The ACLU of Louisiana’s (ACLU-LA) Justice Lab initiative marshalled a vast amount of resources from the legal community to bring a wave of litigation in the form of direct representation to challenge racist policing practices in Louisiana. However, there are various reasons why the ACLU-LA will not or cannot litigate all requests for assistance received through this initiative. We also recognize that litigation is not the only way to support directly impacted people. The ACLU-LA’s Justice Lab initiative needs the community’s input to shape its accumulated resources in a way that meets the community’s needs. We want to facilitate bringing together those in our community who have been or want to be further engaged in this work in order to empower directly impacted people and their families.

WHO CAN BE A COMMUNITY PARTNER?

A community partner is anyone who has been directly impacted by racist policing practices or misconduct, or anyone committed to supporting directly impacted people and their families. A community partner can be:

» An organization
» A business
» A directly impacted person or their family
» An activist
» A member of the legal community
» An artist, photographer, or writer
» Anyone who can provide or facilitate a service for a directly impacted person

HOW CAN COMMUNITY PARTNERS SUPPORT THIS WORK?

» Provide your knowledge, experience, and personal insight to assist an out-of-state legal partner in establishing the context surrounding a pending Justice Lab case.

» Speak at community events hosted by the initiative. We envision the events ranging from storytelling and writing workshops, storytelling circles, know your rights seminars, and wellness sessions.

» Commit to being a resource referral for those whose cases cannot be litigated and could benefit from additional support and resources.

WHAT IS THE TIME COMMITMENT?

Time commitments will be dependent on the level of involvement you are interested in. Some possibilities are:

» A community partner interested in acting as a resource, providing their knowledge and personal insight to help contextualize a Justice Lab case for an out-of-state partner, can expect to commit 10 hours of their time for each firm or clinic they are partnered with. This partnership is paid at the rate of $25 per hour, in 10-hour increments ($250.00).

» A partner who wants to speak at a Justice Lab hosted an event can expect to spend the same amount of time they typically spend preparing for an hour-long speaking engagement and presentation. This partnership is paid and dependent on the type of event.

» A partner who is interested in acting as a referral for people who come to Justice Lab that may benefit from non-litigation assistance can expect the time commitment to be dependent on the number of people referred to them.

If you are interested in partnering with us, even in a way that was not described above, please reach out to us at JUSTICELAB@LAACLU.ORG. We want our community partnerships to be evolving and holistic.