



History. Tradition. Community.



Andrew Gordon is a trial attorney and advocate for indigent clients, juveniles, and newly arrived immigrants and their families. A graduate of the University of Minnesota Law School, Gordon once had high hopes of being a public defender. In fact, Andrew was a finalist for an attorney position with the Hennepin County Public Defender's Office until the county instituted a hiring freeze. Disappointed but not deterred, Gordon found work as a public defender in the City of Boston until his work visa expired. Gordon then returned to Minnesota spending three days a week volunteering at the Legal Rights Center while he applied for his green card. A year later, a staff attorney position opened. Gordon, who was now a permanent resident, applied and was selected for the job.

Gordon is now the Associate Director, of the Legal Rights Center. In this role, he supervises staff attorneys, manages volunteers, and conducts strategic planning and development for the organization. Gordon also contributes to the legal education of both new attorneys and the community by presenting lectures on legal rights, engagements and collateral consequences of a juvenile adjudication and/or criminal conviction. Currently, Gordon is representing 20 individuals with charges stemming from Black Lives Matter protests. Gordon's commitment to community empowerment

is fueled by his desire to marrying defense advocacy in court with advocacy in community.

What Motivates You

The opportunity to guide a client through a confusing legal process, and ensure their story is communicated. I enjoy learning from my clients and being able to impart that knowledge to the court, prosecutor, and general public.

Most Rewarding Work Experience

I enjoy working in the community helping to educate my clients and their families. In 2010, I was invited to Loring Nicollet Alternative School for a “Know Your Rights” presentation. The students were really receptive and have asked me to return each year since. Experiences like such allow me the opportunity to build relationships and really connect with the community I serve.

Advice for Aspiring Attorneys

Listen to your clients. Attorneys’ burn out when they stop listening. If you want to do this work well and do it for a long time- you must ensure your client’s voice is heard.

Hometown

- Kingston, Jamaica

Education

- Macalester College
- University of Minnesota Law School