2022 IMPACT REPORT

A Ray of Hope

ALiGHT
ALLIANCE TO LEAD IMPACT IN GLOBAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING

2022
GET IN TOUCH

alightnet.org

connect@alightnet.org

Survivor Intake Line - 720.608.6039 (M-F, 9-5pm MST)

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Seasonal Newsletter  
bit.ly/35lSGXX

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Donate  
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Founded in 2015, ALIGHT is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that leverages technology and legal networks to help human trafficking survivors, not just one at a time, but at scale. Our mission is to empower human trafficking survivors on their journey to true freedom and holistic healing.

To help survivors finally escape the all too common cycle of violence and exploitation, ALIGHT connects survivors to specialized pro bono attorneys who fight for their rights. With critical legal services, victims who have escaped trafficking can overcome legal problems that are insurmountable alone, enabling them to successfully gain independence and rebuild their lives.

The 2021 Legal Deserts Report identified a concerning lack of trauma-informed legal services focused on human trafficking survivors’ unique needs. ALIGHT is one of only 16 organizations confirmed in the U.S. that provides comprehensive, specialized and free legal services to survivors of all forms of trafficking, regardless of gender identity, race, age or any other protected class.
In 2020, the American Bar Association, which is an association of lawyers and law students that is the national voice of the legal profession, recognized the importance of the ALIGHT model.

In 2021, the Freedom Collaborative, which is the largest online community platform for service providers and activists working to end human trafficking, forced labor and exploitation with stakeholders across 100 countries, acknowledged that ALIGHT’s model is “unique in the world.”

ALIGHT has pioneered the use of real-time matching technology (think: Lyft for pro bono legal services) to connect survivors’ very specific legal needs to a mobilized army of attorneys with 20+ areas of legal expertise. In this way, ALIGHT bridges the worlds of human trafficking survivors and attorneys who want to help. The ALIGHT National Attorney Network includes attorneys in leading national law firms and solo practices across the country, providing real and measurable assistance to survivors and their families.

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Dear Friends,

One of the greatest compliments to our work is when a survivor of human trafficking returns to us, year after year, for more assistance as their legal issues continue to be uncovered. This shows real confidence in our ability to help. Another is when a survivor tells other survivors that they should reach out to the ALIGHT community for help.

It means that we have earned their trust. Together, our community gives hope to those who are still in darkness and feel alone or lost.

Since launching our pilot in 2017, ALIGHT has been building on that foundation of trust. Trust of the survivors seeking help at a critical time in their recovery. Trust of the pro bono attorneys who generously contribute their expertise to fight for the rights of survivors. And, finally, trust of our community of supporters and partners who are committed to making a difference in the lives of survivors and in all our lives by making our society more just, inclusive and rich with survivors’ voices and talents.

Many survivors have legal cases that take years to resolve. Together, in 2022 we have helped a total of 113 survivors regain their lives and be productive members in their communities. We provided support on 226 cases, ranging from child custody to bankruptcy.

Thank you for being A Ray of Hope for survivors, their families and our society. Remember, hope multiplies.

Sincerely,

Marianna Kosharovsky
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2022 IMPACT AT A GLANCE

113 Survivors

- 50 new survivors with new matters
- 63 survivors who either returned with new matters in 2022, or have matters continued from previous years

116 new legal matters started in 2022

- 226 Legal Services
- 110 legal matters continued from previous year

This information is based on what is known to ALIGHT at the time of issuing this report, and may be amended in future reporting as more information comes in.
Grew the National Attorney Network from 69 to 247 pro bono attorneys, thanks to key partnerships with leading national law firms.

Filled legal deserts by assisting survivors on cases in 33 states and Washington, DC.
Board of Directors
Margaret Fraser, Chair
Robert Lantz, Treasurer
Rachel Niemiec, Secretary
William Healy, Member
Monica Trosclair, Member
Katherine Matheson, Member
Marianna Kosharovsky, ex officio Member

Team
Marianna Kosharovsky, Founder & Executive Director
Neysa Nankervis, Legal Associate
Clara Meyes, Intake Advocate
Amy Conley, Volunteer Program Associate
Anne Dunlop, Volunteer Development Associate
Megan Sakas, Volunteer Digital Marketing Associate
Talie Watzman, Volunteer Intake Consultant

Advisors to the Board
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Nadav Cohen, Technology Advisor

Survivor Advisory Council
Grace Irene Tang
Megan Lundstrom
Rachel Niemiec

Legal Advisory Council
Bob Connelly
Edward Ramey
Michael Cheroutes
Stephen Jewett
OUR HISTORY

See how far we've come together in 7 years

MAR 2015
ALIGHT is founded as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit

FEB 2017
ALIGHT starts Mobilizing Justice (as a pilot in Denver, CO)

OCT 2020
ALIGHT reaches milestone of serving 100 unique human trafficking survivors

JUL 2021
ALIGHT contributes to the first labor trafficking conviction in Denver by assisting a survivor for 3+ years (the perpetrator receives a historic 14 year sentence)

DEC 2022
ALIGHT has assisted
- 200+ unique survivors
- on 420 legal cases
- in 33 states and Washington, DC
The ALIGHT Mobilizing Justice Program connects individuals 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 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 and the legal community to match survivor requests for legal help (posted by their advocates) to specialized legal expertise.
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 identifying remedies for trafficking survivors and other specialized areas of human trafficking needs.

In addition, ALIGHT has created practical resource materials for those attorneys who want to assist trafficking survivors. We also provide assistance to service providers who may be interacting with human trafficking survivors but are not yet screening, identifying and connecting them with trafficking-specific resources.
Founded in 2020 at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Survivor Law Collective (NSL Collective) is a collaboration of private legal services organizations that have been individually providing pro bono legal services to trafficking survivors.

Following on the pivotal research in the 2021 Legal Deserts Report, ALIGHT and the NSL Collective continued our work by diving deeper into the issues uncovered in this research. In response to the findings, in Fall 2021 and Spring 2022, we convened a diverse cohort of stakeholders from the anti-trafficking movement in three sessions. The NSL Collective led a discussion on the current obstacles to comprehensive legal services for survivors of all forms of human trafficking and the root causes of the challenges that survivors face, along with solutions and opportunities to overcome these challenges.

The work on the “Legal Deserts 2.0 Report” continues. We look forward to sharing this comprehensive overview of the findings and discussions from these meetings with the goal of empowering practitioners, funders and members of the public to better understand and mitigate the obstacles that exist for survivors seeking legal services.

The Founding Members 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
The majority of survivors experienced **sex trafficking**, followed by both sex and labor trafficking.

The top industry where survivors were trafficked for sex and/or labor was **Residential**, followed by **Hotels & Hospitality**.
The vast majority of survivors identified as female.

46% of survivors identified as a person of color.
Survivors reported significant overlap with other at-risk groups, with 79% having experienced homelessness and 23% having experienced the foster care system.

89% having experienced domestic violence.
Of the 226 cases, 116 were new cases started in 2022 and 110 were cases from previous years that were still ongoing. Just as in 2021, the number one legal need of survivors was **Criminal Records**, followed by Custody and Visitation.
“I tried everything that I could to figure out how to get [custody of my daughter] back without help. It’s impossible. There was no way ... He had money, he had attorneys ... ALIGHT gave me that fighting chance. ALIGHT gave me my daughter back.”

-Jasmine, survivor

This past summer, we were honored to have Jasmine speak to Denver 7 about ALIGHT’s impact on her life. You can see the power of hope. With support, Jasmine can now turn to helping other survivors move forward in their lives.
HOW SURVIVORS FOUND US

- Survivor-led organizations like The Avery Center and BridgeHope
- Survivors we have already helped
- Victim services organizations like the Colorado Organization for Victim Assistance
- Civil rights organizations like Towards Justice
- Partners in The National Survivor Law Collective
- Directories like the National Human Trafficking Hotline, the National Domestic Violence Hotline, United Way 2-1-1
- Sex trafficking-specific services organizations like Reclaim Hope and Covered Colorado
- 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 2022!

This is the ALIGHT Army of Lawyers!
Antommaria & Associates, LLC
   Appeal to Justice
Arnold & Porter LLP
Bowlin & Schall LLC
Broxterman Alicks McFarlane PC
Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner
Castle Lantz Maricle, LLC
Chamberlain Hrdlicka
Coan, Payton & Payne, LLC
Dart, Adamson and Donovan
Dentons Durham Jones Pinegar
Denver Trial Lawyers
Drexler Law Group, LLC
   Elie Zwiebel, LLC
Foulston Siefkin LLP
Gardner Smith & Hill
Gavin Halligan Law LLC
Gebhardt Emerson Moodie Bonanno LLC
Greenberg Traurig, LLP
Griffiths Law PC
Hernandez & Associates
   Holland & Hart
Kontnik Cohen
Kutner Brinen, P.C.
Law Office of Cassandra M. Kirsch, LLC
Law Office of Jessica Eve Jones, LLC
Law Office of Laura Harvell, P.C.
Levin Sitcoff PC
Livelhood Law
Mastro, Barnes & Stazzone
MiCreate
Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky & Popeo PC
Moye White LLP
Patricia Martin Law PLLC
Peak Legal Services, LLC
Pesch Law Office PC
Phelan Tucker Law LLP
Primera Law Group
Proff Law, LLC
Recht Kornfeld, P.C.
Riley Law LLC
Sawyer Legal Group
Segers Law
Shepherd, Finkelman, Miller & Shah
Silverstein & Pomerantz, LLP
Strindberg & Scholnick
Tierney Lawrence LLC
Towards Justice
Varner Faddis Elite Legal
Vedra Law LLC
Viner Disability Law
Wilhite Law Firm
WZW Family Law LLC
When ALIGHT was first launched, the focus was on pairing survivors with pro bono attorneys in Colorado. Since then, survivors from across the country have reached out to ALIGHT for assistance, having nowhere else to turn. The U.S. has “legal deserts” when it comes to legal services for survivors of human trafficking, where there is little or no help available.

Los Angeles in particular needs ALIGHT’s solution. Local organizations and government entities have identified the imbalance between the volume of need and available legal services. In our own work, we regularly receive survivor requests from the L.A. area.

ALIGHT looks forward to embarking on the next phast for replicating our successful model in this high-needs area. Following a period of needs assessment, we will be recruiting L.A. area attorneys, forging local partnerships and looking for funding to support implementation.