

Mid-Atlantic Juvenile Defender Center

Rural Ambassadors Program

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The Challenge

Juvenile defenders
working alone,
in isolated areas,
with strapped resources,
without support,
in environments that do not understand or
value the role of the juvenile defender.

The Idea

Leverage resources and support systems for passionate juvenile defenders to create community, cultivate leadership, encourage specialization in juvenile defense, and raise the level of practice in juvenile defense throughout our region.

Structure of Program

- Kick-off retreat at the beginning of the program
- Monthly webinars or conference calls
- 2 mentors: national and state-based
- JTIP Summer Academy
- Ambassadors are asked to complete one project:
 - Take on a discrete policy issue
 - Start a community group, such as local bar association or trial practice group
 - Organizing a training

Replication without a budget

- **Identify** defenders working in rural areas
- Build **relationships** and develop **community**
- **Organize** conference calls and meetings
- **Invite** juvenile defenders to participate in in other trainings

Thank you!