

YOU DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO AN ATTORNEY

The Reality of Justice in America

We've all heard the phrase, "You have the right to an attorney," but did you know that's only true if you're the one accused of a crime? If you're the victim of a crime such as fraud, abuse, exploitation or trafficking, or are trapped in our civil or government justice systems

YOU HAVE THREE OPTIONS:

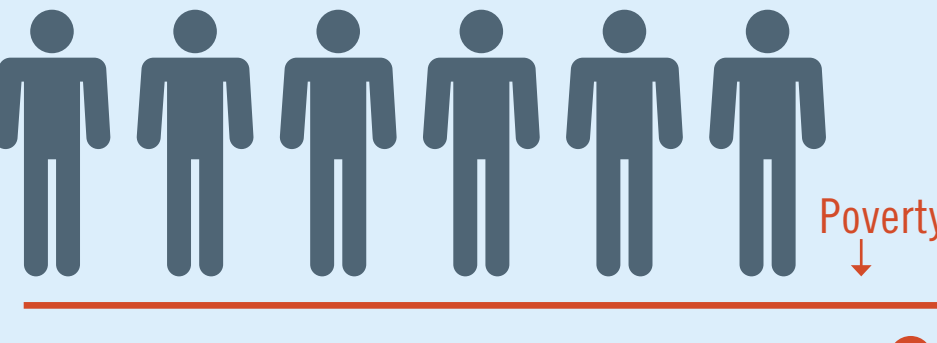


HIRE AN ATTORNEY

Too Expensive



ATTORNEY FEES RANGE FROM \$150 TO \$1,000 per hour, but paying thousands of dollars of legal fees is out of range for many Americans—especially the poor and vulnerable.



1 IN 7 AMERICANS LIVE BELOW THE POVERTY LINE (\$11,170 for individual; \$23,050 for family of four).



1 IN 3 AMERICANS cannot afford to pay for an attorney.

TRY TO GET LEGAL AID

Limited Availability



MORE THAN 60 MILLION AMERICANS (1 IN 5) are eligible for free legal assistance but LESS THAN 20% are able to receive any help.

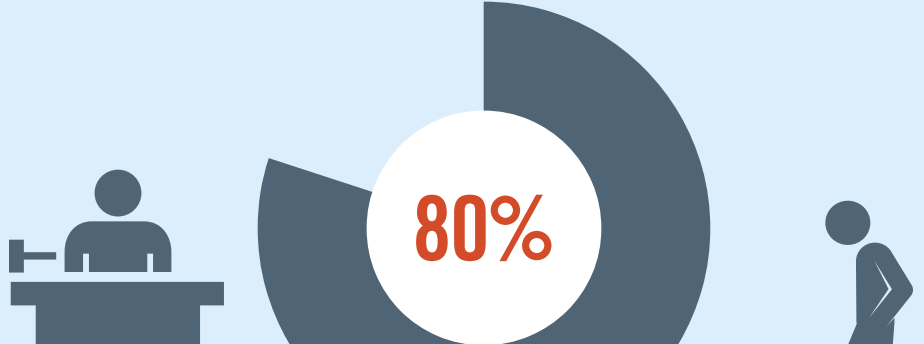


THERE ARE LESS THAN 8,000 legal aid attorneys in the US compared to more than 849,000 private attorneys.

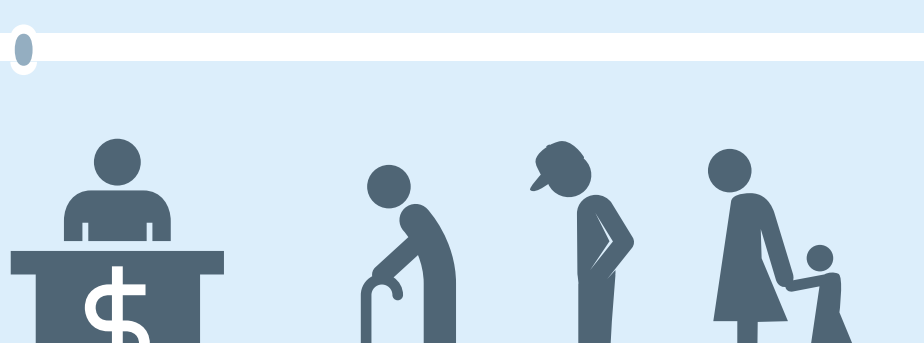
MORE THAN 4,300 PEOPLE are turned away from legal services every working day in the United States.

REPRESENT YOURSELF

Does More Harm Than Good



MORE THAN 80% OF AMERICANS are forced to appear without lawyers in matters as important as evictions, mortgage foreclosures, child custody and child support proceedings, and debt collection cases.

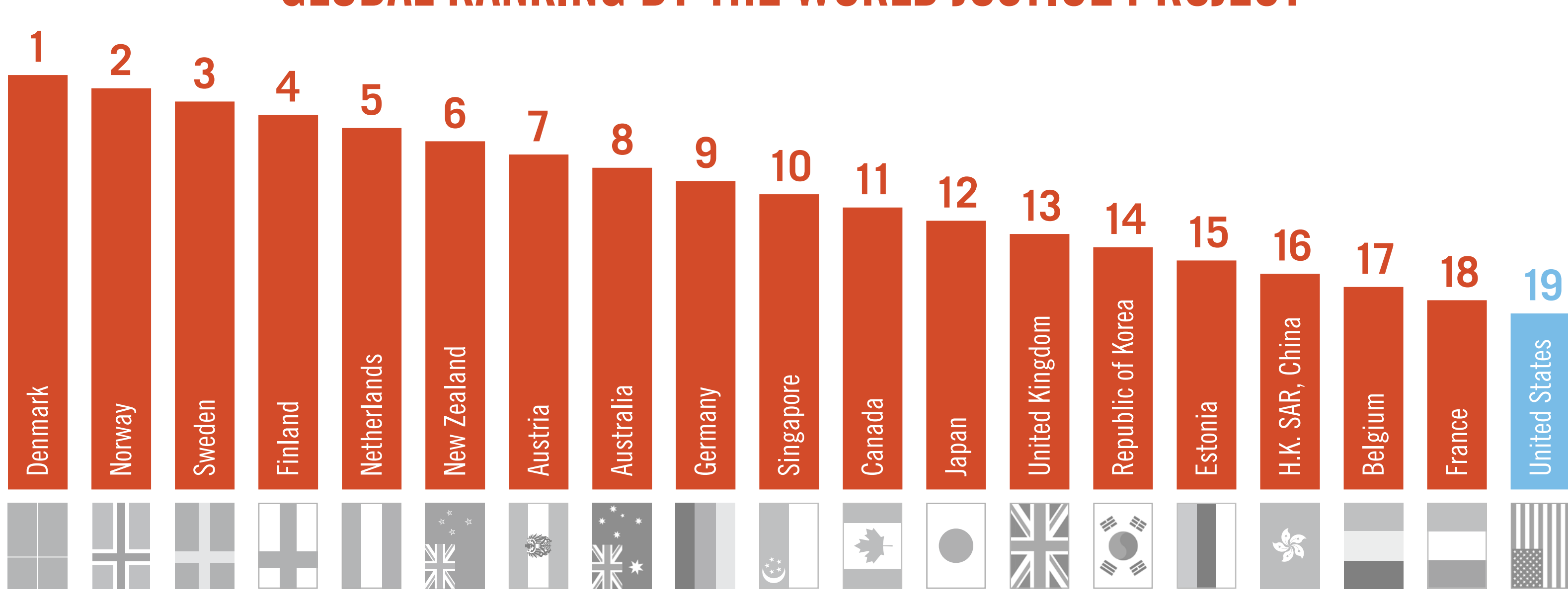


UNREPRESENTED SENIORS, IMMIGRANTS, VETS, MOMS and other vulnerable individuals are routinely victimized through scams, fraud and exploitation as they seek alternative help to legal issues.

LIBERTY & JUSTICE FOR ALL?

Our constitution claims to establish justice. Our courts proclaim equal justice under law. Our country proudly pledges allegiance to the flag, "with liberty and justice for all." But in 2014 the United States ranked near the bottom of developed nations for providing access to justice.

GLOBAL RANKING BY THE WORLD JUSTICE PROJECT



DOES GOD CARE ABOUT JUSTICE?

In the Bible there are more than 2,000 VERSES that address justice and the poor.

"And what does the Lord require of you? To **ACT JUSTLY** and to love mercy..." MICAH 6:8

"The **POOR ARE SHUNNED** even by their neighbors..." PROVERBS 14:20

"For I, the Lord, **LOVE JUSTICE**..." ISAIAH 61:8

"...**SEEK JUSTICE**. Defend the oppressed..." ISAIAH 1:17

"**BUT LET JUSTICE ROLL** on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!" AMOS 5:24

"...**WHY DO YOU MAKE ME LOOK AT INJUSTICE?** Why do you tolerate wrongdoing? ...the law is paralyzed, and justice never prevails. The wicked hem in the righteous, so that **JUSTICE** is perverted." HABAKKUK 1:3-4

"Blessed are those who **ACT JUSTLY**..." PSALM 106:3

"The righteous **CARE ABOUT JUSTICE** for the poor..." PROVERBS 29:7

"**GOOD WILL COME** to those who are generous, who conduct their affairs with **JUSTICE**." PSALM 112:5

"Clouds and thick darkness surround him; **RIGHTEOUSNESS AND JUSTICE** are the foundation of his throne." PSALM 97:2

"So the **POOR HAVE HOPE**, and injustice shuts its mouth." JOB 9:16

"The Lord is a **GOD OF JUSTICE**..." ISAIAH 30:18

"...the Lord **SECURES JUSTICE** for the poor and upholds the cause of the needy." PSALM 140:12

"**DO WHAT IS JUST** and right. Rescue from the hand of the oppressor the one who has been robbed." JEREMIAH 22:3

"**ADMINISTER TRUE JUSTICE**; show mercy and compassion to one another." ZECHARIAH 7:9-10

"I will sing of your love and **JUSTICE**." PSALM 101:1

DEFINITION: JUSTICE (TZEDEK) in the Bible requires generosity (tzedekah) toward the poor and vulnerable so righteousness (also tzedek) is accomplished as legal systems are righted and people are restored. Justice is part of God's character and conduct as He restores all that is broken through the good news of the gospel found in Jesus and the coming Kingdom of justice and righteousness.

IF WE ARE TO FOLLOW JESUS, WE MUST ADMINISTER TRUE JUSTICE

AND THE CHURCH SHOULD LEAD THE WAY.



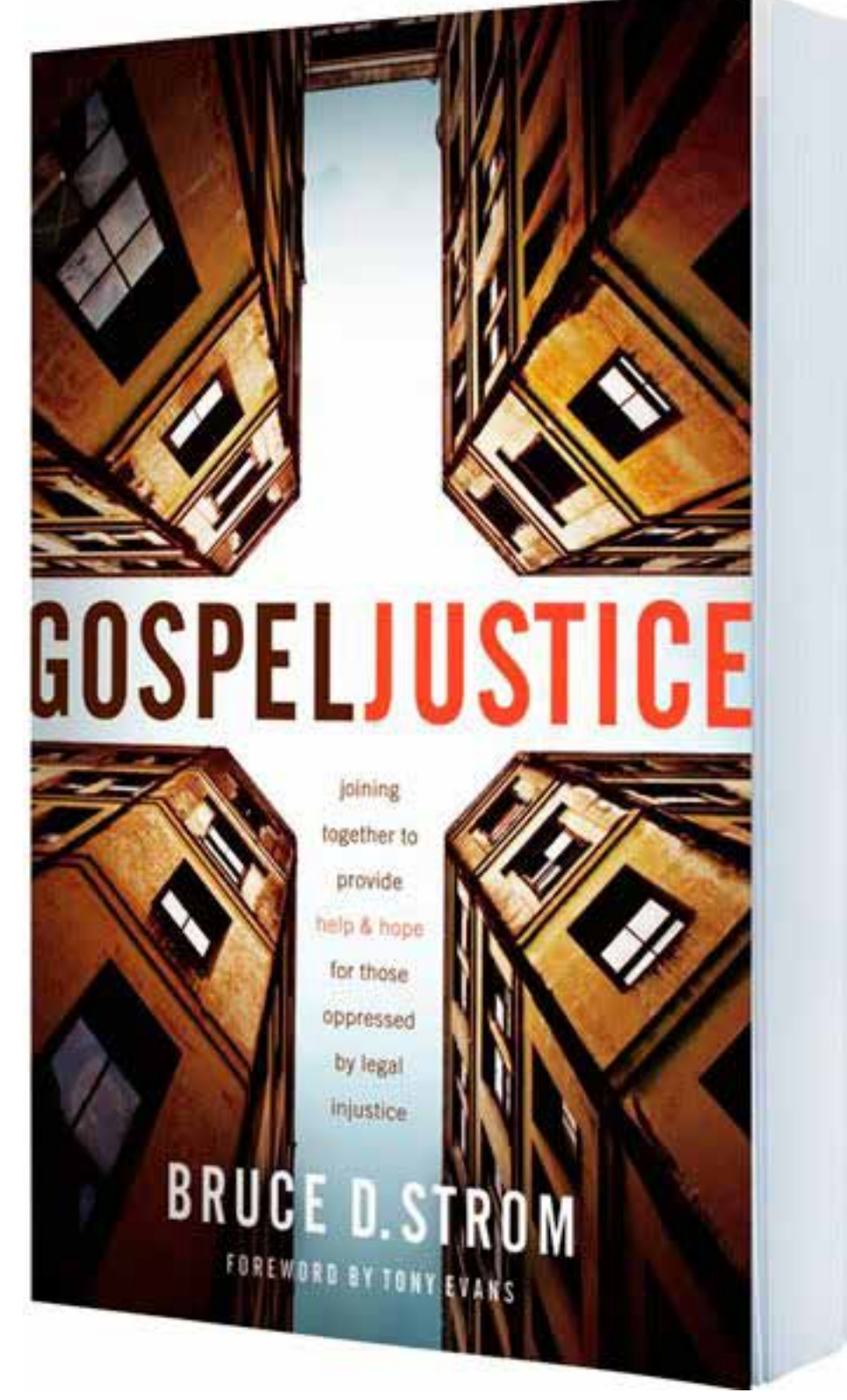
WILMA, A DEAF-MUTE, SUFFERED IN SILENCE. The state took her son, Danny, away. She could not speak for herself, so the state believed her incompetent. For years she sat alone in an institution, clinging to one hope. She clung to a piece of paper in her pocket with the name Danny on it. She clung to the hope of being reunited. Danny was placed in foster care, adopted, and given the name Ken. Ken did not blame his mom for abandoning him, but felt incomplete without her. When he married, she was not there. When his three children were born, she was absent. He continued to hope for restoration. Forty years after the forced separation, Wilma reached into her pocket and pulled out the worn paper with Danny's name. As they embraced, Ken wanted to free his mother and break the chains that kept her from him, but he had no legal basis. Wilma had no assets. Ken and his wife were both in ministry and had no means to hire an attorney to establish guardianship and secure all the legal work to release his mother so they could be restored as a family.

» Read how the story ends in Chapter One, "Lessons from the Good Samaritan."



WHO WILL STAND IN THE GAP ON BEHALF OF RITA? An older Filipino who had come to this country to earn a decent wage and have benefits for her husband, who had several health problems, Rita worked hard at her low-wage job without complaining. Her husband received excellent medical care, but then they started receiving bills they could not pay. They found themselves being sued. Rita had been denied to question authority. She assumed she owed the money, but did not know how she could pay. She came to see Jim, a volunteer financial counselor. Jim prayed with Rita and her husband and helped put them at ease. As he examined the bills, he could find no payments by the insurance company. He examined the pay stubs and found insurance being deducted, so he asked if they knew why the insurance company had not paid. Rita spoke no English. She assumed that when she provided the information to the doctors and hospital, all would be resolved—and that if she received a bill, she owed it. Jim made a call and discovered no insurance premiums had ever been paid. The employer had been keeping the money, assuming an older immigrant who did not speak the language would not do anything.

» Read how the story ends in Chapter Two, "Lessons from the Robbers."



Dare to get engaged in the battle for Gospel Justice

"Don't read this book if you are not willing to ask yourself what Jesus would have you do to further His kingdom."

—Tony Evans, pastor of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship, best-selling author, chaplain of the NBA's Dallas Mavericks

SOURCES: Carmen DeNavas-Walt, Bernadette D. Proctor, and Jessica C. Smith, *U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Reports; Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2009*, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington D.C. 2010.

Documenting the Justice Gap in America: The Current Unmet Civil Legal Needs of Low-Income Americans. Washington, D.C.: Legal Services Corporation, 2007.

The Poverty & Justice Bible: Contemporary English Version. New York: American Bible Society, 1995.

The 2014 World Justice Project Rule of Law Index, <http://www.worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-index>

The Justice Index, <http://www.justiceindex.org/findings/self-represented-litigants>

The American Bar Association Standing Committee on Client Protection