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Our mission statement: *Root & Rebound's mission is to restore power and resources to the families and communities most harmed by mass incarceration through legal advocacy, public education, policy reform and litigation— a model rooted in the needs and expertise of people who are directly impacted.*

Root & Rebound (<https://www.rootandrebound.org/>) is a reentry advocacy organization and 501(c)(3) that works to support individuals impacted by the criminal justice system. Root & Rebound (R&R) began in California and expanded to South Carolina in Summer 2019. We were able to take the three-pronged model of direct legal services, policy, and education and tailor that model to South Carolina's specific needs. We are partnered with **Soteria** (a men's reentry program led by Greenville-native Jerry Blassingame) and the two organizations form what is called the **Second Chance Justice Collaborative (SCJC)**.

The South Carolina R&R office is composed of four attorneys hailing from diverse backgrounds in the criminal justice system.

- **Shirene Hansotia** (shansotia@rootandrebound.org) is the Director of Root & Rebound in South Carolina.
- **Allison Elder** (aelder@rootandrebound.org) is the Legal Director of Root & Rebound in South Carolina.
- **Megan Powell** (mpowell@rootandrebound.org) is a Staff Attorney in the R&R South Carolina office.
- **Kaylie Stapleton** (kstapleton@rootandrebound.org) is a Paralegal and Office Manager of the R&R South Carolina Office.
- **Emily Ledford** (eledford@rootandrebound.org) is a Staff Attorney in the R&R South Carolina Office.

While our offices are physically located in **Greenville** and **Charleston**, we do provide services statewide. Additionally, we host numerous law clerks, interns, and other volunteers.

R&R addresses the criminal justice system with work in the following areas:

- **Public education** – This includes educational opportunities for system-impacted individuals, their families, social service providers, as well as other legal personnel. Additionally, we do offer these opportunities to incarcerated individuals through Reentry Programs and our Reentry Guide publications.
- **Policy** – We promote and support various reforms in the criminal justice system, both legislatively and administratively, by working with lawmakers, government agencies, advocacy groups, and other non-profits with similar missions.
- **Impact litigation** – We track issues that are common among our clients, investigate possible legal avenues and remedies, and if appropriate, file litigation seeking larger-scale effect for system impacted individuals.
- **Direct services** – We define “reentry” broadly and by doing so, we offer pro bono legal support and representation to clients with legal issues directly related to their system involvement, incarceration, reentry, or criminal record.

Issues where we can provide support include, but are not limited to: Driver's license issues, retrieving state ID and other key documents, voting rights, public benefits, housing, employment, court-ordered debt, education, family law issues, parole and probation issues, record cleaning, as well as other barriers that individuals must navigate due to their system involvement. R&R does not handle pending criminal charges or certain fee-generating cases; however, we do provide holistic support to our clients and connect them with resources, such as social service providers. If the client has a matter outside of our priorities, we do provide referrals to other legal-aid organizations, as well as pro bono or low-bono attorneys. We have a few specialized areas of law in which we are seeking to find pro bono legal support including tax, property, and probate matters.

Our services are free, and we do not have income requirements; however, we do focus on the population that is below the federal poverty level or in that in-between area where they are above the poverty guidelines, but still cannot afford private counsel. Additionally, clients may be responsible for court costs and other court-ordered fees, if applicable.

If you are interested in introductions, future partnership opportunities, referring a client, or even volunteering with us, please do not hesitate to contact us:

E-mail hotline: southcarolina@rootandrebond.org

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Best,
Root & Rebound