

## THE MASSACHUSETTS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE NETWORK

- ◆ *Promoting the empowerment of traditionally underrepresented communities— low income communities and communities of color*
- ◆ *Providing pro bono legal and other professional assistance on environmental issues*
- ◆ *Harnessing 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 Alternatives for Community & Environment. MEJAN is supported by the Boston Bar Foundation, 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

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c/o Alternatives for Community & Environment  
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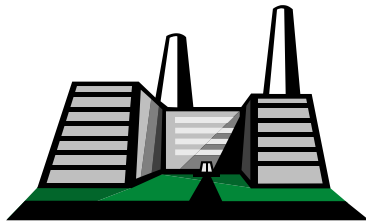
MASSACHUSETTS  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
JUSTICE ASSISTANCE  
NETWORK



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

Tel: (617) 442-3343, ext 35

# ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN MASSACHUSETTS



## THE PROBLEM

Low income communities and communities of color bear a disproportionate share of our society's environmental burdens. Political and economic disempowerment often renders these communities voiceless in matters such as the siting of locally undesirable land uses and enforcement of environmental laws.

These communities may have little faith in the existing regime of environmental laws and policies. Further, the interests of low-income communities and communities of color have traditionally not received adequate attention from government environmental agencies or nonprofit environmental groups. This has merely increased the likelihood of disproportionate environmental harms.

## WORKING TOWARDS A SOLUTION

The MEJAN is designed to help partner communities address pressing environmental and public health concerns. MEJAN professionals provide assistance to partner communities to prevent the siting of trash transfer facilities, preserve open space, reduce traffic and improve air quality.

In addition to helping partner communities 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 decisionmaking.

## 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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