

2021 IMPACT REPORT

FILLING THE LEGAL DESERTS

ALIGHT
ALLIANCE TO LEAD IMPACT IN
GLOBAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING



Letter from our Executive Director

Dear Friends,

One of ALIGHT's survivors maintained a job while making 36 court appearances. She dealt with child custody, dissolution of marriage, criminal charges and other legal issues in 4 different jurisdictions during the 3-year investigation and prosecution of her trafficker. Ashley's case is striking not only because it resulted in the successful prosecution (and historic first conviction) of her trafficker and ex-husband for labor trafficking in Denver.



Photo: Marianna Kosharovskiy, Executive Director

It also shows that, even with superhuman commitment to a better life for herself and her children, it is not possible to go forward without specialized, professional legal help. ALIGHT is honored to have contributed to supporting Ashley on her long and arduous legal journey since December 11, 2018.

With all our survivors, we recognize how many legal barriers are placed on their path forward. And how unfair it is that they are not free the moment they exit the trafficking situation. Instead, they are often left to navigate our complex legal system. Often alone. Often for years.

Our work is critical and, unfortunately, rare. Last year, ALIGHT participated in publishing The Legal Deserts Report, which highlighted the extent to which survivors are cut off from limited and often non-existent legal services. As one of only 16 organizations in the U.S. that focus on human trafficking legal services confirming the provision of legal services, ALIGHT has expanded to serve survivors across the country to fill in these legal deserts.

We are deeply grateful for all of your support to our mission and to survivors like Ashley. It would be impossible to fight this uphill battle without you. Together, we are reaching new survivors and new markers of impact. Thank you.

2021 Impact at a Glance

58

UNIQUE SURVIVORS
HELPED

+

70

BENEFITTING
CHILDREN/DEPENDENTS*

=

128

TOTAL BENEFICIARIES
IMPACTED

103

LEGAL CASES

*based on disclosing survivors reporting an average of 1.2 children/dependencies

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About ALIGHT

About ALIGHT

ALIGHT is an innovative 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that blends technology, human trafficking and legal services. Our mission is to unlock a fresh start for victims and survivors of human trafficking, giving them a clear path to becoming a valued member of society once again.

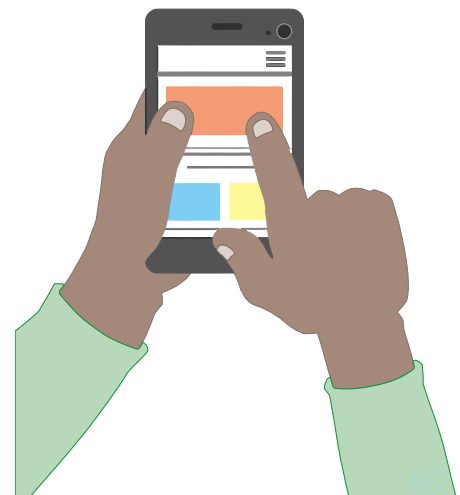
To help survivors finally escape the trafficking cycle, ALIGHT connects them to a mobilized army of *pro bono* attorneys. With critical legal services, survivors can overcome legal problems that are insurmountable alone, enabling them to successfully gain independence and rebuild their lives.

Recognizing a lack of professional, trauma-informed and free legal services available to this at-risk and highly-vulnerable population, ALIGHT focuses on providing comprehensive, specialized and free legal services to survivors of all forms of trafficking, regardless of gender identity, race, age or any other protected class.

Our Model

ALIGHT has pioneered the use of real-time technology (think: Lyft for *pro bono* legal services) to rapidly match survivors' legal needs to the specific legal expertise they need. ALIGHT bridges the different worlds of human trafficking survivors, the legal bar and the victim services community to equip survivors with the professional services needed to achieve justice on their own terms and have a path out of the violence and vulnerability that entraps them.

- Innovative, Next-Generation Solutions
- Free Legal Advocacy, Counsel & Representation
- Survivor-Centric and Trauma-Informed Services



About ALIGHT, cont'd

Our 3 Programs

Mobilizing Justice

The ALIGHT Mobilizing Justice Program connects the children, women and men who have survived human trafficking to free legal help at a critical point in their recovery.

To help survivors finally escape the exploitation cycle, ALIGHT matches them to the right attorney at the right time from the ALIGHT mobilized army of *pro bono* attorneys. With critical legal services and a survivor-centric approach, survivors can overcome legal problems that are insurmountable alone, enabling them to successfully gain independence and rebuild their lives in our community.

How?


By deploying a technology platform that bridges the worlds of human trafficking survivors, victim services and the legal community to match survivor requests for legal help (posted by their advocates) to specialized legal expertise.

Since launching our innovative tech-based model (think: Lyft) in 2017, ALIGHT has been a national leader on human trafficking-specific legal services. In February 2020, the American Bar Association passed Resolution 113, recognizing the importance of the model we established in Colorado. Working on a complex and sensitive issue such as human trafficking, we have found that this sector is chronically under-resourced. *We present the results of ALIGHT's efforts as of January 5, 2022 in the "Who We Serve," "Legal Services Provided" and "National Need" sections of this report (we note data may change as more information is provided to ALIGHT).*

Trainings

Since our inception, ALIGHT has focused on bringing new resources and advocates into the anti-trafficking movement. To this end, ALIGHT conducts training for attorneys, professionals and the general public on trauma-informed practices, spotting potential legal needs and remedies for trafficking survivors and other specialized areas of human trafficking.

In addition, ALIGHT has created resource materials specifically for attorneys who want to assist trafficking survivors and for service providers who may be interacting with human trafficking survivors but are not yet screening, identifying and connecting them with trafficking-specific resources.



240+
TRAINED

About ALIGHT, cont'd

National Survivor Law Collective

Founded in 2020 at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Survivor Law Collective (NSL Collective) is a collaboration among private legal services organizations that have been providing comprehensive *pro bono* legal services to trafficking survivors for many years.

In 2021, we:

- launched the first national listserv of anti-trafficking attorneys
- provided input to and co-published The Legal Deserts Report with the Avery Center
- supported attorneys across the country to find out-of-state legal resources for their clients
- trained attorneys across the country on trauma-informed lawyering and/or legal services specifically for human trafficking survivors
- convened survivor advocates and 30+ stakeholders from law firms, bar associations, legal organizations, prosecution services, academia and other areas at a national meeting on legal deserts in Washington, DC

400+
TRAINED

The Founding Members of the NSL Collective are:

- ALIGHT (Alliance to Lead Impact in Global Human Trafficking), CO and national
- Free to Thrive, CA
- Justice Restoration Center, FL and TN
- Trafficking Law Center, OR
- Moore & Van Allen PLLC, NC
- Paul Hastings LLP, NY and national



Our Team

Board of Directors

Margaret Fraser, Chair
Robert Lantz, Treasurer
Rachel Niemiec, Secretary
Will Healy, Member
Marianna Kosharovsky, ex officio member

Staff

Marianna Kosharovsky, Founder & Executive Director

Volunteer Associates

Amy Conley, Program Associate
Anne Dunlop, Development Associate
Megan Sakas, Digital Marketing Associate
Rachel Swartzendruber, Spanish/bilingual Intake Advocate
Talie Watzman, Intake Advocate

Volunteers

Mark Welch
Mike Dye
Monica Trosclair

Advisors to the Board

Carolyn Bond, Strategic Advisor
Kathy Kaoudis, Compliance Advisor
Nadav Cohen, Technology Advisor
Skip Thurman, Communications Advisor

Survivor Advisory Council

Angela Rae Clark
Grace Irene Tang
Jasmine Conway
Megan Lundstrom
Rachel Niemiec

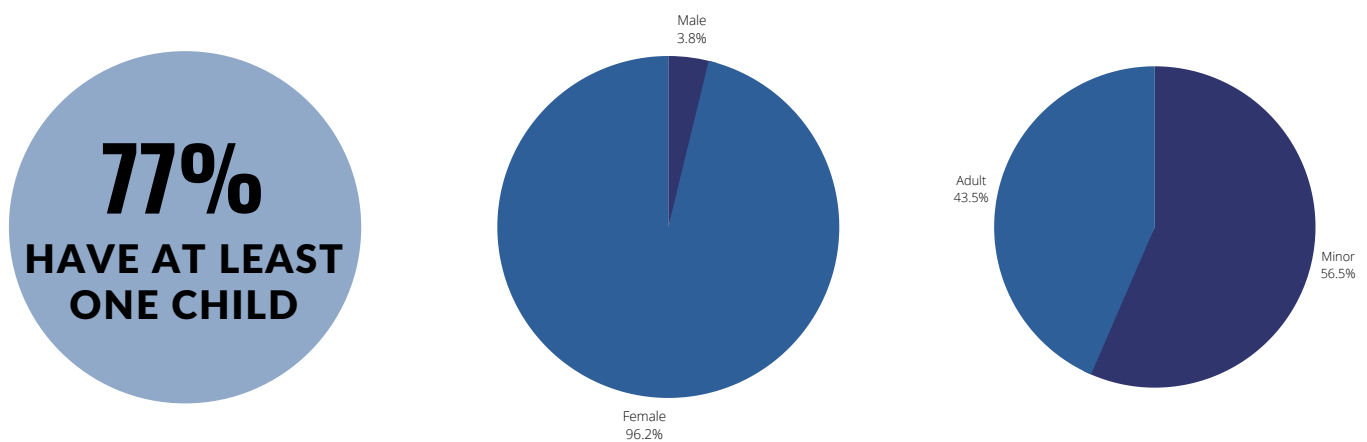
Legal Advisory Council

Bob Connelly
Edward Ramey
Michael Cheroutes
Stephen Jewett

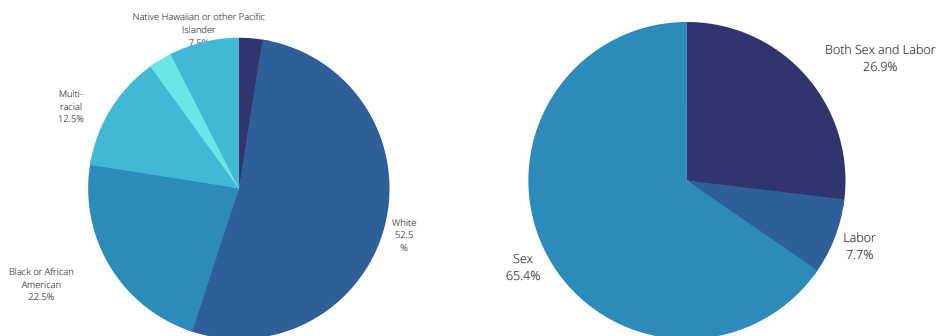
Who We Serve

Based on the responses from survivors who agreed to disclose their demographic information, below is a picture of who ALIGHT served in 2021.

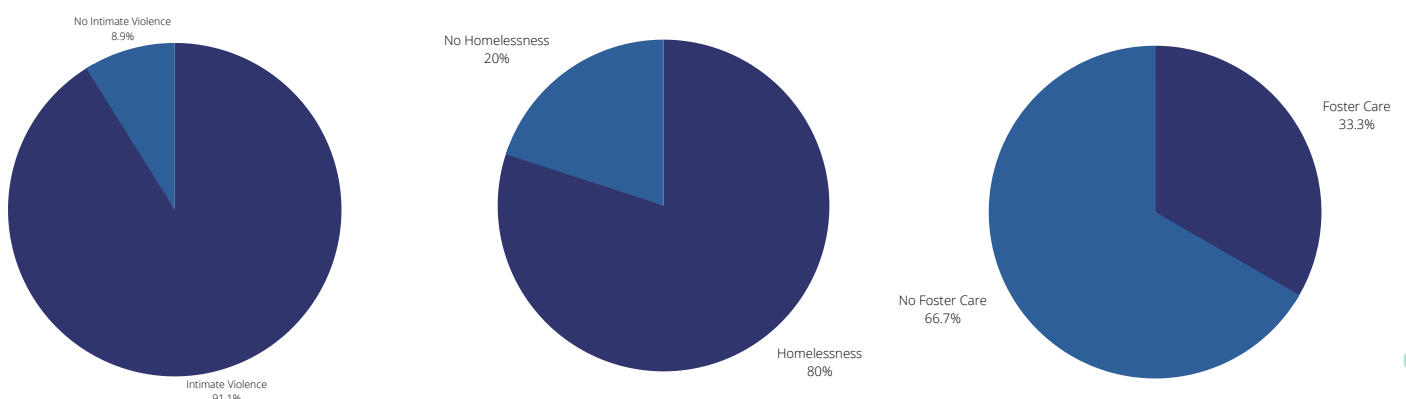
The vast majority of survivors identified as female and have at least one child. The majority were first trafficked as minors.



48% of survivors identified as a person of color. The majority of survivors identified as having experienced sex trafficking, following by both sex and labor trafficking.

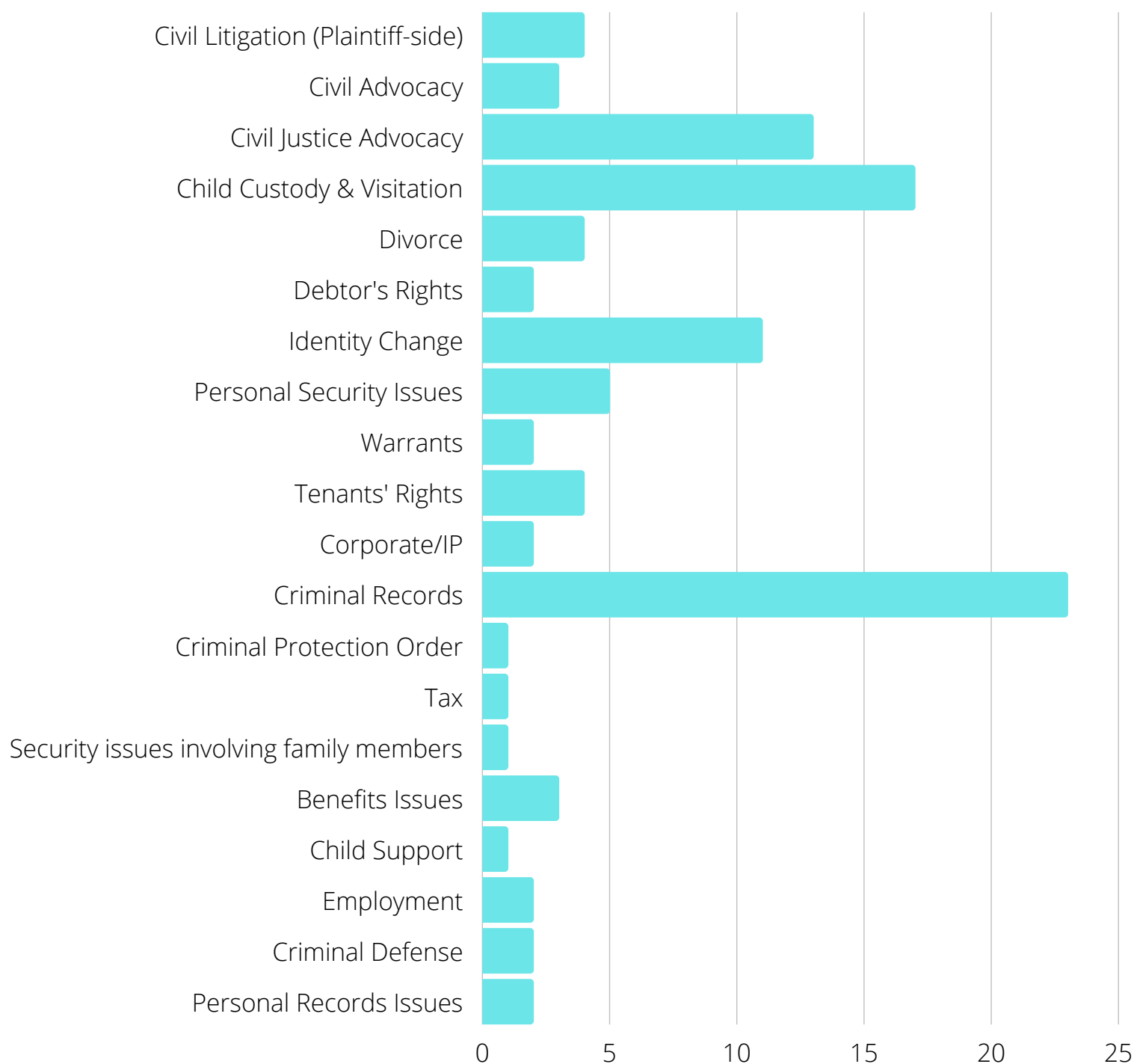


Survivors reported significant overlap with other at-risk groups, including domestic violence, homelessness and foster care.



Legal Services Provided

In 2021, ALIGHT provided legal services in 20 specialized areas of law on 103 cases. These cases not include the multi-year cases that had started previous years and continued on, as in Ashley's situation.



Story Highlight

ALIGHT was honored to contribute to the first labor trafficking conviction in Denver County's history. To convict the trafficker to a 14-year prison sentence under Colorado Revised Statutes Title 18, Criminal Code §18-3-503 (which refers to labor trafficking as involuntary servitude), ALIGHT's support of Ashley (the survivor) with specialized legal services during the arduous

prosecution and other legal proceedings involving her trafficker was critical. For over three years, attorneys Carolyn Witkus and Emily Warren and their team of WZW Family Law worked with Ashley to support her on over 9 legal matters in 4 jurisdictions throughout Colorado. These dedicated attorneys and members of the ALIGHT network provided over 160 billable hours of service and continue to work with Ashley to support her path to freedom.



Photo: ALIGHT at panel discussion hosted by the Colorado Human Trafficking Council

Background

This was a complex case in which the trafficker forced his wife to engage in sex with his friends and strangers for the purpose of exerting his control over her, not for remuneration. This control was part of a decade of physical and verbal abuse. This case illustrates how a case can have indicators for both sex and labor trafficking and how there are many types of labor trafficking.

ALIGHT first entered the picture shortly after the police investigation began when the Denver District Attorney's Office sent her to ALIGHT for services on December 11, 2018. The trafficker had initiated legal proceedings against Ashley and she was also focused on fighting for custody of their shared child. Over the course of the next few years, while the prosecution focused on building a case based on a sophisticated investigation, community support of the survivor and a nuanced understanding of human trafficking and Colorado's human trafficking statutes, ALIGHT focused on providing Ashley with the comprehensive legal support needed for her to stabilize her life and ensure safety for her family.

Truly a fighter, Ashley attended all 36 court dates (many of which the trafficker missed), all while holding a job. Today, Ashley continues her journey forward and still has legal issues that ALIGHT and our attorneys continue to support.

For more on this case, watch this panel discussion hosted by the Governor's Colorado Human Trafficking Council with ALIGHT, prosecutors, law enforcement and Covered [here](#).

National Need

Legal Deserts & ALIGHT's National Impact

According to [The Legal Deserts Report](#) published by the Avery Center for Research and Services (Avery) and the National Survivor Law Collective (NSL Collective), ALIGHT is one of the few providers in the entire U.S. to provide specialized legal services focused on human trafficking survivors. The Avery research team's extensive outreach to 550 organizations from across the country that advertise their legal services to sex trafficking survivors resulted in findings of major gaps in critical legal services for survivors in the U.S. (or, "legal deserts").



ALIGHT has assisted human trafficking survivors with cases in 31 states + Washington, DC, as of January 5, 2022.

Key findings of the Legal Deserts Report

- 20% response rate (only 110 organizations replied)
- Of the 110 responding organizations, 7% clarified that they did not provide any legal services
- Of the 110 responding organizations, one-third confirmed that they provided services such as court attendance and advocates, not direct legal services
- Only 16 organizations (or, 3% of the total 550 surveyed) confirmed that they provide legal counsel and representation focused on survivors

While ALIGHT is busy filling these "legal deserts" as best we can, we know that we can not do it alone. Thus, on November 17, 2021, the NSL Collective convened a high-level stakeholder meeting co-hosted by the American Bar Association Commission on Sexual and Domestic Violence and the Avery Center, in Washington, DC in the wake of The Legal Deserts Report. This event was moderated by former Ambassador-at-Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons Susan Coppedge and held at the Shared Hope International JuST Conference.

Participants in the "Legal Deserts Workshop" included:

- former Ambassador John Cotton Richmond
- survivor advocates
- over 30 stakeholders from law firms, bar associations, legal organizations, prosecution services, academia and other areas

International Honor

FREEDOM COLLABORATIVE

TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING. TOGETHER.

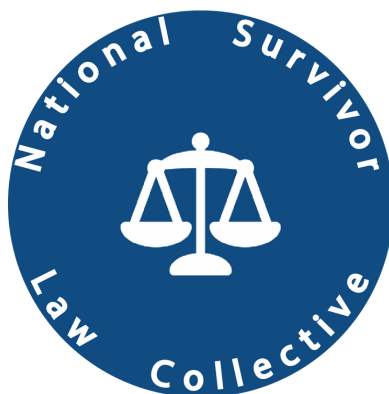
In 2021, ALIGHT Executive Director Marianna Kosharovsky was honored to be named an inaugural member of Freedom Collaborative's Global Advisory Community – a diverse group of new-generation activists and anti-trafficking professionals from around the world. In this role, she collaborates with human rights practitioners across the globe, sharing advice and methodologies and generating new ideas and approaches for the future.

Freedom Collaborative is the largest online community platform for service providers and activists working to end human trafficking, forced labor and exploitation around the world. It brings together practitioners, civil society groups, and government and private sector stakeholders to share expertise, advice and support; collaborate on projects and initiatives; and create important collections of shared data on issues related to the exploitation of vulnerable populations and the nature of the environments in which they live and work.

How Survivors Find Us

Reaching and serving survivors can not happen without strong collaborations with community services. ALIGHT works with various entities, including:

- Survivor-led organizations like The Avery Center and BridgeHope
- Survivors we have already helped
- Victim services organizations like the Colorado Organization for Victim Assistance
- Partners in The National Survivor Law Collective
- Directories like the National Human Trafficking Hotline, the National Domestic Violence Hotline, United Way 2-1-1
- Human trafficking-specific agencies like Reclaim Hope
- Domestic violence agencies like Family Tree and Safehouse Progressive Alliance Network
- Out-of-state providers
- Members of the ALIGHT Survivor Advisory Council
- Task forces
- District Attorney's offices



National Attorney Network

We are grateful for attorneys at these firms and organizations for being part of our National Attorney Network in 2021!

- Antommaria & Associates, LLC
- Appeal to Justice
- Arnold & Porter LLP
- Bowlin & Schall LLC
- Broxterman Alicks McFarlane PC
- Castle Lantz Maricle, LLC
- Chamberlain Hrdlicka
- Coan, Payton & Payne, LLC
- Dart, Adamson and Donovan
- Foulston Siefkin LLP
- Gardner Smith & Hill
- Gavin Halligan Law LLC
- Gebhardt Emerson Moodie Bonanno LLC
- Greenberg Traurig, LLP
- Griffiths Law PC
- Growth Legal LLC
- Hall Estill
- Kontnik Cohen
- Kutner Brinen, P.C.
- Law Office of Jessica Eve Jones, LLC
- Levin Sitcoff PC
- Livelihood Law
- Lowrey, Parady Lebsack
- Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky & Popeo PC
- Mullen Coughlin
- Patricia Martin Law PLLC
- Peak Legal Services, LLC
- Pesch Law Office PC
- Phelan Tucker Law LLP
- Proff Law, LLC
- Recht Kornfeld, P.C.
- Riley Law LLC
- Sawaya Law Firm
- Segers Law
- Shepherd, Finkelman, Miller & Shah
- Silverstein & Pomerantz, LLP
- Strindberg & Scholnick
- The Drexler Law Group, LLC
- The Law Office of Cassandra M. Kirsch, LLC
- The Law Office of Laura Harvell, P.C.
- Tierney Lawrence LLC
- Towards Justice
- Varner Faddis Elite Legal
- Vedra Law LLC
- Viner Disability Law
- WZW Family Law LLC

National Attorney Network, cont'd



Castle
Lantz
Maricle LLC

Tierney
Lawrence



LEVIN | SITCOFF

TOWARDS JUSTICE
DEFENDING THE DIGNITY OF WORK



Bowlin & Schall



LOWREY | PARADY | LEBSACK
ATTORNEYS AT LAW



Get in Touch



Website: alightnet.org



connect@alightnet.org



Survivor Intake Warm Line: [720-608-6039](tel:720-608-6039)



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[@ALIGHTonIG](https://www.instagram.com/ALIGHTonIG)



Seasonal Newsletter: www.bit.ly/35ISGXX



Donate: www.bit.ly/2kjCylg



As we head into
2022, we look
forward to working
with you to help
more survivors and
their families!

