



Annual Report 2025

The Year at a Glance



Letter from Board Chair Tony Jordan

As we reflect on the past year, we are incredibly grateful to have had the opportunity to continue providing high-quality experiences – in the classroom, in the courthouse, and after school – that support and empower young people to build a more just, equitable, and civil society.

This has been an exciting year at Discovering Justice. We extend a big thank you to Maureen (Moe) Nguyen, who served as Interim Executive Director from August 2024-May 2025 and helped lay the foundation for DJ's future. During Moe's tenure, we hired two new staff members, a Director of Programs and Partnerships as well as a Senior Development Manager. Moe was also instrumental in leading the search for the new Executive Director, Rana Kannan. We are grateful to Moe for her service to DJ.



Rana joined the team last May, and she brings extensive experience with a robust background in education and nonprofit management. She began her career as a math teacher at Roxbury Preparatory Charter School and most recently was the Chief Operating Officer for the Boston Schools Fund. She is excited to realize the DJ mission with the board, team, and partners.

Looking forward, we will continue to leverage the team's expertise in education and in civics, and partner with legal experts in the Moakley Courthouse and across Massachusetts to strengthen our programs and help students understand themselves, engage across differences, and build the skills necessary for civic life.

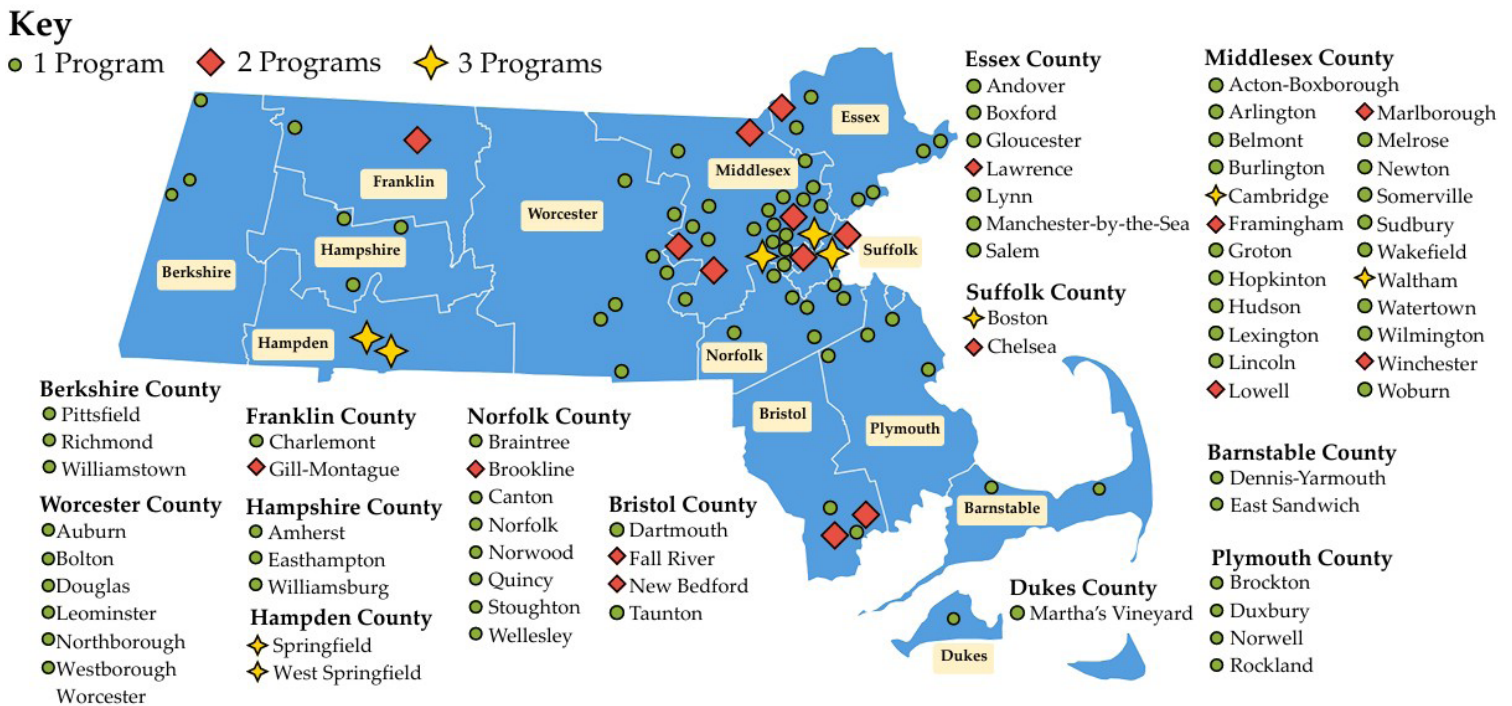
Thank you to our many supporters and volunteers who give of your time and resources to bolster DJ's mission. We are proud to work alongside you in service of a more just and engaged democracy.

With gratitude,
Tony Jordan
Chair, Board of Trustees



Discovering Justice brings students and communities together to **examine** the workings of the justice system, **explore** the ideals of justice, and prepare them to **engage** in our democracy across the Commonwealth.

Places We Serve:



“A democracy depends on its citizens’ understanding of the laws and being able to navigate and advocate for changes that result in stronger communities. Discovering Justice is excited to continue to leverage our expertise as educators, and the expertise of our partners in the legal sector, teachers, and districts across Massachusetts to continue to bring high quality civic educational experiences to over 40,000 students across the state.”

Rana Kannan, Executive Director



Mock Trial & Appeal Program

Discovering Justice’s Mock Trial and Mock Appeal Programs connect middle schoolers with legal professionals to explore the judicial system firsthand. Over weekly sessions students sharpen public speaking, critical thinking, and active listening skills while building confidence as “student attorneys.”



In the fall, students prepare a constitutional case based on current legal precedent and present before a real judge and jury. In the spring, they appeal their same case before a panel of judges. The cases are chosen before the school year by a cohort of educators and legal professionals. Each semester ends with students presenting in a courthouse, bringing their learning to life in front of the community.

MOCK TRIAL: Fall 2024

380 Students Participated

174 Legal Professionals Mentored Students

13 MA School Districts Engaged

MOCK APPEAL: Spring 2025

265 Students Participated

106 Legal Professionals Mentored Students

9 MA School Districts Engaged

Courthouse Programs



Discovering Justice is fortunate to be housed within the John Joseph Moakley Courthouse in Boston’s Seaport Neighborhood. Since our founding, we have worked closely with the courthouse to uphold the values of transparency, public engagement, and equal access to justice. We provide free tours of the courthouse to the public, and host field trips for K-12 students, which often include visits with judges, observing proceedings, and participating in grade-appropriate courtroom activities.

Courthouse Programs 2024-25

Hosted **2,016**
K-12 students
from **44** schools

Hosted public
tours for **123**
guests

Facilitated virtual
field trips for
210 students

Hosted **279**
college students
and faculty

Co-Hosted **8**
events at the
courthouse



Children Discovering Justice

- Our top-ranked, state-recognized K-5 civics curriculum and professional development program reaches 33,000+ students in more than 50 districts across the state.
- We have partnered with a dozen districts in Massachusetts, delivering high-quality professional learning for teachers, and expanding impact via teacher leadership cohorts

“As an educator, I can tell you there is no better investment than in preparing our children to become engaged and empathetic members of our society. Discovering Justice has prepared me, and countless others, with the tools to create a classroom culture where civil discourse and respect for others is the norm.”



“I know which classes do Children Discovering Justice because their discourse in science stands out.”

BPS Teacher Leader Cohort Growth: SY24-25

I have the sufficient knowledge base to provide civics instruction in a way MA state standards mandate

Pre-Program
(% of teachers that agree with statement)

Post-Program
(% of teachers that agree with statement)

57%

100%

I am confident in my ability to teach civics effectively

71%

100%

I have the resources I need to teach my grade level History & Social Sciences standards

43%

86%

I know how to choose the right discussion strategy for the objective (e.g., building consensus and identifying opinions)

57%

100%

“Presenting at the Mock Trial Final Event was scary at first. But then I learned that it’s not, really – you just have to be confident in what you’re saying!”

How Your Dollars Make an Impact



\$10

Provides a full school year of civics education for one student



\$368

Covers a full year of Mock Trial and Mock Appeal for one student, coached by current legal professionals and culminating in a courthouse before real judges

\$31

Funds a guided courthouse tour for one community member



Every gift makes a difference. With each dollar, students across Massachusetts gain the chance to engage in their democratic right to understand the justice system, see their place in history, and develop the skills to advocate for themselves and their communities. Your support transforms classrooms into training grounds for future leaders, and courthouses into places of learning and empowerment.

Join us today in ensuring every student has the tools to shape a more just tomorrow.

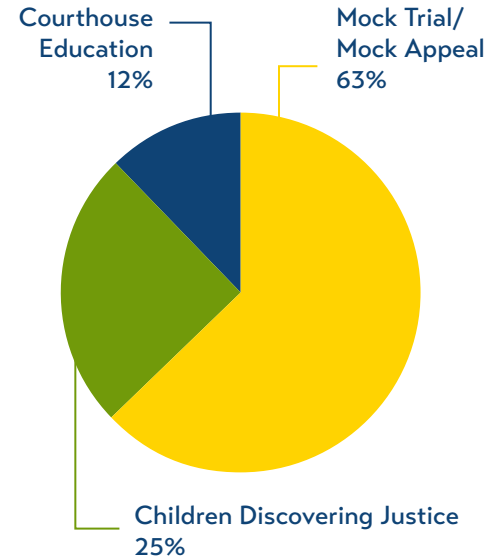
FY2025 Financials



Assets	2025	2024
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$317,913	\$174,275
Accounts receivable, fees for service	\$87,700	\$70,998
Promises to give within one year	\$35,000	\$119,713
Investments	\$959,745	\$1,285,715
Prepaid expenses	\$7,639	\$1,639
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$1,407,997	1,652,340
OTHER ASSETS		
Finance lease right-of-use asset	\$14,835	\$18,974
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT, NET	\$66,994	\$77,305
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,489,826	\$1,748,619

Liabilities and Net Assets	2025	2024
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	\$48,903	\$50,443
Accrued expenses	\$19,322	\$46,763
Finance lease liability, due within one year	\$3,994	\$3,844
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$72,219	\$101,050
FINANCE LEASE LIABILITY, due after one year	\$11,310	\$15,304
NET ASSETS		
Without donor restrictions	\$1,370,797	\$1,572,731
With donor restrictions	\$35,500	\$59,534
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$1,489,826	\$1,748,619

Program Expenses



DJ proudly serves nearly 40,000 students across Massachusetts each year through three distinct programs: Mock Trial/Mock Appeal, Children Discovering Justice, and Courthouse Education. Though distinct in their content and delivery, each program helps students build foundational civic skills and the ability to engage as active participants in our democracy and justice system.

Over the past two years, Discovering Justice has operated at a deficit while continuing to deliver high-impact civic education programs. The organization maintains healthy reserves, which provided stability during this period. Our new leadership and development team are focused on building our sustainability and ability to navigate evolving funding landscapes while delivering high-quality civic education across Massachusetts.



Thank You to Our Funders

Discovering Justice is extraordinarily grateful to our supporters.

Stephanie Ainbinder
Kathryn Aless
Anamax
Zack Andersen
Anderson & Kreiger LLP
Anonymous
Alexis Argiros
Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP
Ashley Arre
Attorney Admissions Fund
Chloe Aubuchon
Paula Bagger
Eastern Bank
David Barron
Marieljane Bastien
Allison Rachele Bayles
Thaddeus Beal
Beal Family Charitable Fund
Anne-Marie Beliveau
Jon Bennett
Christina Bergeron
The Beveridge Family Foundation
Deborah Birnbach
Elaine Blais
Jay Blitzman
Karen Blum
Gregory Boucher
Anne Bowie
S. Boyer Baird
William Boziuk
Douglas Brooks
Jen Brown
Shelbi Brown
Michelle Brownlee
John Bueker
Laurie Burt
Cabot Family Charitable Trust
Colin Cabral
Michael Cahalane
Hardy Callcott
Cambridge Savings Charitable Foundation
Sean Capplis
JW Carney Jr
David Carvelli
Charles River Associates
Christina and David Lee Giving Fund
Bobbie Coen
Cogan Family Foundation
Stephen Cohen
Susanna Coit
Sarah Columbia
The Schochet Companies
G.T. Reilly & Company
Conn Kavanaugh Rosenthal Peisch & Ford LLP
Bryan Connor
Cooley LLP
Cosette Fund
Coursey Family Charitable Fund
Covington & Burling LLP
Senator William "Mo" Cowan and Stacy Cowan
Cal Creeden
Cummings Foundation
Deb Curran
Damico Family
Jones Day
Joseph DeBonis
Judith Dein
Dell Technologies
Demeo LLP
Mirna Diaz
DLA Piper
Ryan Dobson
Doniger/Lunt Charitable Gift Fund
Donnelly, Conroy & Gelhaar LLP
James P. Dowden
Emily Duggan
Maria Durant
Jeremy Eisemann
Hannah Esquenazi
EY
Michelle Fentress
Fidelity Investments
Deanna FitzGerald
Stephen Frank
Elizabeth Fraser
Sarah Frazier
Robert Frederickson
Fresh Sound Foundation
Friend Family Fund
Elizabeth Fries
Fuller Portocarrero Family
Mark and Betsy Gabrielson
Thomas Gallitano
Nina Garfinkle
GE Aerospace Foundation
Peter Gelhaar
Liz Georgiopoulos
Ann Gogol
Goodwin Procter LLP
Samantha Gordon
Nathaniel and Joan Gorton
Spencer Gould
Gary Grassey
Greenberg Traurig LLP
Kat Gregor
David Griffin
Lynn Grilli
Rebecca Gross
Margaret Guzman
Kathleen Hamann
Maura Hardiman
Damon Hart
Hinckley, Allen & Snyder LLP
Kady Hodge
Alison Holdway
Holland & Knight LLP
Mary Hurley
Impact Trial Consulting LLC
Incandescent
The Irene E. & George A. Davis Foundation
Margaret Ives
Jeffrey and Lynda Bussgang Family Fund
Giselle Joffre
Brianna Jordan
Tony Jordan
The Kate and Ben Taylor Fund



Gary Katzmann
Angel Kelley
William J. Keyes
Julia Kobick
Mary Koger
Julie Korostoff
Joe Kriesberg
Laird Trial Consulting LLC
Laredo, Smith & Kane LLP
Rebecca Lavernoich
Christina Lee
Thomas Lee
Ryan R. Levering
Peter Levine
Levinson/Lipsitch Fund
Joshua Levy and Rachel Eleanor Rock
Libby Hoopes Brooks & Mulvey, P.C.
Liberty Mutual Insurance
Michael Lindgren
Cheryl Lindsay
Anna Littman-Quinn
Lenore Lobel
Louis Lobel
The Lobel Family Fund
Jeffrey Lowell
Yo-Yo Ma and Jill Horner
Eric Mack
Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP
Will Manzi
Laura Martin
Catherine McCarty
Andrew McConville
Margaret McKenna
Kevin Meagher
Lissy Medvedow
Megan Miller
Patricia Mintz
Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo, P.C.
Cecily Morse
Joseph Mueller
Jillian Mulkern
Cara Murphy
Suma Nair
Alisha Nanda
Melanie Nevin
Moe Nguyen
Nga Nguyen
Ouliana Nikolaeva-Hir
Claire Nivola
Northern Trust
Nutter McClennen & Fish LLP
Brien O'Connor
Kate Oberlies O'Leary
Courtney Paone
Patricia and Douglas Woodlock Charitable Fund
The PDValas Golf Fund
Nina Pickering-Cook
Pierce Atwood LLP
Sam Pietropaolo
The Prado Family Impact Fund
Proskauer Rose LLP
Kevin Prussia
Rachel and Joel Reck Charitable
Tom Rachele
John Rapone
Stefania Raschilla
Daniel Rawner
John and Joan Regan
William Roberts
Ian Rogers
Ropes & Gray LLP
Libby Rosenberry
Sadie Rosethorn
Steven and Susan Maze Rothstein
Jeffrey Sallet
Saul Ewing LLP
Nancy Schieffelin
Charles Schunk
Robert N. Shapiro
Sidley Austin LLP
Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP
William Sinnott
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
Matthew and Shahrzad Slater
Craig Smith
Marla Smith
Becca Solomont
Susan and Alan Solomont
Jonathan Spack
Lo Stark
State Street Foundation
Anne Stemlar
Andrew Stern
Laura Susich
David Susich
Katherine Susich
Emily Sy
Takeda Pharmaceuticals
Indira Talwani
Rebecca Tepper
The TJX Foundation, Inc.
Abim Thomas
Brooke Thompson-Mills
Lara Thyagarajan
Steven Tremblay
Robert Ullmann
Al Uluatam
Akshay Vaishnav
George Varghese
Dorothy Varon
Vimala Veeramachaneni
Vertex Pharmaceuticals
Esther Vinarov
Michael Vitali
Cynthia Vreeland
The W.J. Rachele Charitable Giving Fund
Sarah Walters and Andrew Shimomura
John Ward
Bill Weinreb
Wellington Management Foundation
The Westport Fund
Christine Wichers
Allison Wiese
Daryl Wiesen
Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP
David Wilson
Matt Wilson
Katherine Winter
Matthew Zamaloff
Kristina Zanini
Lauren Zurier