



TRANS LEGAL SERVICES NETWORK ADVISORY COUNCIL

The National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE) is a social justice organization devoted to ending discrimination and violence against transgender people through education and advocacy. NCTE works closely with local and state organizations across the country to improve state-level laws, policies, and services for transgender individuals, in addition to its national level work. NCTE invites attorneys to join the Trans Legal Services Network Advisory Council, a group of legal professionals providing guidance and support to NCTE and member organizations working to expand crucial legal services for transgender individuals across the country.

WHAT IS THE LEGAL SERVICES NETWORK ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Advisory Council will help NCTE advance the goals and capacity of the Trans Legal Services Network. The Network launched in 2013 and has membership of over 30 organizations working to meet the unique legal needs of their local transgender communities. Many of these organizations run free legal clinics assisting transgender people with legal name and gender changes. Network members share both practical ideas and legal analysis to support each other in their quest to meet the legal needs of the transgender community.

41% of transgender people live without identification that match their gender identity. - 2011 National Transgender Discrimination Survey

40% of those who presented identification that did not match their gender identity/ expression reported being harassed. - 2011 National Transgender Discrimination Survey

YOUR ROLE ON THE LEGAL SERVICES NETWORK ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Advisory Council is needed to provide legal guidance and technical support to NCTE and Network member organizations. Members of the Council can contribute by:

- Drafting Name and Gender Change Guides for states lacking materials
- Developing state-specific gender change petition templates
- Providing volunteers or contacts for organizations and/or clinics
- Advising organizations of their legal obligations to clients, need for malpractice insurance, or other business considerations that accompany providing pro bono legal advice
- Non-profit status applications or inquiries
- Financial support for coordination and support of the Network

WHY DO WE NEED THE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Many transgender individuals cannot obtain identity documents that match the name and gender in which they live their daily lives, causing hurdles to getting employment, staying in or enrolling in school, and applying for housing or public benefits. Organizations that serve transgender communities across the country are eager to help, but many lack the necessary legal guidance and technical support to fully serve all the transgender people in need in their communities.

To learn more about the Network Advisory Council, please email Arli at achristian@transequality.org.