Ascend Justice (formerly known as the Domestic Violence Legal Clinic and Family Defense Center) provides free legal assistance to survivors of domestic violence and families impacted by the child welfare system. Our Order of Protection Division provides same-day services for Orders of Protection at our Cook County Domestic Violence Courthouse location. Our Extended Services Division also provides comprehensive services in the following areas: family law, immigration, child welfare, housing and employment issues, crime victim compensation applications, and other economic justice issues.

**Emergency Order of Protection (EOP) Clinic Volunteer Project - Spring 2020**

EOP volunteers work directly and independently with litigants seeking to file civil orders of protection in the Domestic Violence Courthouse. Students complete court pleadings, draft and edit professional affidavits, and develop their legal interview skills. Volunteers also accompany the litigant to court as support in their time of crisis and explain the case process. Volunteers are trained and supervised by an attorney. Volunteers must be available to work one 4-hour shift (morning or afternoon) per week. This opportunity is open to students, lawyers, or other legal professionals who are able to complete interviews with litigants who are often in crisis. Volunteers undergo on-site training informing them about the dynamics of domestic violence, office policies and procedures, and substantive law and procedure. Fluency in languages other than English is helpful, but by no means required. Volunteers must bring a working laptop.

**How to Apply** - Please submit a resume and a brief statement as to why you are interested in volunteering to Kimberly Washington at kwashington@ascendjustice.org.

**Internships - Spring 2020**

Intern duties vary per program but may include: interviewing clients; drafting pleadings, motions, subpoenas, and client communication; working directly with attorneys in preparing for contested hearings; performing legal research; and other duties as assigned. Students licensed under Illinois Supreme Court Rule 711 may act as counsel in court under the supervision of an attorney. Student interns must be responsible, independent, detail-oriented, and motivated individuals.

**Order of Protection (OP) Division** – The OP Division assists clients with obtaining civil orders of protection. In addition to working in the EOP Clinic, OP interns support attorneys on their order of protection cases. OP interns must be available to work at least 12 hours per week during the school year. **Law students and undergraduate students are welcome. Spanish language proficiency or 711-License eligibility are both helpful, but not required.**

**Family Law Division** – The Family Law Division represents DV victims in divorce and parentage actions to help them achieve safety from abusive relationships. **Family law interns must be available to work at least 1 full day or two half days per week during the school year. Family law interns must be law students. Spanish language proficiency or 711-License eligibility are helpful, but not required.**

**Independence Project (immigration)** – The Independence Project helps undocumented survivors of domestic violence gain legal status by either applying for a U-Visa or self-petitioning under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). **Independence Project interns must be available to work at least 1 full day per week during the school year. Law students and undergraduate students are welcome. Spanish language proficiency is required.**

**Family Defense Project** - The Family Defense Project helps families and individuals affected by difficult life circumstances such as poverty and domestic violence and who are under investigation by the Illinois Department of Children & Family Services (DCFS) or who are appealing DCFS indicated findings. **Family Defense Project interns must be available to work 12 hours per week during the semester. Family Defense Project interns must be law students. Spanish language proficiency or 711-License eligibility are helpful, but not required.**

**How to Apply** - Please submit a resume and cover letter to Kimberly Washington at kwashington@ascendjustice.org. Indicate your area(s) of interest and expected availability.