



# THE WAY TO JUSTICE

## Monthly Newsletter



"For 41 years, YWCA Spokane has celebrated successful women in the community for their achievements along with their commitment to giving back to the Spokane community. Established with the goal of increasing community awareness and appreciation for the diverse contributions of women leaders in Spokane, YWCA Spokane has honored over 250 women in the region."

"To be awarded a YWCA Women of Achievement Award, a woman must embody YWCA Spokane's mission of eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. The selected honorees listed below give generously of themselves to make Spokane a better place for all to live."

The winners of the 2023 Women of Achievement Awards include The Way to Justice's CEO, Virla Spencer- Carl Maxey Racial and Social Justice Award; Maisa Abudayha - Arts and Culture Award; Heike Lake - Business and Industry Award; Amy Knapton Vega - Community Enhancement Award; Mary Pat Treuthart - Education Award; Betsy Wilkerson - Government and Public Service Award; Kay Olson - Science, Technology and Environment Award; Shamerica Nakamura - Young Woman of Achievement Award; and our friend, Sandy Williams - Lifetime Achievement Award, posthumous.

<https://ywcaspokane.org/how-to-help/events/women-of-achievement/>

321 W. BOONE AVE., SPOKANE, WA 99201

Mail/Donations: The Way to Justice

P.O. Box 7503

Spokane, WA 99207

Phone: (509) 822-7514

Tax ID# 84-5129426

QR Code to Link Tree:



[www.thewaytojustice.com](http://www.thewaytojustice.com)

# INTERN SPOTLIGHT



Meet our newest intern, Alli Milne (she/they)!

Alli moved to Spokane to attend Gonzaga University School of Law (JD expected, 2023) and fell in love with the Spokane community.

Alli attended law school because they have seen the way the legal system is structured to hold up systems of racism and injustice, and they firmly believe that those operating in the legal system must not look away from those injustices. She is dedicated to using her legal education to reduce the harm of the legal system and to effect real justice in the lives of the real people affected by it.

Alli is thrilled to be working with The Way to Justice, and hopes to continue to support the amazing work they do in the Spokane community.

We are incredibly grateful for Alli's hard work and commitment to "Do Justice" on behalf of our clients!

## DONATE TO THE WAY TO JUSTICE TODAY!

Make your donation today through PayPal with the QR code below, via our website [www.thewaytojustice.com](http://www.thewaytojustice.com), or by mail to: The Way to Justice, P.O. Box 7503, Spokane, WA 99207.

Unrestricted funds will allow The Way to Justice to continue our work, offering civil legal aid to low-income clients in Eastern Washington.



The Way to Justice is a tax-exempt organization Tax ID #84-5129426  
Unless otherwise noted, no goods or services are provided in consideration of your gift.



# A CALL TO ACTION:

We need your help! Our attorneys have represented many individuals in courts across the State of Washington who were impacted by the State v. Blake decision from 2021, which invalidated over 150,000 unconstitutional convictions for simple possession of drugs over the past 50 years.

In the coming months, we will be asking for a resentencing hearing for a case that is near and dear to our hearts. We believe that justice has not been fully served, and while we have the opportunity to make a huge difference— we can't do it alone.

We are calling our community to join by packing the courtroom in support of our client. This is an opportunity for us to show our support and solidarity with our client and their family. By packing the courtroom, we can demonstrate to the judge that this case is not just about one person or family, but about the entire community standing up for what is right.

We know that your time is valuable, but we truly believe that your presence can make a difference. Whether you can stay for the entire hearing or just a portion of it, every single person counts. Let's show the judge that we care, that we are invested, and that we demand justice.

If you are interested in participating, email: [contactus@thewaytojustice.com](mailto:contactus@thewaytojustice.com) and let us know we can count on you! We will be in touch with more details as the case moves forward.

Together, we can help others find The Way to Justice.



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

Spokane Homeless Coalition: March 2nd 9:30-10:30 am at The Gathering House, 723 W. Garland

The Fig Tree's 50th Anniversary Benefit Luncheon, "Sharing Resources, Transforming Lives:" March 3rd 12-1 pm at Cataldo Hall, Gonzaga University

\*Breakfast will occur via zoom on March 15th 7:45-8:45 am

YWCA's 2023 Women of Achievement Awards: March 9th 11-1 pm at the Davenport Grand, 333 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.

Spokane AIDS Network Red Ribbon Gala: March 12th 4-9 pm at Northern Quest Casino's "Highball: A Modern Speakeasy," 100 N Hayford Rd. in Airway Heights

River City Youth Ops "Know Your Rights West Central" Clinic with two of our local civil legal aid partners, Northwest Justice Project and Team Child: March 21st 5-7 pm at West Central Community Center, 1603 N. Belt

# APRIL IS "JUSTICE MONTH," AKA SECOND CHANCE MONTH

In the United States, one in three American adults has a criminal record, which limits their access to education, jobs, housing, and other things necessary for a productive life. Even after they have completed their sentences and have been released from prison, these men and women face tens of thousands of documented legal barriers in addition to widespread social stigma.

This is sometimes called the "second prison."

Second Chance Month has been observed in the United States during the month of April since 2017 as a nationwide effort to raise awareness of the collateral consequences of a criminal conviction, and unlock second-chance opportunities for people who have completed their sentences to become contributing citizens.

This effort has been led by the Prison Fellowship, the nation's largest nonprofit serving prisoners, former prisoners, and their families, and an advocate for justice reform. (For more information, visit: [www.prisonfellowship.org](http://www.prisonfellowship.org)).



The Way to Justice is committed to removing barriers for our clients through legal representation and advocacy while promoting successful reentry for our justice-impacted community members and their families.

This year The Way to Justice will be celebrating Second Chance Month, otherwise known as "Justice Month," with a pop-up legal clinic co-hosted by Revive Reentry at Recovery Cafe on April 12th from 5-7 pm. For additional support, join the "Justice Circle" discussion from 3-5 pm.