

THE MASSACHUSETTS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE NETWORK

- ◆ Provides *pro bono legal and other professional assistance on environmental issues*
- ◆ Promotes the empowerment of *traditionally underrepresented communities— low income communities and communities of color*
- ◆ Employs the resources of the *legal community, environmental and public health professionals, nonprofit organizations, and Massachusetts' colleges and universities*



MEJAN was founded as a joint project of the Boston Bar Association and Alternatives for Community & Environment (ACE). Today, MEJAN is administered and staffed by ACE and is supported financially by the Massachusetts Bar Foundation and the generous support of individuals like you.

TO JOIN THE MASSACHUSETTS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE NETWORK AND FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT CUSHING GIESEY, MEJAN COORDINATOR, AT THE ADDRESS BELOW.

MEJAN

MASSACHUSETTS ENVIRONMENTAL
JUSTICE ASSISTANCE NETWORK

MA Environmental Justice Assistance Network
c/o Alternatives for Community & Environment
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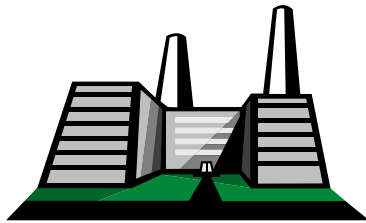


A clearinghouse to match communities of color and low income communities in need of environmental assistance with professionals...

Tel: (617) 442-3343, ext 228

MEJAN

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN MASSACHUSETTS



THE PROBLEM

Low income communities and communities of color bear a disproportionate share of our society's environmental burdens and fewer environmental benefits than other communities. Political and economic disempowerment may prevent the meaningful input of community residents in land use matters such as the siting of facilities and enforcement of environmental laws. The residents thus may distrust the existing scheme of environmental laws and policies. Further, the interests of low income communities and communities of color traditionally have not received adequate attention from environmental agencies or nonprofit environmental groups, often increasing the likelihood of disproportionate environmental harms.

WORKING TOWARDS A SOLUTION

The MEJAN is designed to help lower income communities and communities of color address pressing environmental and public health concerns and promote safety. MEJAN professionals provide assistance to community residents who are working to protect and improve the natural and built environment, public health and safety in their communities.

In addition to helping community residents achieve concrete victories, MEJAN's success is also measured by the empowerment of the communities that professionals work with — increasing residents' capacity to take control over decisions that affect their lives.

WHO ARE MEJAN PROFESSIONALS?

MEJAN professionals are volunteer attorneys, Licensed Site Professionals, planners, traffic specialists, scientists, and other environmental and public health professionals who are committed to the pursuit of environmental justice and have an interest in making a difference in ways that encourage community

empowerment and client-centered decision making.

WHAT CAN YOU DO? **Volunteer!!! Recommend others!!!**

The MEJAN needs more professionals— attorneys, Licensed Site Professionals, planners, traffic specialists, scientists. Your pro bono services are key to addressing the environmental disparities in our partner communities. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Cushing Giesey, MEJAN Coordinator.

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