

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS – INQUIRIES AND MEMBERSHIP ADDITIONS OPEN
THROUGH JANUARY 20, 2022**

The Minnesota Elder Justice Center is seeking to add members to its Board of Directors. We are accepting applications until January 20, 2022.

Founded in 2014, the Minnesota Elder Justice Center (MEJC) is a statewide organization working to mobilize communities to prevent and alleviate abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation of older and vulnerable adults. With an office located in St. Paul, our staff of nine work across Minnesota to advance elder justice issues.

Our Values:

Integrity - We practice intellectual rigor and ethical behavior, transparency, staying true to mission and accountability to our many diverse stakeholders.

Openhearted Collaboration - We are committed to being inclusive in creating and participating in partnerships that improve the lives of Minnesota's older adults and vulnerable adults.

Innovation - We are a learning organization that is willing to question the status quo, create alternative solutions and strategies and take risks in order to achieve our mission.

Responsive Service - We are focused on the well-being of older adults and vulnerable adults and to ensure that we are respectful, relevant and responsive.

Excellence - We are committed, knowledgeable, curious, and creative in all our work.

For more details about our history, and principles that guide our work, please see www.elderjusticemn.org

IDEAL CANDIDATES & BOARD OPPORTUNITY

Our current Board of Directors is comprised of 11 individuals who are committed to the Minnesota Elder Justice Center's mission, vision and values, and provide perspectives from a variety of professional and personal backgrounds that advance our elder justice work. Please [see here](#) for our current membership and application information. Many of our founding board members will meet term limits in 2023, and we are working to maintain a seamless transition for our organization during this change.

We have a particular interest in candidates who bring experience in victim-centered services, aging services, public policy, gerontology, marketing, fundraising or board governance. We also value and seek board members who provide lived experience with elder justice issues. Individuals who are Black, Indigenous, or Persons of Color with interests in aging and elder justice work are strongly encouraged to consider joining our board, as the Minnesota Elder Justice Center is committed to racial and cultural diversity in an effort to move toward cultural competency in all levels of our work. Additionally, we are seeking board members who live and work in Greater Minnesota.

COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION AND CHANGE

Starting in 2019, board members and staff of the Minnesota Elder Justice Center have been engaging in collective reflection and discussion to deepen our understanding of how our actions may be holding MEJC back from the organization's vision of becoming a trusted resource for all persons needing its services in Minnesota. MEJC created a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee in February 2020 and began deepening their discussions and actions after George Floyd's murder in May 2020. MEJC has been working with consultants to: complete our Intercultural Development Inventory assessment and learn/progress our individual and group profiles; engage in education and learning sessions; and to develop and address an action plan to change our culture to ensure equity and inclusion are central in our work.

Emphasis on this culture change will be ongoing, and we seek board members who will embrace the discussions, learning and work to ensure MEJC is an anti-racist, inclusive organization for clients, community members, board and staff.

ABOUT MINNESOTA ELDER JUSTICE CENTER'S WORK

Direct Victim Services

We provide support and advocacy to older and vulnerable victims of abuse, and their families. Our services also include a helpline, assistance to others who work with older victims, and free limited legal representation to victims.

Prevention & Outreach

We provide statewide public awareness and education opportunities to the public so they can be informed, help those around them, and build communities that do not tolerate abuse against older and vulnerable adults. We partner with researchers to provide accurate, relevant and up-to-date strategies to prevent abuse.

Professional Education & Training

We provide entry-level and advanced training to individuals and institutions who work with older and vulnerable adults. Our audiences include social services, the legal community, health care, financial institutions, and others. We also provide specialized 8-hour trainings for law enforcement and criminal justice professionals.

Public Policy & Systems Change

We advocate for policy initiatives that benefit older and vulnerable victims of abuse, prevent abuse, and hold perpetrators accountable. We work with county and community teams to support a coordinated response to elder abuse. We provide opportunities for learning, discussion and recommendations to strengthen systems to protect older and vulnerable adults. MEJC worked to develop and pass the 2019 Elder Care and Vulnerable Adult Protection Act; worked to develop and modernize changes to guardianship in 2020; and has been advocating for significant advancements to the Vulnerable Adult Act.

BOARD MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

The Minnesota Elder Justice Center Board of Director's meets monthly, currently via Zoom.

When in-person meetings resume, we will have an in-person option in St. Paul as well as the Zoom option. Each board member is expected to also serve on one subcommittee of their choice – Finance, Governance, Policy, or DEI.

Each board member shall make a meaningful time commitment to engage in Minnesota Elder Justice Center meetings and events for a term of three years, up to three terms. Board members bring their knowledge, preparation, and an inclusive perspective to the task of informed decision-making.

Each board member has a legal obligation to act in the best interest of the MEJC (fiduciary duty). The Board of Directors is collectively accountable to the community, funders and those in need of services. They are accountable to ensure MEJC's performance is aligned with its mission and strategic objectives and for the effective stewardship of financial and human resources. Board members will promote a culture where ethical, legal, or program compliance concerns can be raised freely and addressed without fear of retaliation.

HOW TO INQUIRE OR APPLY

We welcome questions or conversations before applying. To discuss further, please contact Amanda Vickstrom, Executive Director at amanda.vickstrom@elderjusticemn.org or Sue Gray, Board Secretary at sueagray@gmail.com. To apply for board membership, please complete this [online application](#). For a printable application, please see [our website](#).