



Chicago Council
OF LAWYERS
Chicago's public interest bar association

We invite you to join us to form a more perfect union!

The Chicago Council of Lawyers (CCL) is Chicago's progressive public-interest bar association. Founded in 1969, CCL works to promote the rule of law, strengthen democratic institutions, and advance a justice system grounded in fairness, equality, transparency, and respect for human dignity.

Through rigorous legal analysis and public advocacy, we seek practical reforms when the legal system falls short of these principles.

We are not a traditional bar association. The Council is a member-based organization whose focus is on the benefit of non-members, particularly poor and disadvantaged populations who often have unequal access to the legal system. Our current work focuses on three areas:



Defending the rule of law and democratic governance, including responding to actions that threaten judicial independence, constitutional norms, and equal justice under law.



Advancing equal justice in the Illinois courts, with particular attention to fairness, access, and the equitable treatment of all communities.



Evaluating judicial candidates, in partnership with the Alliance for Judicial Screening, and sharing nonpartisan evaluations widely to inform and educate voters.

What exactly do we do?

Our democracy is under threat, and your membership helps provide the resources to protect it.

Volunteers from the Council work on non-litigation pro bono projects meant to promote systemic reform, including increased access to justice, immigration court reform, criminal justice reform, children and family law, and projects on the federal courts.

In addition, the Council provides well-respected evaluations of state judicial candidates and sitting judges, and evaluations of nominees to the federal bench in Chicago.

What do you get by being a member?



Participate in the protection of our justice system and the Rule of Law.



Access to research, reports, and people fighting to maintain our legal system.



Free training to meet your CLE requirements.

Ready to become a member?



chicagocouncil.org/get-involved



Questions?



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Keep up with the fight for justice!

