



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS – INQUIRIES AND MEMBERSHIP ADDITIONS OPEN  
THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2023**

The Minnesota Elder Justice Center is seeking to add members to its Board of Directors. We are accepting applications until September 30, 2023.

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 10 work across Minnesota to advance elder justice issues.

**IDEAL CANDIDATES & BOARD OPPORTUNITY**

Our current Board of Directors is comprised of 10 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.

Currently, we have a particular interest in candidates who bring experience in victim-centered services, culturally-specific community services, nonprofit finance, aging services, 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.

**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 host free near-weekly webinars, and host Minnesota's annual World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Conference. 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 funding for supported-decision making services in 2023; and successfully advocated for significant advancements to the Vulnerable Adult Act, including a significant investment to fund county adult protection programs.

### **BOARD MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Minnesota Elder Justice Center Board of Director's meets monthly via Zoom. We meet in person one to two times each year. Each board member is expected to also serve on one subcommittee of their choice – Finance, Governance, Policy, or DEI.

We request that each board member 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.

Minnesota Elder Justice Center is working to ensure we embrace a diversity, equity and inclusion framework in all our work and actions. This work began in early 2020, and will be ongoing. 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.

### **Mission**

Minnesota Elder Justice Center's mission is to alleviate and prevent the abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation of older or vulnerable adults.

### **Vision**

Minnesota Elder Justice Center is a trusted resource that improves lives, communities, and systems with and on behalf of elders and vulnerable adults.

## Values

### *Diversity, Equity and & Inclusion (DEI)*

We model the fair treatment and full participation of all people, especially persons who have historically been underrepresented or subject to discrimination on the basis of identity or ability.

### *Excellence*

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

### *Innovation*

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

### *Integrity*

We practice intellectual rigor and ethical behavior, transparency, and accountability to our many diverse stakeholders while staying true to our mission and equity framework.

### *Justice*

We seek justice with and for older adults and vulnerable adults who have experienced abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation.

### *Openhearted Collaboration*

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

### *Responsive Service*

We minimize barriers to service and focus on the well-being of older and vulnerable adults. We are respectful, relevant, and responsive.

## Guiding Principles

1. Older adults and vulnerable adults provide a rich history of life experiences that should be honored and respected.
2. Freedom from abuse, neglect and financial exploitation are fundamental rights.
3. Older adults, vulnerable adults and their families deserve information about their rights and choices.
4. Abuse, neglect and exploitation of older and vulnerable adults are private tragedies with public consequences.
5. Collaboration and partnerships with key stakeholders are essential to preventing and alleviating abuse, neglect and financial exploitation of older and vulnerable adults.
6. Collaboration between victim services and social services is necessary to reduce abuse, neglect and financial exploitation.
7. Supportive communities and families improve the quality of life for older and vulnerable adults.
8. We acknowledge and must work with the tension that exists between protection and autonomy.

9. The causes and solutions of abuse, neglect and exploitation are complex in scope and origin, because they are individual and systemic. Therefore, multidisciplinary, holistic solutions are needed.
10. Our work is data driven and research based.

### **MEJC Equity Statement**

*Adopted Fall 2022*

It is important for the Minnesota Elder Justice Center (MEJC) to take action in response to what members of Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) communities have been experiencing and expressing for years – that their lived experiences and outcomes differ because of systemic racism.

As an organization focused on preventing and alleviating the abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation of older and vulnerable adults, it is critically important to work for a more just, equitable, and inclusive future for BIPOC communities across the state of Minnesota. This work must be done in partnership with others. Elder justice is directly tied to and intertwined with the inequities that disproportionately affect BIPOC communities. These inequities are built into our systems of health care, criminal justice, education, housing and urban planning, and economic support.

[Please review the 2023 Equity Framework and Strategic Plan that guides our work.](#)

### **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](mailto:amanda.vickstrom@elderjusticemn.org) or Tammy Hollingsworth, Board Secretary at [tammy.r.hollingsworth.mn@gmail.com](mailto:tammy.r.hollingsworth.mn@gmail.com). To apply for board membership, please complete this [online application](#).