



# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



The Center  
for Law and Justice

**TA-SEAN C. MURDOCK**  
Executive Director

# 20 YEARS OF SERVICE A TRIBUTE TO DARRYL JOHNSON



For more than two decades, Darryl Johnson has been a steadfast pillar of the Center for Law and Justice. His service represents not just longevity, but loyalty to a mission rooted in justice, accountability, and community empowerment.

Darryl has been a tireless advocate for countless individuals and families throughout our community. In moments of crisis, uncertainty, and injustice, he has remained present — listening carefully, speaking boldly, and acting with integrity. His work has touched lives in ways that extend far beyond policy and programs; it has restored hope, affirmed dignity, and strengthened trust in community-based advocacy.

Justice and equality are not simply professional commitments for Darryl — they are personal convictions. He has made it his life's work to challenge inequities, confront systemic barriers, and ensure that those most impacted by injustice are seen, heard, and supported. His advocacy reflects patience, persistence, and a deep belief that meaningful change is possible when we stand together.

Over the years, Darryl's steady leadership and dedication have helped shape the Center's impact and credibility. His presence has provided continuity during times of growth and challenge alike. He embodies the spirit of accountability and compassion that defines our work.

As we reflect on 2025 and look toward the future, we do so standing on the shoulders of those who have committed themselves to this mission for the long haul. Darryl Johnson's more than twenty years of service remind us that sustained, principled advocacy is what builds lasting change.

We honor his commitment. We celebrate his impact. And we thank him for a legacy of service that continues to inspire our work every day.



# *40 years of Service to the Community!*



In 2025, the Center for Law and Justice proudly celebrated 40 years of advancing justice, accountability, and community empowerment.

Founded in 1985 by Dr. Alice P. Green following the killing of Jessie Davis by the Albany Police Department, CFLJ was born out of a demand for transparency, accountability, and systemic change. What began as a response to tragedy became a sustained movement for civil rights and community empowerment in Albany and beyond.

For four decades, CFLJ has stood alongside individuals and families navigating injustice—challenging police misconduct, advocating for criminal justice reform, promoting educational equity, and ensuring that community voices are heard. Our work has remained grounded in courage, integrity, and an unwavering commitment to fairness.

This 40-year milestone honors the vision of our founder, the dedication of our staff and supporters, and the resilience of the community we serve. While progress has been made, the need for accountability and reform continues. As we look ahead, we do so with renewed determination to build on this legacy and strengthen our impact for generations to come.

Forty years strong—and still fighting for justice.

# FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Hello Community,

As we reflect on 2025, the Center for Law and Justice (CFLJ) is proud to share the work we have undertaken on behalf of the Albany community, while also acknowledging the challenges that shape our efforts. This year, we remained committed to supporting families affected by incarceration, youth criminalization, and systemic public safety failures, ensuring that our advocacy and services are grounded in lived experience. CFLJ engaged in legislative advocacy, public education, and community-centered initiatives to advance accountability and transparency. We submitted letters on state-level legislation, participated in public forums, and highlighted structural issues contributing to violence and inequity, emphasizing the need for prevention, support, and reform.

A significant focus was oversight and advocacy around incarceration. Reports from families about unsafe conditions, medical neglect, and inadequate oversight informed our advocacy, public dialogue, and policy work, including efforts to advance independent oversight committees in county jails. CFLJ also provided direct assistance, connecting community members to resources and helping them navigate complex systems. In addition, CFLJ continued monitoring and advocating for fair treatment in policing and public safety, worked on youth-focused prevention efforts, and promoted equity in education, ensuring programs and practices remain transparent, fair, and community-informed. Internally, we strengthened organizational capacity, improved workflows, and collaborated with local partners to elevate community voices.

2025 underscored the persistent challenges of accountability work. Systems that impact families and youth, including county and state correctional facilities, are often slow to respond or resistant to scrutiny. Reports of unsafe conditions, medical neglect, and lack of oversight in these facilities continue to demand attention and action. Yet, CFLJ remains committed to documenting concerns, elevating voices, and advancing justice, knowing that meaningful progress requires sustained effort.

We are inspired by the resilience and strength of the community we serve. The trust and collaboration of Albany residents guide our work, and CFLJ remains steadfast in its mission to ensure dignity, accountability, and opportunity for all.

With gratitude and determination,

  
Ta-Sean C. Murdock  
Executive Director



# CHALLENGES OF 2025



Throughout 2025, the Center for Law and Justice faced significant obstacles in advancing equity, justice, and access to critical resources for our community. One of the most pressing challenges remained the limited availability of essential services, particularly housing support and legal assistance, for individuals and families in need. Many community members seeking help encountered barriers that delayed or prevented them from accessing the support necessary to stabilize their lives and protect their rights.

These difficulties were compounded by a lack of cohesive systems and collaboration among stakeholders. Agencies and organizations that could work together to address systemic inequities often operated in isolation, leading to fragmented services and missed opportunities to create meaningful change. Without coordinated strategies, efforts to address complex social challenges—from housing insecurity to civil legal advocacy—remained piecemeal and less effective.

Adding to these structural challenges was a persistent resistance among some policymakers to accountability and open dialogue. Attempts to engage decision-makers in discussions about reform, transparency, and community concerns were frequently met with avoidance or obstruction. This resistance not only slowed progress on critical policy initiatives but also made it more difficult for community members and advocacy organizations to influence decisions that directly affect their lives.

Taken together, these challenges in 2025 highlighted the ongoing need for stronger partnerships, more accessible resources, and greater accountability within systems that shape the well-being of our community. Despite these obstacles, the Center for Law and Justice remained committed to documenting concerns, advocating for reform, and supporting individuals and families in their pursuit of justice.



# THE CENTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE

## A YEAR IN REVIEW



### Our Vision and Mission

The Center for Law and Justice envisions a peaceful, just, and compassionate community and works to ensure, through advocacy and programs that each resident is provided access to the goods, services, and opportunities of that community. It also works to establish the fair and just treatment of all people throughout the civil and criminal justice systems, and works to reduce reliance upon incarceration.

### About the Center

The Center for Law and Justice was founded by Dr. Alice Green in 1985, and marked its 40th anniversary in 2025. During its existence, the Center has served low-income and disadvantaged communities in the Capital Region through services, education, and advocacy. Before founding the Center, Dr. Green was a social worker and a teacher, and earned a doctorate degree in criminal justice and three master's degrees — education, social work, and criminology. The common thread in the Center's work has been finding freedom, not just for individuals, but by working to change structural racism.

The Center for Law and Justice employs three major strategies to accomplish its objectives:

- Individual empowerment
- Advocacy
- Community education and organizing

### Individual Empowerment

#### *Client Intake and Referral Services*

The Center for Law and Justice continues to take calls and community walk-ins from community members seeking support with issues such as criminal justice, legal rights, civil justice, housing, discrimination, social services, post-incarceration challenges, and health care. In 2025 the Center served 360 clients up 14% from seeing 315 clients in 2024 with direct service and/or referrals to community resources. Clients' primary needs were in the areas of Civil Justice (68), Criminal Justice (65), Incarceration (61), Housing (114), Food and clothing (27), Other (25).

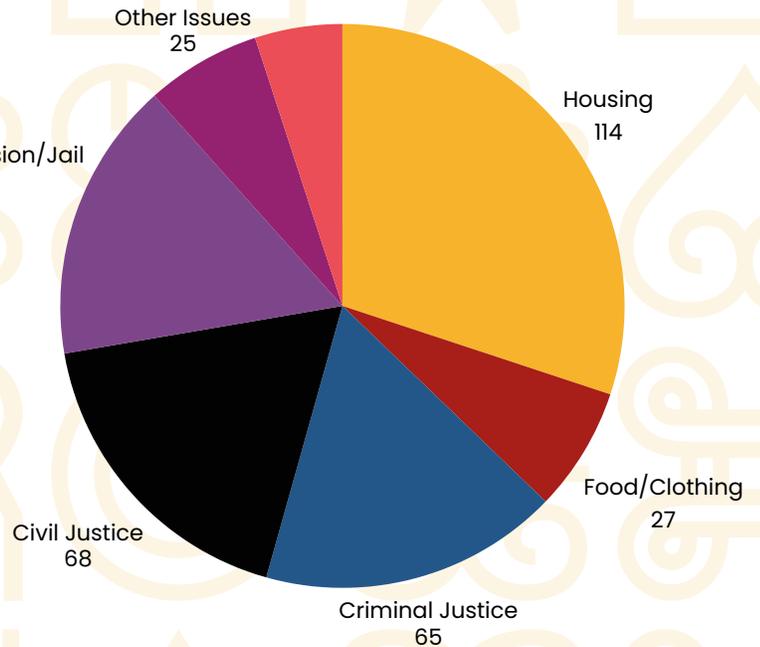
# THE CENTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE

## A YEAR IN REVIEW *(CONTINUED)*



### The top intake categories in 2025 were:

- Housing - 114
- Food/Clothing - 27
- Criminal Justice – 65
- Civil Justice – 68
- Incarceration/Prison/Jail Issues - 61
- Other Issues - 25



Under the direction of Kasey Bissonette, Advocacy Center Coordinator, Center Advocacy was enhanced by her outreach to other community organizations. She participated in community events such as Mississippi Day, Freedom Unshackled Trunk-or-Treat, CO-SYNC and LEAD meetings and events. Additional outreach included participation in ROOTS Academy Enrichment Day, several school-based community roundtables, the Housing Summit, and the ALERT Summit.

### The Center also:

- Responded to many letters from incarcerated people.
- Sent 2,000 copies of Capital Region Connections to incarcerated or previously incarcerated people.
- Provided a limited number of vouchers to those in urgent need of food or transportation.



# THE CENTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE

## A YEAR IN REVIEW *(CONTINUED)*



### **Community Engagement**

With the support of our Communications and Special Project Manager, Erika Diggs, Executive Director Ta-Sean Murdock and other staff members have continued the Center's legacy of wide-ranging community engagement. Activities have included roundtable meetings with community members, opinion articles in the Times Union, interviews with local television stations, meetings with local officials and policy makers, local law enforcement, and coordination with other advocacy groups. Ta-Sean has also advised members of the city's Community Police Review Board and Common Council as they worked to overcome operational and legislative challenges.

CFLJ continued its collaboration with Albany Medical College by allowing their students to support Center clients in need of health care resource navigation, e.g. finding doctors, helping with appointments and insurance needs. In 2025 they provided 105 services to 19 people referred by CFLJ. This exposes the students to a wide range of people with diverse needs, to help in their medical education. The students also support the Center's annual Community Day which takes place in August. Residents are invited to stop by and find out about a variety of community resources, as well as to enjoy free food.



# THE CENTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE

## A YEAR IN REVIEW *(CONTINUED)*



### Capital Region Connections

The Center produces, updates, and distributes this free guide for residents of the Capital District and people currently or formerly detained in jail or prison. An electronic version can also be found on the Center's website. It is a valuable resource for those reentering the community after being incarcerated, as well as for anyone trying to navigate the Capital Region's human services. It provides information on the topics listed below.

- First steps
- Community supervision
- Financial assistance
- Housing
- Food resources
- Health resources
- Substance use disorder
- Mental health resources
- Counseling
- Finding a job
- Educational resources
- Voting
- Veteran benefits
- Senior citizen resources
- Refugees, immigrants
- Legal resources
- Community resources
- NY State prison system
- Sex offender rules
- Probation
- Courts

### Education and Advocacy

The Center's expert in this area, Dr. Andrea Miranda Pestana, examined Raise the Age legislation and the carceral reform bills proposed recently in the New York State legislature.

She also created synopses of newspaper articles with information on social justice issues and reforms to the New York State incarceration system. Andrea has been working with Siena University to develop a survey on reparative justice and reparations. She is also working with the University at Albany to develop a fellowship program for research into Dr. Alice Green's archives.

Thanks to her bilingual skills, she has provided translation services by assisting Spanish-speaking clients, and also translated into Spanish information on the Center's resources.



# THE CENTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE

## A YEAR IN REVIEW *(CONTINUED)*



### **Advocacy Campaigns**

#### **New York State Prison System**

In 2025, we remained committed to supporting families affected by incarceration, youth criminalization, and systemic prison failures. Following the murder of Robert Brooks at Marcy Correctional Facility and Messiah Nantwi Mid-State Correctional Facility, CFLJ along with other advocacy groups in the Capital District led stakeholder meetings and rallies demanding accountability and transparency. CFLJ and advocacy groups also engaged in legislative advocacy and public education in partnership with local policy makers. Staff member Darryl Johnson is an active member in prison reform organizations including Communities Not Cages, Release Aging People in Prison, Treatment Not Jails Coalition, New York Civil Liberties Union, and NYS Jails Justice Network.

#### **Albany County Correctional Facility**

The reported beatings and neglect of an incarcerated person in Albany County jail was reported to CFLJ by family members and community members in 2025. CFLJ signed on to a letter from 12 organizations to Sheriff Apple regarding these and other abuse allegations at the jail. Follow-up meetings of community members with the sheriff took place. CFLJ continues to communicate with members of the Albany County Legislature about these issues, including efforts to advance independent oversight committees in county jails.

#### **Public Safety and the Albany Police Department**

The CFLJ believes it is important to have good communication with the Albany Police Department, to promote public safety while maintaining fair and humane treatment of city residents. To this end, we met with the police chief several times in the past year to discuss de-escalation tactics in interactions between police and community members. Those discussions have included the need for better communication with the public and improved interactions with individuals experiencing mental health problems. In 2025 members of our team also met with community-based organizations, policymakers, and public safety officials regarding youth violence. Then Mayor-Elect, Dr. Dorcey Appllys, invited Ta-Sean and CFLJ to attend the Public Safety meeting and press conference where she announced that she is retaining Brendan Cox as Police Chief.

# THE CENTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE

## A YEAR IN REVIEW (CONTINUED)



### Black History Film Series

In 2025, the Center for Law and Justice partnered with the Albany Housing Authority and the Alice Moore Black Arts and Cultural Center to launch a powerful community film series centered on justice, culture, and the Black experience in America. Designed to educate, inspire, and foster conversation, the series was hosted at Albany Housing Authority South Pearl St Community Room, bringing accessible, meaningful programming directly into the community.

The series featured a curated selection of films—including documentaries, historical narratives, and locally produced works—that addressed pressing issues such as systemic racism, housing inequality, mass incarceration, and Black cultural expression. Each screening was followed by a community discussion, highlighting local leaders, youth perspectives, and grassroots solutions.

Our partnership with the Albany Housing Authority allowed us to engage directly with residents in public housing communities, creating space for intergenerational dialogue and civic connection. Together, we provided not only film and discussion, but a sense of belonging, empowerment, and cultural pride.



## BLACK HISTORY FILM SERIES

WWW.CFLJ.ORG

**2025**  
**SAVE THE DATE**

**FEBRUARY**  
6TH, 13TH, 20TH  
THURSDAYS @ 5:30 PM

**SEARCHING FOR TIMBUCTOO**  
A FILM BY ANNA WILSON

**DO THE RIGHT THING**  
A FILM BY SPIKE LEE

**QUENTIN TARANTINO'S DJANGO UNCHAINED**  
A FILM BY QUENTIN TARANTINO

This program is FREE and open to the public for youths 14 and over and adults of all ages. FREE refreshments will be served.

Scan the QR code to Register TODAY!  
Seats are limited.

200 South Pearl St. Albany, NY

The Center for Law and Justice | ALBANY HOUSING AUTHORITY | The Alice Moore Black Arts & Cultural Center

**MORE INFO:** 518-427-8361

# THE CENTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE

## A YEAR IN REVIEW *(CONTINUED)*



### Alice Moore Black Arts and Cultural Center (AMBACC)

As a program operating under the Center for Law and Justice, the mission of AMBACC is to advance the appreciation of Black art and culture, foster artistic and cultural expression, and serve as a dynamic community hub. It operates at 135 South Pearl Street in Albany's south end, and was named after Dr. Alice Green's grandmother.

Activities in 2025 included Sankofa Saturdays, a free experience for youth ages 5-15 rooted in an Afrocentric curriculum that celebrates Black history, culture, and creativity. Other activities were art exhibits, film making class, Young at Heart social club for seniors, the annual Jazz Night, Juneteenth celebration, poetry jams, open community meetings, and holiday season events.



# THE CENTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE

## A YEAR IN REVIEW *(CONTINUED)*



### Financial Information

The Center for Law and Justice is a tax-exempt, not-for-profit organization that is required to file a Form 990 annual report on its financial status. That report is a public document available for examination.

The work of the CFLJ is made possible due in large part to volunteers and private donors. Volunteers include private citizens, local attorneys, and a diverse group of student interns from colleges and universities including Albany Medical College, the University at Albany, and Siena University. During 2025, financial donations to the Center came from individuals, foundations, and companies including:

- Carl E. Touhey Foundation
- PB & J Foundation
- City of Albany
- Albany County
- Alice Moore Foundation
- Community Foundation
- Key Bank
- M&T Bank
- Stewarts Shops
- Price Chopper/Market 32



### Staff and Volunteers in 2025

- Ta-Sean C. Murdock, Executive Director
- Mark Bobb-Semple, Director of Operations (Alice Moore Black Arts & Cultural Center)
- Erika Diggs, Communications and Special Projects Manager
- Kasey Bissonette, Advocacy Center Coordinator
- Dr. Andrea Miranda-Pasana, Policy and Strategy Coordinator
- Darryl Johnson, Office Safety and Re-entry Advisor
- Yomika Bennett, Programs & Grants Coordinator
- Mary Ellen Frieberg, Volunteer





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