed: Dec. 19, 2014)

New Jersey

NJ Office of the Corrections Ombudsman

PO Box 855 Trenton, NJ 08625 <http://www.state.nj.us/correctionsombudsman/> 1-555-555-5555 Inmate only toll free number(609) 633-2596 Main

Focus area/description: The Office of the Corrections Ombudsman provides a mechanism for the continuing resolution of issues, problems or complaints of state prisoners within New Jersey's Correctional System regarding their living conditions and treatment. The Corrections Ombudsman investigates complaints where the inmate has failed to get satisfactory results through available institutional channels. (Confirmed: Jun. 15, 2015)

ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) of New Jersey

PO Box 32159 Newark, NJ 07102 <http://www.aclu-nj.org/> (973) 642-2084

Focus area/description: A nonpartisan, non-profit membership organization dedicated to defending and advancing civil liberties and civil rights. The ACLU-NJ responds to complaints from prisoners with information, and is only able to provide direct assistance a few times each year. (Confirmed: Jul. 3, 2015)

New Jersey Parents' Caucus

275 Route 10 East Suite 220-414 Succasunna, NJ 07869 <http://www.newjerseyparentscaucus.org> (908) 994-7471 (973) 989-8870

Focus area/description: The New Jersey Youth Justice Initiative (NJYJI) is a family-driven justice program of the New Jersey Parents' Caucus (NJPC) which seeks to improve outcomes for justice-involved youth and their families, end the practice of waiving youth to the adult system, ensure family and youth involvement on all levels of decision making, end solitary confinement for youth, and ultimately decrease recidivism rates through a myriad of supportive programs. (Confirmed: Aug. 17, 2015)

Nevada

ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) of NV

601 S. Rancho Drive, # B-11 Las Vegas, NV 89106 <http://www.aclunv.org> (702) 366-1226

Focus area/description: The ACLU of Nevada works to defend and advance the civil liberties, civil rights and other fundamental human rights of all Nevadans. (Confirmed: Jun. 12, 2015)

New York

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Prisoners' Legal Services of New York

41 State Street, Suite M112 Albany, NY 12207 <http://www.plsny.org/> (518) 445-6050 fax(518) 445-6053 phone
Focus area/description: Prisoners' Legal Services of New York (PLS) provides free civil legal services to New York state prisoners. The decision to assist with any particular case depends on the issue or problem presented, the chance of success, the amount of time and resource necessary to properly assist, the office's resources, staff availability and caseload. PLS is also happy to provide self-help and informational materials to prisoners. Due to the large number of inquiries, PLS cannot accept telephone calls from prisoners and their families. (Confirmed: Jun. 11, 2015)

Legal Aid Society, Prisoners' Rights Project

199 Water Street, 3rd Floor New York, NY 10038 <http://www.legal-aid.org/> (212) 509-8433 fax(212) 577-3530 phone
Focus area/description: Advocates for constitutional and humane conditions of confinement for prisoners in the New York City and State correctional systems. (Confirmed: Jun. 4, 2015)

Oregon

ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) of OR

P.O. Box 40585 Portland, OR 97240-0585 <http://www.aclu-or.org/> (503) 227-3186
Focus area/description: The ACLU of Oregon is an advocacy organization dedicated to preserving and advancing civil liberties and civil rights. It is an organized as a private, non-profit, membership organization. (Confirmed: Jul. 7, 2015)

Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project (PAILP)

The Cast Iron Building, Suite 304 South 718 Arch Street Philadelphia, PA 19106 <http://www.pailp.org>
alove@pailp.org Email(215) 925-5337 Fax(570) 523-1104 Lewisburg Office(215) 925-2966
Main/Philadelphia Office(412) 232-0276 Pittsburgh Office
Focus area/description: The Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project (PAILP) provides free legal assistance in civil matters to low-income people who are incarcerated or institutionalized. Intake Process: By phone, M-F, 9am-5pm. PAILP has a staff person who responds to every inquiry. An assessment of legal merit is made and if appropriate, information and referrals are provided. (Confirmed: Jun. 11, 2015)

Lewisburg Prison Project, Inc.

P.O. Box 128 Lewisburg, PA 17837-0128 <http://www.lewisburgprisonproject.org/> (570) 523-1104 phone
Focus area/description: The Lewisburg Prison Project (LPP) is a non-profit organization that assists prisoners who write LPP when they encounter treatment they perceive to be illegal or unfair. The Lewisburg Prison Project primarily assists inmates with issues that arise from their conditions of confinement. LPP writes to and contacts prison authorities on behalf of inmates. The LPP also furnishes inmates with appropriate legal materials. As of 2010, the organization does not have an attorney on staff; therefore, the LPP is not able to give legal advice, file suits, or address criminal or post-conviction cases. The Lewisburg Prison Project offers a range of low-cost legal bulletins (\$1-3, prices subject to change) on specific topics concerning prisoner's rights. Inmates can write to the LPP to request a bulletin order form. (Confirmed: Jun. 15, 2015)

Rhode Island

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Rhode Island

128 Dorrance Street Suite 220 Providence, RI 02903 <http://www.riaclu.org/> (401) 831-7171
Focus area/description: The mission of the ACLU is to preserve and protect First Amendment rights, the right to equal protection under the law, the right to due process, the right to privacy. (Confirmed: Jun. 11, 2015)

South Carolina

Protection & Advocacy for People with Disabilities, Inc.

3710 Landmark Dr, Ste 208 Columbia, SC 29204 <http://www.pandasc.org> (803) 782-0639 1-866-275-7273 toll-free
Focus area/description: Provides legal assistance on conditions and treatment issues to prisoners with disabilities. Does not do criminal work. (Confirmed: Jun. 11, 2015)

Tennessee

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Texas

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Virginia

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Virginia

701 E. Franklin St., Suite 1412 Richmond, VA 23219 <http://www.acluva.org/> (804) 644-8022
Focus area/description: The ACLU of Virginia is a private, non-profit organization that uses lobbying, litigation and public education to promote civil liberties and civil rights in the state. (Confirmed: Jun. 25, 2015)

Vermont

Prisoners' Rights Office

6 Baldwin Street, 4th Floor Montpelier, VT 05633-3301 <http://www.defgen.state.vt.us/> (802) 828-3194 phone
Focus area/description: This section of the Vermont Office of the Defender General handles prisoners' rights cases. (Confirmed: Jun. 11, 2015)

Washington

Columbia Legal Services, Institutions Project

101 Yesler Way, Suite 300 Seattle, WA 98104 <http://www.columbiainstitutionsproject.org/> (800) 542-0794 (206) 382-3399 collect
Focus area/description: The Institutions Project (IP) represents people confined in Washington's jails, prisons, juvenile detention facilities, mental health facilities, and facilities for people with developmental disabilities. This work has focused on conditions of our clients' confinement, discrimination, sentencing and placement, alternatives to institutionalization, and access to courts, as well as issues related to rehabilitation, re-entry, and reductions in recidivism. (Confirmed: Jul. 2, 2015)

National organizations

These organizations offer help to prisoners in any state by providing legal assistance *or* inexpensive, high-quality self-help materials. See the individual listings for details.

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Prison Law Project - Jailhouse Lawyers Handbook

National Lawyers Guild 132 Nassau Street, RM 922 New York, NY 10038 <http://jailhouselaw.org/> (212) 679-2811 fax(212) 679-5100 phone
Focus area/description: This Handbook is a resource for prisoners who wish to file a Section 1983 lawsuit in federal court regarding poor conditions in prison and/or abuse by prison staff. It also contains limited information about legal research and the American legal system. The Handbook is available for free online to anyone at www.jailhouselaw.org, or by mail. Prisoners can write to the addresses above. (Confirmed: Jul. 2, 2015)

This resource list is edited by the Prison Policy Initiative which confirms each listing at least once per year. For longer descriptions of each organization or to submit other organizations to the list, please visit <http://www.prisonpolicy.org/resources/legal/>. Because people in prison can not access the internet, Prison Legal News is distributing this resource guide on paper. Prison Legal News P.O. Box 1151 Lake Worth, FL 33460. PLN's website has all back issues of the magazine and the most comprehensive database of detention facility news and litigation. www.prisonlegalnews.org. This resource guide was printed on September 3, 2015. If that is more than a year ago, please see the Prison Policy Initiative website for a newer version before making further copies of this guide.