Corporate Advisory Committee Charter

The National Legal Aid & Defender Association (NLADA) is the United States’ oldest and largest nonprofit association devoted to excellence in the delivery of legal services to those who cannot afford counsel, whether in criminal or civil matters.

For more than a century, NLADA has pioneered access to justice at the national, state, and local levels in multiple ways: helping create many of the first public defense systems in the country; supporting the establishment of the Legal Services Corporation; developing nationally applicable standards for legal representation of low-income clients; and advocating for groundbreaking legislation.

NLADA serves as the collective voice for the country’s civil legal aid and public defense providers and offers high-quality advocacy, training, and technical assistance.

NLADA has collaborated with distinguished legal executives in the private sector from a wide variety of industries to help low-income people in need of legal services by expanding and strengthening pro bono programs, formulating national strategies in support of funding for legal representation, and supporting resource development for NLADA to lead nationally on these issues.

In 1992, under the leadership of Ford Motor Company, those unofficial partnerships were formalized to launch NLADA’s Corporate Advisory Committee (CAC), which exemplifies corporate America’s dedication to the principle of equal justice under the law and advancing federal, state, and local public policy that strengthens legal assistance for low-income people. Through the leadership of its member corporate counsel, the CAC engages the corporate community to expand the availability of quality representation to those who cannot otherwise afford counsel.
Benefits

- Actively engage in practical and innovative public-private partnerships that expand access to counsel.
- Directly influence relevant public policy issues.
- Expand your pro bono efforts with NLADA facilitating connections with our civil legal aid and public defense members.
- Promote your brand and highlight your company’s pro bono and corporate social responsibility work through NLADA’s digital networks.
- Gain access to online NLADA member benefits including training materials and webinars, amicus curiae briefs, and other publications.
- Enjoy a complimentary individual conference registration for you or a member of your staff to an NLADA conference.
- Purchase exclusive professional liability insurance from the NLADA Insurance Program to safeguard your pro bono activities.

Become a CAC Member

How Do We Work?

While the CAC works collaboratively, it does not issue statements or policy positions as a unit. Instead, individual corporate members retain exclusive control over when their names are added to activities or campaigns, such as letters to Congress or other public statements. Before public statements are made, each CAC member will have the opportunity to choose whether to add their company name or not.

CAC membership extends for 12 months.

For additional information or assistance expediting your new membership or renewal:

Please visit www.nlada.org/issues-and-initiatives/corporate-engagement or contact Aileen Moffatt, Vice President External Relations at a.moffatt@nlada.org or 202-452-0620 x 223.
In 2019, NLADA launched the Goal 16 Working Group - a new working group of the CAC tied to Goal 16 of the UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its call for equal access to justice. The working group identifies access to justice policy initiatives that can be advanced through public-private partnership in coordination with NLADA’s members – civil legal aid offices, public defender offices, and clients across the country. The working group was successfully registered as NLADA’s commitment to advancing Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals with the United Nations SDG Partnerships Platform.

The working group meets throughout the year and reports on its progress to the United Nations on an annual basis.