

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

Equal Justice Initiative

122 Commerce Street Montgomery, AL 36104 <http://www.eji.org/> (334) 269-1806 fax(334) 269-1803 phone

Focus area/description: EJI works with communities that have been marginalized by poverty and discouraged by unequal treatment. EJI litigates on behalf of condemned prisoners, juvenile offenders, people wrongly convicted or charged with violent crimes, poor people denied effective representation, and others whose trials are marked by racial bias or prosecutorial misconduct. (Confirmed: Jul. 31, 2012)

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: Jul. 24, 2012)

ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) of AZ

P.O. Box 17148 Phoenix, AZ 85011-0148 <http://www.acluaz.org/> (602) 650-1854 Phone

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: Aug. 3, 2012)

California

UC Davis School of Law Prison Law Clinic

PO Box 4745 Davis, CA 95616 http://www.law.ucdavis.edu/clinics/prison_law.shtml (530) 752-6943 phone

Focus area/description: For inmates of CA State Prisons: lifer parole suitability, prison conditions, parole revocation, religious freedom, visitation. (Confirmed: Aug. 13, 2012)

ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) of Southern CA

1313 West Eighth St., #200 Los Angeles, CA 90017 <http://www.aclu-sc.org> (213) 977-9500

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: Aug. 6, 2012)

ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) of San Diego & Imperial Counties

P.O. Box 87131 San Diego, CA 92138-7131 <http://www.aclusandiego.org/> 619-232-2121 x240

Focus area/description: The ACLU of San Diego and Imperial Counties fights for individual rights and fundamental freedoms for all. We generally file cases that affect the civil rights of large numbers of people, rather than those involving a dispute between two parties. (Confirmed: Jul. 31, 2012)

Colorado

ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) of CO

303 E. 17th Ave., Suite 350 Denver, CO 80203 <http://www.aclu-co.org/> (303) 777-5482

Focus area/description: The ACLU of Colorado's mission is to protect, defend, and extend the civil rights and civil liberties of all people in Colorado through litigation, education, and advocacy. (Confirmed: Aug. 6, 2012)

Colorado Prison Law Project

P.O. Box 181550 Denver, CO 80206 <http://www.coloradoprisonlawproject.org>

Focus area/description: CPLP provides legal services, primarily in the form of impact litigation, to prisoners housed in any facility within the geographic confines of Colorado. In addition to impact litigation, we advocate informally with prisons on behalf of inmates facing serious issues, and provide issue-specific legal information packets upon request. (Confirmed: Aug. 6, 2012)

Connecticut

Inmates' Legal Assistance: A Program of Schulman & Associates

78 Oak Street PO Box 260237 Hartford, CT 06126 (860) 246-1119 fax(800) 246-1118 phone(860) 301-4527 phone

Focus area/description: Inmates' legal assistance program provides legal assistance to incarcerated people in Connecticut in civil matters involving terms and conditions of confinement only. Also helps female inmates with civil matters including including family matters such as divorce, child support, visitation and custody issues. (Confirmed: Aug. 1, 2012)

Delaware

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Delaware

100 W. 10th Street, Suite 603 Wilmington, DE 19801 <http://www.aclu-de.org>

Focus area/description: The mission of the ACLU is to preserve and strengthen the individual rights and liberties of any person in Delaware. (Confirmed: Aug. 29, 2012)

Florida

Florida Institutional Legal Services (FILS)

14260 W. Newberry Rd., #412 Newberry, FL 32669 (352) 375-2494 phone

Focus area/description: FILS provides high-quality, aggressive and holistic advocacy to prisoners, jail inmates, incarcerated juveniles, immigrants held in detention and individuals in indefinite civil detention or commitment. FILS also provides direct legal services to formerly incarcerated individuals re-entering into society to help end the cycle of recidivism through successful re-entry into the community. (Confirmed: Jul. 31, 2012)

Hawaii

Hawaii Office of the Ombudsman

465 S. King Street 4th floor Honolulu, HI 96813 <http://www.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: Jul. 31, 2012)

Illinois

Prisoners Rights Research Project

University of Illinois College of Law 504 East Pennsylvania Champaign, IL 61820 (217) 333-4205 Voice

Focus area/description: Prisoners' Rights Research Project is a student run organization at the University of Illinois College of Law. Students will prepare an objective memorandum under the general supervision of a licensed attorney on specific questions of Illinois or federal law. PRRP members are not licensed attorneys, and cannot offer legal advice. (Confirmed: Oct. 1, 2012)

John Howard Association

375 East Chicago Avenue, Suite 529 Chicago, IL 60611 <http://www.thejha.org/> (312) 503-6300 (312) 503-6306 Fax

Focus area/description: Advocacy on prison conditions and prisoners' civil rights The John Howard Association monitors policies, practices, and conditions of confinement in prisons and jails in Illinois and advocates on behalf of incarcerated individuals, parolees, and the formerly incarcerated. (Confirmed: Jul. 31, 2012)

The MacArthur Justice Center

Northwestern University School of Law 375 E. Chicago Ave. Chicago, IL 60611 <http://www.law.northwestern.edu/macarthur/> (312) 503-1271 phone

Focus area/description: Impact litigation on criminal justice issues, especially prison conditions. Federal and state prisoners. (Confirmed: Jul. 31, 2012)

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Illinois

180 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 2300 Chicago, IL 60601 <http://www.aclu-il.org> (312) 201-9740 acluofillinois@aclu-il.org email(312) 201-9760 fax

Focus area/description: The ACLU of Illinois is dedicated to protecting freedom, liberty, equality and justice for all within the United States. ACLU-IL accomplishes its goals through litigation, lobbying and education programs. Their Children's Project advocates on behalf of children in the troubled Illinois juvenile justice system. (Confirmed: Jul. 31, 2012)

Indiana

ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) of IN

1031 E. Washington St. Indianapolis, IN 46202 <http://www.aclu-in.org/> (317) 635-4059

Focus area/description: The ACLU of Indiana litigates cases involving the constitutional and religious rights of prisoners, including prison and jail conditions. We do not litigate cases involving post-conviction relief or appeals of criminal convictions. We do not usually litigate individual damages cases. (Confirmed: Jul. 31, 2012)

Kansas

Legal Services for Prisoners, Inc.

Attn: Steve Kessler 1430 SW Topeka Blvd 3rd Floor Topeka, KS 66612-1819 (785) 296-8887 Main

Focus area/description: State-funded organization that has the ability to assist with post-conviction, habeas corpus, and civil rights. (Confirmed: Jul. 31, 2012)

Louisiana

ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) of Louisiana

P. O. Box 56157 New Orleans, LA 70156-6157 <http://www.laaclu.org/> (504) 522-0617

Focus area/description: Discrimination, freedom of religion, freedom of speech, prisoners' rights, due process, separation of church and state. (Confirmed: Jul. 31, 2012)

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. Families and friends of prisoners can also call PLS for free on 1-800-882-1413 toll free from anywhere in the state. Prisoners who can not reach us by phone should write to the address above. Regular call-in hours are 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 our receptionist to get through. On weeks when Monday is a holiday, PLS accepts calls on Tuesday from 1:00 to 4:00. (Confirmed: Aug. 13, 2012)

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. 31, 2012)

New Jersey

NJ Office of the Corrections Ombudsman

PO Box 855 Trenton, NJ 08625 <http://www.state.nj.us/correctionsombudsman/> (609) 292-8021 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. The Corrections Ombudsman investigates complaints where the inmate has failed to get satisfactory results through available institutional channels. (Confirmed: Jul. 31, 2012)

New York

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/order_jlm.php jlm.board.mail@gmail.com (212) 854-1601

Focus area/description: A Jailhouse Lawyer's Manual Ninth Edition (the "JLM Ninth 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: Aug. 2, 2012)

Prisoners' Legal Services of New York

41 State Street, Suite M112 Albany, NY 12207 <http://www.plsny.org/> (518) 438-6643 fax(518) 438-8046 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: Jul. 26, 2012)

Legal Aid Society, Prisoners' Rights Project

199 Water Street, 6th 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: Aug. 20, 2012)

Disability Advocates, Inc.

5 Clinton Sq Albany, NY 12207 <http://www.disabilityadvocates.org> (518) 432-7861

Focus area/description: Provide limited advocacy and advice to prisoners with mental illness, physical disabilities, and developmental disabilities in select New York counties. Assistance is limited to disability-related problems. (Confirmed: Jul. 24, 2012)

Pennsylvania

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 visits inmates, 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: Jul. 31, 2012)

Disability Rights Network of PA

1414 N. Cameron St. Suite C Harrisburg, PA 17103 <http://drmpa.org> (800) 692-7443 ext. 400 Phone(877) 375-7139 TTY

Focus area/description: A federally funded, nonprofit agency responsible for providing protection and advocacy services to people with disabilities. (Confirmed: Jul. 24, 2012)

Rhode Island

Rhode Island Disability Law Center Inc.

275 Westminster St., Suite 401 Providence, RI 02903 <http://ridlc.org> (401) 831-3150 (800) 733-5332 (401) 831-5335 TDD

Focus area/description: Provides free legal assistance to persons with disabilities. Services include individual representation to protect rights or to secure benefits and services; self-help information; educational programs; and administrative and legislative advocacy. (Confirmed: Aug. 20, 2012)

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: Aug. 1, 2012)

Virginia

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Virginia

530 East Main Street, Suite 310 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: Aug. 6, 2012)

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: Jul. 24, 2012)

Washington

Columbia Legal Services, Institutions Project

101 Yesler Way, Suite 300 Seattle, WA 98104 <http://www.columbialegal.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: Aug. 3, 2012)

West Virginia

West Virginia Advocates, Inc.

Litton Bldg, 4th Floor 1207 Quarrier St Charleston, WV 25301 <http://www.wvadvocates.org/> (304) 346-0847

Focus area/description: A private, nonprofit agency mandated by the Federal Government to advocate for and protect the legal rights of West Virginians with disabilities. (Confirmed: Aug. 3, 2012)

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.

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/order_jlm.php jlm.board.mail@gmail.com (212) 854-1601

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Human Rights Defense Center

Prison Legal News PO Box 2420 Brattleboro, VT 05303 <http://www.prisonlegalnews.org> and www.humanrightsdefensecenter.org (802) 257-1342 phone

Focus area/description: The Human Rights Defense Center publishes a monthly magazine on prisoner rights (for incarcerated people, \$30/year; for others please write or see website), and also sells litigation manuals, law and self-help books. (Confirmed: Nov. 21, 2012)

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 2420 West Brattleboro, VT 05303 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 January 28, 2013. 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.