

JEP Statement of Principles

The Justice Entrepreneurs Project (JEP) is a social entrepreneurship venture aimed at developing innovative, market-based solutions to serve the unmet legal needs of low and moderate-income people in the Chicago area.

Lawyers participating in the JEP are committed to establishing successful law practices that:

1. Focus on serving the legal needs of low and moderate-income clients who typically have too much income to qualify for free legal aid but do not have the means to afford legal assistance in the traditional legal market. The JEP target market is generally defined as people earning between 150% and 400% of the federal poverty level.¹
2. Concentrate on areas of law where the legal market does not provide sufficient access to legal assistance for low and moderate-income people.
3. Seek to make legal assistance more approachable by placing deliberate emphasis on understanding clients' perspectives and adapting to their needs, and by working with clients in a collaborative effort to address their legal issues and achieve their goals.
4. Utilize innovative methods to make legal assistance more accessible and affordable for clients in the target market and to reach those clients, including:
 - a. Using fixed fees and other alternatives to the billable hour in order to provide greater fairness, flexibility, transparency and certainty to clients;
 - b. Offering limited scope representation, when appropriate, to provide clients with additional options for representation;
 - c. Maximizing the use of technology to create efficiencies in practice that benefit the client and the law practice.

Lawyers participating in the JEP are also committed to:

1. Collaborating with fellow JEP participants and other JEP partner entities.
2. Actively participating in efforts to improve the profession, the practice of law and the larger justice system.
3. Developing economically sustainable and replicable delivery models for meeting the legal needs of the JEP target market.

¹ The 2013 federal poverty guidelines are available here: <http://www.familiesusa.org/resources/tools-for-advocates/guides/federal-poverty-guidelines.html>.