

The John Howard Association is not a law firm and does not represent individuals. While JHA does not endorse any specific attorneys, we have compiled the enclosed list of firms, agencies, and attorneys who you can contact for possible assistance.

CIVIL REFERRALS

Realistically, if you want someone to provide representation for free, your best source for an attorney would be either large law firms or law schools. Here are a few that have been known to represent low-income defendants.

Bonjean Law Group
1000 Dean Street, Suite 422
Brooklyn NY 11238
(Handles many cases in Illinois; former IL appellate attorney)
(718) 875-1850
<http://www.bonjeanlaw.com/>

Jenner and Block
Pro Bono Committee
3353 North Clark
Chicago IL 60654
(312) 222-9350
https://jenner.com/about/public_service/pro_bono

Northwestern University Law School
Bluhm Law Clinic
375 East Chicago Ave.
Chicago IL 60611
(312) 503-8576
<https://www.law.northwestern.edu/legalclinic/wrongfulconvictions/assistance/>

Mayer Brown
71 South Wacker
Chicago IL 60606
(312) 782-0600
<https://www.mayerbrown.com/en/capabilities/specialinterests/pro-bono?tab=overview>

Sidley and Austin
Pro Bono Committee
1 South Dearborn
Chicago IL 60603
(312) 853-7000
<https://www.sidley.com/en/probonolandingewexler@sidley.com>

University of Chicago Law School
Mandel Clinic
1111 East 60th Street
Chicago IL 60637
(773) 702-9611
<https://www.law.uchicago.edu/clinics/mandel>

Winston and Strawn
Pro Bono Committee
35 West Wacker
Chicago IL 60601
(312) 558-5600
<https://www.winston.com/en/who-we-are/firm-profile/pro-bono.html>

We encourage people who are incarcerated to also want to look at Sullivan's Directory, a book listing most attorneys in the state of Illinois along with a brief description of their practice. A copy of Sullivan's should be in their law library. Additionally, the following agencies and firms have successfully won or settled class action cases against IDOC:

ACLU of Illinois
150 N Michigan Ave, Suite 600
Chicago IL 60601
(312) 201-9740
<https://www.aclu-il.org/en/request-legal-assistance>

Equip for Equality (disability-related lawsuits)
20 North Michigan Ave, Suite 300
Chicago IL 60602
(312) 341-0022

<https://www.equipforequality.org>

Loevy & Loevy
311 N Aberdeen St, 3rd floor
Chicago IL 60607
(312) 243-5900
<https://loevy.com>

Uptown People's Law Center
4413 N Sheridan Rd
Chicago IL 60640
(773) 769-1411
<https://www.uplchicago.org>

We have also compiled a list of attorneys who may possibly be interested in representing you on civil rights and prison injury issues. You should know that many of these attorneys will not work pro bono, rather, they might suggest assisting you on contingency. This means that the attorney will take a percentage of the award offered if your case wins.

Christopher Smith Trial Group
53 W Jackson, Suite 856
Chicago IL 60604
(312) 432-0400
<https://www.crstrialgroup.com>

Dinizulu Law Group, Ltd
221 North LaSalle Suite 1100
Chicago IL 60601
(312) 384-1920
<https://dinizululawgroup.com>

Dvorak Law Offices, LLC
6262 Kingery Highway, Suite 305
Willowbrook IL 60527
(630) 568-3190
<https://www.civilrightsdefenders.com>

Gregory E. Kulis & Associates, Ltd.
(1983 claims)
30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2140
Chicago IL 60602-33
(312) 580-1830

Kenneth Flaxman Law Offices
200 South Michigan, Suite 201
Chicago IL 60604
(312) 427-3200
<https://www.kenlaw.com>

Law Office of Julie O. Herrera
52 W Jackson, Suite 1615
Chicago IL 60604
(312) 834-7150
<https://julieherrera.com>

Law Offices of Kathleen T. Zellner & Associates
1901 Butterfield Road, Suite 650
Downers Grove IL 60515
(630) 955-1212
<http://www.kathleentzellner.com>

Law Offices of Michael P. Schmiede
405 N. Wabash Ave, Suite PC2
Chicago IL 60611
(312) 300-6907
<https://chicagocriminaldefensefirm.com>

Law Offices of Stephen L. Richards
53 W Jackson, Suite 756
Chicago IL 60604
(773) 817-6927
<https://www.richardscriminallaw.com>

Meyer & Kiss, LLC -- Chicago (medical neglect)
53 West Jackson Boulevard, Suite 1735
Chicago IL 60604
(312) 765-0100
<https://www.meyerkiss.com>

Sam Adams Jr. Law Group
223 W Jackson, Suite 200
Chicago IL 60606
(312) 726-2326
<https://www.samadamjrlawgroup.com>

Theford Garber Law
52 W Jackson, Suite 638
Chicago IL 60604
(312) 614 0866
<https://www.thedfordgarberlaw.com>

ACTUAL INNOCENCE/WRONGFUL CONVICTIONS REFERRALS

Innocence projects generally will get involved in a case only after the direct appeals process has been completed. They represent persons who have been convicted and lost their appeals, and are now trying to get relief through a post-conviction process because there is evidence of innocence that for some reason was never heard at the trial and was therefore not part of the appeal. While JHA does not endorse any specific attorneys, we have compiled the enclosed list of schools, agencies, and attorneys who you can contact for assistance with claims of actual innocence.

Center on Wrongful Convictions
Northwestern Pritzker School of Law
375 East Chicago Avenue
Chicago IL 60611-3069
(312) 503-2391
<https://www.law.northwestern.edu/legalclinic/wrongfulconvictions>

Conviction Integrity Unit
Cook County State's Attorney
69 West Washington, 31st floor
Chicago IL 60602
(312) 603-1880
<https://www.cookcountystatesattorney.org/conviction-integrity-unit>

The Exoneration Project
University of Chicago Law School
311 North Aberdeen St, Third Floor Suite E
Chicago IL 60607
(312) 789-4955
<https://www.exonerationproject.org>

Illinois Innocence Project
Institute for Legal and Policy Studies
University of Illinois Springfield
One University Plaza, MS PAC 451
(217) 206-6569
<https://www.uis.edu/illinoisinnocenceproject>

Law Office of Stephen L. Richards
Petitions for Certificates of Innocence
53 W. Jackson, Suite 756
Chicago IL 60604
(773) 817-6927
<https://www.richardscriminallaw.com>

CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEY REFERRALS

JHA does not have a list of attorneys that provide services on a pro bono basis. If you need representation for a criminal appeal, we recommend contacting the Office of the State Appellate Defenders. Realistically, if you are seeking representation for free, your best source for an attorney would be either large law firms or law schools. Here are a few that have been known to represent indigent defendants:

Bonjean Law Group
1000 Dean Street, Suite 422
Brooklyn NY 11238
(Handles many cases in Illinois; former IL appellate attorney)
(718) 875-1850
<http://www.bonjeanlaw.com>

Jenner and Block
Pro Bono Committee
3353 North Clark
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(312) 222-9350
https://jenner.com/about/public_service/pro_bono

Mayer Brown
71 South Wacker
Chicago IL 60606
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<https://www.mayerbrown.com/en/capabilities/specialinterests/pro-bono>

Northwestern University Law School
Bluhm Law Clinic
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Chicago IL 60611
(312) 503-8576
<https://www.law.northwestern.edu/legalclinic/wrongfulconvictions/assistance>

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Mandel Clinic
1111 East 60th Street
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(773) 702-9611
<https://www.law.uchicago.edu/clinics/mandel>

Winston and Strawn
Pro Bono Committee
35 West Wacker
Chicago IL 60601
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<https://www.winston.com/en/who-we-are/firm-profile/pro-bono>