



Announcing the Client Advisory Board

Mountain State Justice (MSJ) seeks former clients to serve as volunteer members of the organization's inaugural ***Client Advisory Board (CAB)*** for one and two-year terms. The purpose of the CAB is to provide feedback and guidance on the ways in which MSJ works to fulfill its mission through litigation and grassroots and legislative advocacy.

About Mountain State Justice: Mountain State Justice is a non-profit legal services firm dedicated to redressing entrenched and emerging systemic social, political, and economic imbalances of power for underserved West Virginians through legal advocacy and community empowerment offered regardless of ability to pay. Essential to this mission is an inclusive work environment that encourages, supports, and rewards the collaborative and creative pursuit of professional excellence. In short, ***MSJ provides aggressive legal, grassroots, and legislative advocacy on behalf of low-income West Virginians to assert and protect their rights.***

About the Client Advisory Board: MSJ seeks *six (6) former clients* to serve as volunteer members of its CAB. Members will:

- Provide guidance and feedback on MSJ's litigation and advocacy priorities;
- Help identify historical and emerging litigation and advocacy opportunities within their respective communities;
- Educate and mobilize their communities around issues of import; *and*
- Inform MSJ's policies and procedures from a client perspective.

Term: MSJ seeks three (3) volunteer members to serve one-year terms and three (3) to serve two-year terms. Terms begin November 2022.

Additional Information:

- Volunteer members will be provided an ***annual stipend of \$500.00***. This stipend reflects an anticipated twenty (20) hours of service annually.
- Volunteer members will meet ***at least quarterly***, with additional meetings and/or work sessions to be decided upon by the inaugural members on an ad hoc basis. Meetings will take place virtually, by phone, or in-person at members' discretion and based upon each member's ability to access these meetings.

Examples of Possible CAB Work:

- Members attend a legislative policy and/or grassroots advocacy training
- Members host a legislative policy and/or grassroots advocacy training in their community

- Members review MSJ’s client intake procedures and provide feedback about accessibility
- Members attend a legislative advocacy day at the West Virginia Capitol during legislative session
- Members encourage their friends, family, and neighbors to contact legislators about an issue that impacts their lives
- Members attend a roundtable with MSJ attorneys, board members, and staff to share about their lived experience on an emerging issue in their community

How to Apply: Former clients interested in serving as a volunteer member of MSJ’s CAB can apply in the following ways:

- By following this link for an online application: [CAB Online Application](#) (you can also access this form by taking a photo of the QR code below)
- By sending an email to lindsey@msjlaw.org with answers to the following questions:
 - o Applicant’s name, address, phone number, and email (if applicable)
 - o Whether you are seeking a one or two-year term
 - o Why are you interested in serving on MSJ’s CAB?
 - o What experience – lived, professional, personal, or otherwise – would you bring to a volunteer position like this?
 - o How are you able to share information about MSJ’s services and advocacy opportunities with your networks and community?
 - o Describe your community (this can include your geographic community, but also the places you worship, work, attend school, and the non-geographic communities of which you are a part (e.g., book clubs, teams, etc.).
- By calling Lindsey or Brandon at (304) 344-3144 and scheduling a meeting to answer the questions above over the phone *or*, alternatively, to request that we mail out a paper copy of the application to complete with return postage included
- By submitting a voice memo or recording answering the questions above; please contact Lindsey at lindsey@msjlaw.org *prior to submitting* an application this way for further instructions

The MSJ team is committed to learning from and elevating the perspectives of those closest to the problems we aim to solve. As such, individuals with marginalized identities, including but not limited to BIPOC, LGBTQ+, disabled, undocumented, and justice-involved (experience in or with the criminal law system) individuals, are strongly encouraged to apply. ***Applications are due by midnight on Friday, September 30, 2022.***

Questions? Contact MSJ’s Advocacy and Access Program Director Lindsey Jacobs at lindsey@msjlaw.org or (304) 380-6078.

