

**Illinois Access to Justice Program Act**  
**HB 131**

***“Illinois Access to Justice and Opportunity Program” seeks to create a public/private fund for Community-Based Legal Assistance and Community Navigators program for low-income and vulnerable populations to access prosperity and family sustaining jobs.***

The twin scourges of mass incarceration and mass deportation, combined with the systemic criminalization of people of color, have left communities of color in this nation reeling. Yet, these communities have amazing resilience and talent. *Illinois Access to Justice and Opportunity* is a program that seeks to strengthen the existing infrastructure of our effective community organizations, faith-based institutions, and local businesses by training “Community Navigators” to provide mass education and outreach, while connecting people to community-based legal assistance in order to remove barriers for prosperity and increase access to family sustaining employment. Additionally, this program will partner with business associations to reduce barriers to employment, provide certified training, and address labor shortage for Illinois employers.

**How does the “Illinois Access to Justice and Opportunity” program work?**

1. Recruit, Train and Organize a network of hundreds of **Community Navigators**  
Fund Community-Based Organizations throughout the state to recruit and train 200 Community Navigators to inform 20,000 Illinoisians who are low-income and vulnerable communities of color on knowing their rights, expungement and legal options, and mental health and legal services. Community Navigators directly connect individuals to the services offered by the program.
2. Provide **Legal Representation**  
Fund and train 20 Community-Based Legal Service Organizations throughout Illinois to conduct 10,000 legal screenings and provide legal representation.
3. Create a **Community Mental Health Program**  
Fund Community-Based Mental Health Programs that will serve the same population to provide a holistic approach.
4. Create a **Pipeline for Employment**  
Community Navigators and legal professionals will create partnerships with business and trade associations to make direct connections to certified training programs and employment opportunities.

The Illinois Access to Justice Program Act would be used to roll out a statewide program to strengthen our vulnerable and resilient communities’ existing infrastructure by training Community Navigators on presentations including know your rights and legal options and connect communities to free legal representation, mental health services, and employment opportunities.

## **ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACT SUPPORTERS (IN FORMATION)**

### **Community and Civic Organizations**

Westside Justice Center  
Baptist Ministers Conference of Chicago  
Lawndale Christian Law Center  
Moms United Against Violence and Incarceration  
Community Renewal Society  
Westside Health Authority  
The Westside Coalition of Black Marijuana Entrepreneurs  
Trinity UCC Justice Watch Team  
University YMCA, Champaign  
Mt. Carmel Martial Arts Academy  
Northern Illinois Justice for Our Neighbors  
Nehemiah Trinity Rising  
The BPP Illinois History Project  
First Ladies Health Initiative  
GrowthPlay  
Greater Austin Independent Political Organization  
Centro de Información  
Centro de Trabajadores Unidos  
Centro Romero  
Alivio Medical Center  
Bakers Dojo of Karate Bodybuilding Science and Education  
Erie Neighborhood House  
First Defense Legal Aid  
HANA Center  
Instituto del Progreso Latino  
Illinois Faith Based Association  
Logan Square Neighborhood Association  
Indo-American Center  
The Resurrection Project  
Syrian Community Network  
Spanish Community Center  
Southwest Organizing Project  
Southwest Suburban Immigrant Project  
Unitarian Universalist Advocacy Network of IL  
The United Martial Arts Association

### **Business Leaders**

Sam Toia, President and CEO, Illinois Restaurant Association  
Mark Harris, President and CEO, Illinois Science and Technology  
Terry Howerton, CEO, Tech Nexus  
Jaime Di Paulo, President and CEO, Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce  
Sergio Suarez, President and CEO, NAIMA  
Judith De La Mora Macias, President Jalisciences  
Samuel C. Scott III, Former CEO, Corn Products International; Chairman, Chicago Sister Cities  
Carole Browe Segal, Co-founder, Crate and Barrel  
David MacNeil, President & CEO, Weather Tech  
Donna M. Carroll, President, Dominican University  
Craig Freedman, President & CEO, Freedman Seating Company

Mark Frey, AMITA  
AJ Wilhelmi  
Illinois Health and Hospital Association  
Marc J. Gordon, President & CEO, Illinois Hotel & Lodging Association  
Scott Grams, Executive Director, Illinois Landscape Contractors Association  
Dave Bender, American Council of Engineer Companies of Illinois  
Todd Maisch, President & CEO, Illinois Chamber of Commerce  
Rebecca Shi, Executive Director, Illinois Business Immigration Coalition  
Lupe & Pepe Jimenez, Owners, Carniceria Jimenez, Inc.  
Bertha Garcia, Owner, El Guero  
Clare Muñana, President, Ancora Associates, Inc.  
Sarah Pang, President and CEO, One Chicago, former Executive VP, CNA  
Ellen Rudnick, Sr. Advisor on Entrepreneurship & Adjunct Professor, University of Chicago Booth School of Business  
Jos Saldana, General Director, Gin's East Mexico Former President & CEO of Bibas Global;  
Sam Sanchez, Co-Owner, SamCo; Exec. Committee, Illinois Restaurant Association  
Byron Spruell, President of League Operations, NBA; Former Vice Chairman and Chicago Managing Principal, Deloitte LLP  
Steven Wang, CEO, Chinatown Hotel; CEO, Wells Plumbing  
Tony Shu, President, Chinatown Chamber of Commerce  
Ivy Lam, UCA- Illinois Board member  
Susan Patel, CEO, Patel Handicrafts  
Todd Siwak, President and CEO, Ferrara Candy  
Martin Slark, Chairman Molex  
Jordan Powell, President and CEO, Illinois Primary Care Association  
Tiffany Taylor, Taylor Realty Group  
Lauren Lowery, Finders Plus Realty  
April Preyar, Justus Junkie

### **Faith Leaders**

Rabbi Amy L. Memis-Foler, Beth Emet  
Rabbi Ari Hart  
Skokie Valley Agudath Jacob Synagogue  
Fr. Brendan Curran OP  
Dominicans Commission for Justice/Peace  
Rabbi Bruce Elder, Congregation Hakafa  
Rev. Charles W. Dahm, O.P., Dominicans  
Rev. Colleen Vahey  
Unitarian Universalist minister  
Fr. Corey Brost, C.S.V. Viatorians  
Rabbi Craig Marantz, Emanuel Congregation  
Rev. Dan Paul Borlik, DePaul University  
Rabbi Daniel Kirzane, Oak Park Temple  
Rev. David Bjorlin  
Resurrection Covenant Church

Rev. David Swanson  
New Community Covenant Church  
Sister Dorothy Dempsey, Adrian Dominican  
Rev. Beth Brown  
Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church  
Rabbi Ederick Kamil, Congregation Etz Chaim  
Sister Elizabeth Salmon, M.M.  
Maryknoll Sisters  
Rev. Emily Gage, Unity Temple Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
Sister Esther Fiegel  
Dominican Sister of Peace  
Rabbi Isaac Serotta, Makom Solel Lakeside  
Rev. Jeremy Chia  
Sister JoAnn Fleischaker, OP  
Adrian Dominican Sisters  
Rev. Kevin McLemore  
Epiphany United Church of Christ  
Rabbi Lauren Henderson, Mishkan Chicago  
Rabbi Lisa Bellows, Congregation Beth Am  
Rev. Lisa M. López  
Christ Presbyterian Church  
Sister Mary Ann Penner, IHM Sisters  
Sister Mary Carr, Dominican Sister  
Sister Mary Cullen, Adrian Dominican Sisters  
Rev. Matthew Johnson  
The Unitarian Universalist Church  
Rabbi Max Weiss  
Oak Park Temple B'nai Abraham Zion  
Brother Michael Gosch  
Provincial Council Clerics of St. Viator  
Rabbi Michael Siegel, Anshe Emet Synagogue  
Rev. Nancy Goede  
Augustana Lutheran Church of Hyde Park  
Rev. Nayoung Ha, HANA Center  
Rev. Pamela Rumancik  
Unitarian Church of Hinsdale  
Sister Patricia Crowley  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
Rabbi Paul Cohen, Temple Jeremiah  
Rabbi Rachel Weiss  
Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation - JRC  
Rev. Randall K. Blakey, LaSalle Street Church  
Sister Regina McKillip, Dominicans of Sinsinawa  
Sister Rose Therese Nolta, SSPS  
Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters - USA-JPIC  
Rabbi Sam Gordon, Congregation Sukkat Shalom  
Rabbi Scott Gellman, Temple Shalom of Chicago  
Rabbi Seth Limmer, Chicago Sinai Congregation  
Rabbi Shoshanah Conover  
Temple Shalom of Chicago  
Rabbi Steve Hart, Children of Abraham Coalition  
Rabbi Suzanne Griffel, JCUA  
Rabbi Todd Zinn, Chicago Sinai Congregation  
Rev. Vince Amlin, Bethany UCC/Gilead Chicago