# EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE

## 2025-26 Annual Report

*Defending Justice For All*

EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE


## Board of Directors

**M. Karen Kilgore,** *President*
**Charles K. Purcell,** *Vice-President*
**Susan Miller,** *Treasurer*

Dan Akenhead
Sonya Bellafant
Edward Hakim Bellamy
Bruce H. Cottrell
The Honorable John A. Dean
Sireesha Manne
Rodolfo D. Sanchez
David J. Stout

## Leadership Committee

Samantha Adams
John Bigelow
Denise Chanez
The Honorable Edward L. Chávez
Brian Colón
Allison Freedman
Kurt Gilbert
Charlie Hughson
Nicholas Mattison
Elicia Montoya
Lauren Riley
Meryl Sutton
Donald Vigil
The Honorable Linda Vanzi

## Staff

**Heather Norfleet**, executive director


As an attorney-led effort, we especially need help from lawyers, bar and legal professional associations, and the entire legal community to increase access to justice for low-income New Mexicans. Thank you for your continued partnership and help in engaging more defenders of justice.

*For more information on how you can be involved, contact us:*
heather@eaj-nm.org, (505) 339-8096, eaj-nm.org

**Cover Artwork**: *Face It*, Lena Ilene Weiss. Featured in Jam for Justice: The Art Show, (Juried Exhibition, 2026)

## Thank you for shining bright for justice.

At Equal Access to Justice, we never lose sight of the people behind the numbers. A senior struggling to remain in their home, a veteran seeking care and stability, or a parent working to protect their family. These are the faces of legal aid, and they are the reason your support matters so much.

This year, your generosity helped raise more than **$500,000** to strengthen civil legal services across New Mexico. Thank you for being part of this remarkable achievement.

EAJ was founded during another challenging time by local attorneys who recognized the profound difference legal aid could make in the lives of vulnerable New Mexicans. They knew they could not solve every problem overnight, but they could take an important step forward. By organizing, pooling resources, and supporting trusted legal aid partners, they created a reliable source of funding for critical services and a beacon of hope for those facing overwhelming obstacles.

That mission remains as important today as it was then.

Like those early supporters, you chose to take action. Your commitment is a spark that joins the light of others and shines bright for justice across our state. Thank you for protecting proven solutions that help people navigate life-changing legal challenges and find a path forward.

Better is always an option. While progress rarely happens all at once, every gift, every act of generosity, and every voice raised in support of legal aid helps move us closer to a more just society.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for standing with our legal aid partners and the families they serve. By standing together, our collective voice is a powerful force for justice, illuminating the way forward for communities across New Mexico.

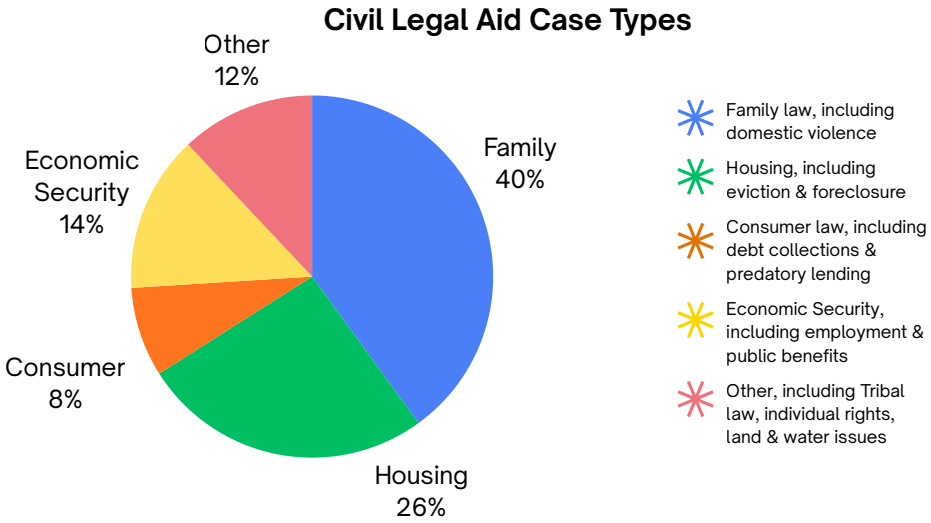
With gratitude,
**M. Karen Kilgore**, President, Board of Directors

# Your Support Makes a Difference!

**Every dollar raised results in *increased, flexible funding* for our legal aid partners.** EAJ's unrestricted, noncompetitive grants provide maximum flexibility to help our partners respond quickly to community needs; eliminate onerous or time-consuming administrative requirements, freeing staff to focus on meaningful legal services; and address gaps in funding.

"Even after the severe trials of 2025, **New Mexico Legal Aid's** commitment to increasing access to justice stands unbroken. We deliver life-changing, free legal help to families who cannot afford representation in civil legal matters. Every day, innocent people face systemic crises: veterans losing their homes, families escaping violence, farmers surviving disasters, and seniors fighting fraud. Together with Equal Access to Justice, our donors, and legal partners, we can continue to tackle skyrocketing demand to protect and preserve our communities." *Sonya Bellafant, executive director*

*Sonya Bellafant, and Hazel, NMLA staff*




*Illustrative. Aggregate of legal aid sources.*

# Your Support Makes a Difference!

"Justice shouldn't depend on where someone lives, what they earn, or the challenges they face. Yet many of the people served by **DNA People's Legal Services** live in remote communities where legal help is difficult to access and the consequences of unresolved legal problems can be devastating. Equal Access to Justice funding makes it possible for DNA to protect housing, secure vital benefits, prevent abuse and exploitation, and strengthen families. Every contribution helps ensure that vulnerable individuals and communities have a voice, an advocate, and a path toward stability and dignity." *Rudy Sanchez, executive director*

*DNA People's Legal Services conducts veteran outreach in rural communities*

"Our legal community has once again shown the deep care, generosity, and commitment that define our state. With your support, the **New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty** is meeting urgent needs and advancing bold advocacy to ensure that everyone has enough to eat, safe and stable housing, affordable healthcare, access to a quality education, and dignity in the workplace. Thank you for making this transformative work possible." *Sireesha Manne, executive director*

*The New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty team*

# CAMPAIGN RESULTS

**$517,969**
Total amount raised to support legal aid in NM

**337**
Defenders of Justice made this possible

**48**
Volunteers who shared their time & talents

**20**
Leadership Firms gave $500 or more per atty

**43%**
of you have consistently given for 10+ years

**65%**
of you gave this year AND last year

*Results for EAJ's 2025-26 Annual Campaign (4/1/25 - 3/31/26.)*

**Your generosity increased our impact in the community!**

Because of your support, we were able to increase our unrestricted gifts to legal aid by **35%** and extend our support to *eight additional* legal aid nonprofits.

Disability Rights New Mexico
DNA People's Legal Services
Enlace Comunitario
Native American Disability Law Center
New Mexico Center on Law & Poverty
New Mexico Immigrant Law Center
New Mexico Legal Aid
Pegasus Legal Services for Children
United South Broadway Corporation
Senior Citizens' Law Office
Southwest Women's Law Center

Collectively, these nonprofits serve *all counties in NM* helping over 400,000 low-income individuals struggling with civil legal issues.

# Leadership Society

Thank you to the many **firms, solo practitioners, organizations & foundations** for their partnership in supporting civil legal services for the most vulnerable in our community.

## **Keystone Society** *(Gifts of $25,000 or more)*

Thomas A. and Mary E. Dugan Foundation
Feferman, Warren & Mattison
Modrall Sperling
Rodey Law
Singleton Schreiber

## **Polaris Society** *(Gifts of $10,000 - 24,999)*

Anonymous
Fidelity Charitable
Martinez, Hart, Sanchez & Romero
McGinn, Montoya, Love, Curry & Sievers
United Way of North Central NM

## **Beacons of Justice** *(Gifts of $5,000 - 9,999)*

Cuddy & McCarthy
Daffy Charitable Fund
Davis Kelin Law Firm
Freedman, Boyd, Hollander & Goldberg
Holland & Hart
LPL Financial
Merrill Lynch
National Financial Services
Parnall Law Firm
Spencer Fane

## **Amicus Curiae** *(Gifts of $1,500 - 4,999)*

Adams + Crow Law Firm
Butt, Thornton & Baehr
Hunt Law Firm
JKW Lawyers
The Jones Firm
Merrion Family Foundation
Pregenzer, Baysinger, Wideman & Sale
Rothstein Donatelli
Saiz, Chanez, Sherrell + Kaemper
Law Offices of Salazar, Sullivan & Jasionowski
SBNM Paralegal Division

*Tiers reflect total giving to EAJ's Annual Campaign received between 4/1/25 - 3/31/26.*

"American democracy depends on people having access to lawyers. There is no cause greater than supporting this access."
*- Roberta Cooper Ramo and Dr. Barry Ramo, Justice Trailblazers*

# Leadership Society

## **Pillars of Justice** (*$1,000 or more per attorney)*

Paul F. Abrams & Associates
Akenhead Law Firm
Davis Kelin Law Firm
Feferman, Warren & Mattison
Freedman, Boyd, Hollander & Goldberg
Holland & Hart
Hunt Law Firm
The Jones Firm
Martinez, Hart, Sanchez & Romero
McGinn, Montoya, Love, Curry & Sievers
Law Office of Feliz A. Rael
Law Office of James B. Ragan
Rodey Law
Singleton Schreiber

## **Guardians of Justice** (*$500 - 999 per attorney)*

Cruz Law Office
McConnell Law Office
Modrall Sperling
John B. Pound LLC *
Law Offices of Salazar, Sullivan & Jasionowski
Ben Sherman Law

* Monthly Giving Circle

## Bringing Legal Services to Rural Communities

DNA People's Legal Services and New Mexico Legal Aid operate **Mobile Intake and Outreach Vehicles**. These are key to bringing legal services directly to areas impacted by natural disasters and rural communities, where transportation and local services are limited.

# Leadership Society

Thank you for your partnership in supporting civil legal services for the most vulnerable in our community.

## **Champions for Justice** *($250-499 per attorney)*

Alan C. Torgerson LLC
Aubrey Law Firm
Cuddy & McCarthy
Hudson Injury Law *
Jarner Law Office
Eileen R. Mandell Attorney at Law
Parnall Law Firm
Pregenzer, Baysinger, Wideman & Sale
Saiz, Chanez, Sherrell + Kaemper
Spencer Fane
Treinen Law Office

## **Advocates for Justice** *($100-249 per attorney)*

Adams + Crow Law Firm
Butt, Thornton & Baehr
Chavez Law Office
Chestnut Law Offices
Crotalus Law
Mike Gallegos Attorney
Myers, McCready & Myers
Rothstein Donatelli

## **Friends of Justice** *($25-99 per attorney)*

Aldridge, Actkinson & Rutter
JKW Lawyers
Natelson Law Firm

* Monthly Giving Circle

*Tiers reflect per attorney amount given to EAJ's Annual Campaign (4/1/25 - 3/31/26)*

"Rodey is proud to continue its support of Equal Access to Justice. Our attorneys have long been committed to expanding access to justice through pro bono service and advocacy for underserved communities, including those experiencing poverty, homelessness, and Indigenous populations. We also believe firms like ours have a responsibility to financially support organizations such as EAJ that work every day to ensure the law serves everyone, not just the wealthy and privileged. We hope our participation encourages others to join the effort to make equality before the law a reality in New Mexico."

*- Linda M. Vanzi, Rodey Law*

# Defenders of Justice

Thank you to the following individuals for their generosity and steadfast commitment to increasing access to justice for all. Special recognition to our *Justice Society* members and *Justice Trailblazers.*

## *Gifts of $10,000 or more*

John Bigelow ∞
Julio C. Romero ❦
Kelly Stout Sanchez ❦
Bruce Thompson & Kelly Smyer

## *Gifts of $5,000 - 9,999*

Paul F. Abrams ∞
Mary Metzgar
Edward R. Ricco & Mary Ann Sweeney ∞
The Saint John Fund
Patricia & Luis Stelzner

## *Gifts of $2,000-4,999*

Anonymous
Mary Ann & Gary F. Brownell
Bruce H. Cottrell *
Jane & Norm Gagne ∞
M. Karen Kilgore *
Earl Mettler & Elizabeth E. Simpson Revocable Trust
Richard C. Minzner & Sabieann Baca Minzner ∞
Charles & Peg Moore
Ted Occhialino
The Honorable & Mrs. Richard E. Ransom
The Honorable Linda Vanzi
Jana L. Walker

## *Gifts of $1,000-1,999*

Anonymous
Dan A. Akenhead
John Arango ∞
Alex D. Beach
Bidtah Becker & Paul Spruhan
Thomas F. Blueher
Jason M. Burnette
The Honorable Michael D. Bustamante
Stuart R. Butzier
Fletcher R. Catron
The Honorable Edward L. Chávez *

* Monthly Giving Circle
❦ Justice Society (multi-year gifts of $30,000+)
∞ Justice Trailblazers (lifetime giving exceeds $30,000)

"Justice should be as accessible to the poor as it is to the wealthy; we hope our contribution will help further that ideal."
*- Jane and Norm Gagne, Justice Trailblazers*

# Defenders of Justice

### *Gifts of $1,000-1,999 (continued)*

Briggs & Susan Cheney
William R. Keleher
Peter David Laun
Stephen T. LeCuyer & Joan O'Connell
Mary Malwitz & David J. Stout
Nathalie & Stewart Martin
Karen J. Meyers
Susan Miller
Elicia Montoya & Kurt Gilbert
Carlos Obrey-Espinoza
Clifton B. Perry
The Honorable Lynn Pickard
Philips Family
Kip Purcell & Georgia Will ∞
Roberta Cooper Ramo & Dr. Barry Ramo ∞
The Maureen Sanders Charitable Fund
Slater-Roessel Family Fund
Paula Tackett
The Honorable William G. Tallman

### *Gifts of $500-999*

Anonymous (6)
The Honorable Henry A. Alaniz
The Honorable Theodore C. Baca & Julie M. Baca
Stuart M. Bluestone
The Honorable Kristina Bogardus
Sarah M. Bradley
The Honorable Beatrice J. Brickhouse
Michael B. Browde & Ruth Singer
Amy L. Brown & Lisa White *
Cathryn Brown
Ellen M. Castille
The Honorable Gail Chasey
Michael Joseph Condon
Michelle & Jeffrey M. Croasdell
The Honorable John A. Dean & Gayle Dean *
Barbara & Douglas Decker
Jerry & Susan Dickinson
Gretchen Elsner
David & Marsha Freedman
Samuel M. Freund
Caren I. Friedman
Paul G. Fyfe & Mary F. Chavez
Maria & William Geer
Stacey J. Goodwin *
Alicia L. Gutierrez
Marianne & Dennis Hill
Christopher A. Holland

* *Monthly Giving Circle*

"Access to justice within the legal system sits squarely at the center of democracy. Equal Access to Justice does a tremendous job maximizing the impact of resources that provide access for individuals in the margins who have limited resources. Singleton Schreiber believes it has a duty to center those individuals so they can enjoy client centered justice. It is an honor to ask our peers to join us in this investment that pays dividends for democracy, justice, and a brighter future for all New Mexicans."
*- Brian S. Colón, Singleton Schreiber*

# Defenders of Justice

Thank you for shining bright for justice! Your generosity provides life-changing civil legal services for the most vulnerable in our community.

## *Gifts of $500-999 (continued)*

Charlotte Itoh & Jeffrey Hoehn
Whitney Johnson
Charlotte Rich Joseph *
Peggy & Michael L. Keleher
Dr. Gary K. King
Jim Ludwick & Lu Lu Sage
Charlotte & James Martin
Carlos Martinez & Olivia Natale
Gaelle D. McConnell
Mixcoatl Miera-Rosete
Thomas W. Olson
The Honorable Lisa Chavez Ortega *
Felicia L. Orth
Carol M. Parker
Pablo Prando
Louis W. Rose
Robert E. Sabin
John & Terri Salazar
Justin R. Sawyer
The Honorable Rebecca Sitterly *
Michael Stout & Marci Beyer
Risa Taylor
Robert Tinnin
The Honorable Barbara J. Vigil
The Honorable Michael E. Vigil
Donald D. Vigil
Lena Ilene Weiss
Jacqueline Woodcock

## *Gifts of $350-499*

Anonymous (2)
Kathryn Suzanne Becker *
Sarah E. Bennett
Stanley I. Betzer
William R. Brancard
Bruce & Mary Keleher Castle
George Chandler
Denise M. Chanez
Travis & Kathleen Collier
Douglas P. Cordova
Stephen P. Curtice
Anne & Robert Desiderio
Allison Freedman
Seth V. Grant *
Bruce & Patricia Hall

* *Monthly Giving Circle*

*Aja Brooks, Statewide Rural Justice Program Coordinator for NM Administrative Office of the Courts*

## *Inspiring tomorrow's leaders*

Equal Access to Justice and APIL co-hosted their annual panel discussion at UNM School of Law. Keynote speaker, Aja Brooks, and invited panelists discussed the importance and impact of providing civil legal services to underserved communities. Law students engaged in a Q&A and learned about summer fellowships, pro bono opportunities, and other ways to get involved.

# Jam for Justice

Equal Access to Justice held its second annual battle-of-the-bands benefit concert featuring four bands – all with ties to New Mexico's legal community. Everyone enjoyed jamming out to live music, taking in the art, and helping raise critical funds for legal aid. *A special thank you to all the bands, special guest, Kip Purcell, & emcee Hakim Bellamy*!

*Photos by Rad5 Media. View more at eaj-nm.org/jam-for-justice*

## Thank you, Jam for Justice musicians!

***El Camino Canta***
*Robert Lucero*
*Sheila Rivas*
*Dianna Fernandez*
*Rafael Herrera*
*Andres Archuleta*
*Daniel Martinez*
*Selina Fernandea*

***Controlled Burn***
*Ben Baur*
*Mark Komer*
*Brian Fitzgerald*
*Pete White*

***Dynette Marie & Friends***
*Dynette Marie Palomares*
*Darren Lee Cordova*
*Fernando Palomares*
*Ryan Cordova*
*Russel Romero*

***Flashback Prophets***
*Dennis Ritschel*
*Gregory Vaughn*
*Frank Lampe*
*Rick Cormier*
*Julia Spinelli*

*To learn more about sponsoring or participating in Jam for Justice (March 2027) , contact heather@eaj-nm.org*

# Tribute Gifts

## *In Memory of :*

***Arthur Beach***
Alex D. Beach

***Robert "Bob" D. Castille***
Ellen Castille

***Maria S. Chavez***
Gonzalo Chavez

***Aris DeTorres***
Natalie and Steward Martin

***Byron Julius Fodor***
Leigh Anne Chavez

***Carolyn Glick & David M. Martin***
James & Charlotte Martin

***Patrick H. Kennedy, Esq.***
Nicholas Gentry

***Bernie Metzgar***
Mary Metzgar

***Kim Posich***
Stacey Leaman

***The Honorable Ernesto J. Romero***
The Honorable Ted Kase

***Robert St. John***
Scottie Gissel

***The Honorable Sarah M. Singleton***
Anonymous

***Thomas W. Sollack, Jr.***
Hester Brown

***Paul Steiner***
Vickie Gabin

***Mark W. Taylor***
Gonzalo Chavez

***Robert P. Tinnin***
Janice Bandrofchak
Elizabeth P. Madden

## *In Honor of :*

**Walter Bellamy**
Hakim Bellamy

***Stuart Bluestone***
Paul F. Abrams

***The Honorable Santiago E. Campos***
Anonymous

***The Honorable Edward L. Chávez***
Bruce Thompson & Kelly Smyer
Mary H. Smith

***Rosalie Chavez***
Jana Walker

***Amy J. Diaz, JD***
Susan Diaz

***Bill Dixon***
Bruce & Patricia Hall

***William B. Keleher***
William R. Keleher

***The Honorable Patricia A. Madrid and Michael Messina***
Stuart Bluestone

***Ed Marks***
Paul F. Abrams

***Steve Tinkler***
William Slattery

***Young Lawyers Division (State Bar of New Mexico)***
Jacques Chouinard

# Defenders of Justice

Thank you for shining bright for justice! Your generosity provides life-changing civil legal services for the most vulnerable in our community.

## *Gifts of $350-499 (continued)*

Rachel E. Higgins
Corbin P. Hildebrandt
The Honorable Valerie A. Huling
Ed Marks
David B. Martinez
The Honorable Francis J. Mathew
The Honorable Cecelia M. Niemczyk
Heather Norfleet & Andrew Mayer *
Debora E. Ramirez
Joseph Newton Riggs
Rachel & Julio Rodriguez *
Leo M. Romero
Jennifer Salazar
Tanya L. Scott
Mary H. Smith
M. Eliza Stewart
Joseph P. Walsh *
Deborah K. Woitte
Daniel Yohalem

## *Gifts of $150-349*

Anonymous (8)
Ludmila Bakhireva
Janice Bandrofchak & James Sharp
Edward Hakim Bellamy
Deborah Bentley
Paul L. Biderman
Bonnie Bishop
Cynthia L. Blackwell
Rosalie Chavez
Leigh Anne Chavez *
Anthony Couture
Martha A. Daly
Larry M. Dreyfus
George Gary Duncan
Judith M. Espinosa
Steven G. Farber

* *Monthly Giving Circle*

## Law Student Fellowship Funded by EAJ

*APIL/Othmer Awards Fellowship Recipient*

"I am a New Mexico–born law student committed to a career in public interest law serving the communities that shaped me. This summer, I am working at New Mexico Legal Aid's tax and housing clinics, helping low-income New Mexicans navigate IRS disputes and avoid eviction. This funding allows me to fully dedicate myself to this work without financial pressures limiting the time clients deserve. My goal is to return to NMLA as a staff attorney after law school." - *Noah Passaris. J.D. Candidate, class of 2028*

*"Public interest law is not a detour, it is the work that matters most, and New Mexico is where I will do it."*

# Defenders of Justice

Thank you for shining bright for justice! Your generosity provides life-changing civil legal services for the most vulnerable in our community.

## *Gifts of $150-349 (continued)*

Mariana G. Geer
Scottie Gissel
Julia Guarino
Ellen & Bruce Herr
Jonathan & Ellin Hewes
Gregory Ireland
Mark S. Jaffe & Sandy Henderson
The Honorable Ted Kase
Greta & Thomas Keleher
Christina Chavez Kelley
Ellen Rhona Kemper
Stacey Leaman
Cynthia & Nathan Mann
Ellen T. Louderbough
Cynthia & Nathan Mann
Karen S. Mendenhall
Jennifer Moore
The Honorable Nan G. Nash *
The Honorable John F. Robbenhaar
David & Geraldine Salazar
Andrew Schultz
Edward Shepherd
Phyllis Subin
Corliss Thalley
Krystle A. Thomas
Marit Tully & Andy Thomas
Brian Van Denzen
The Honorable James J. Wechsler
Peter D. White
Kathryn M. Wissel
Christopher D. Woodward
Shelby Yingling
Judith Zabel

## *Gifts of $10-149*

Anonymous (6)
Mar-y-Sol Anay
Svitlana Anderson
David A. Baca
Dan Badgley
Laura Balombini
Dr. Stefanie Beninato
Allison H. Block-Chavez
Kenneth Henry Bobroff
Janet Bothne
Aja Brooks & Johnn Osborn
Hester Brown

* *Monthly Giving Circle*

"As a state employee my monthly gift allows me to satisfy my aspirational pro bono requirements but also to satisfy my need to contribute to the good work that Equal Access to Justice does. Being a monthly donor makes charitable giving both manageable as a state employee and worthwhile as a caring person to support the quality work, access, and justice EAJ provides."
*- Kathryn S. Becker*

# Jam for Justice: The Art Show

This year's Jam for Justice featured an exciting new addition: EAJ's first juried art exhibition! Over 25 artists, with ties to New Mexico's legal community, participated sharing talents that extend beyond the courtroom. Hosted at FUSION | 708, the month-long exhibit opened with a special reception and original artwork for sale, with a portion of proceeds supporting EAJ's mission.

**Thank you, Jam for Justice artists!**

Dan Badgley
Mila Bakhirev
Laura Balombini
Deborah Bentley
Janet Bothne
Anthony Couture
Emma D'Angelico
Norm Gagne
Cynthia Kolson
Richard Marquez
Carlos Martinez
Julia McFall
Jonathan Miller
Dan Noyes
Maureen Polikoff
Verenice Peregrino Pompa
Debora Ratliff
Vivienne Riggio
Joseph Riggs
Bill Sabatini
Bob Santandrea
Gale Sutton
Meryl Sutton
Risa Taylor
Shawn Turung
Don Vigil
Lena Ilene Weiss
Shelby Yingling
Judith Zabel

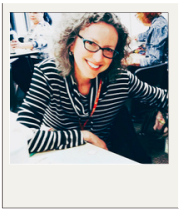
*Interested in being part of next year's juried art show?*
*Contact: heather@eaj-nm.org.*

# Defenders of Justice

Thank you for shining bright for justice! Your generosity provides life-changing civil legal services for the most vulnerable in our community.

## *Gifts of $10-149 (continued)*

Jessie Calero
Dennis J. Candelaria
Jacques Chouinard
Emma D'Angelico
Hugh W. Dangler
Susan Diaz
Deborah & Gerald Dixon
David Estes
Charles N. Estes
Carol and Mark Fidel
Cassie M. Fleming
Nicholas R. Gentry
James Edward Harrington
Kelly Hogeland
Ken Hughes
Sireesha Manne & Pavan Kalasikam
Jeffrey H. Kauffman
David M. Kaufman
Mari S. Kempton
Gary R Kilpatric
Cynthia Kolson
Jane R. Laflin
Anita Letter
Michael W. Lilley
Richard Marquez
Serge Martinez
Charles McCormack & Sally Bergen



## *Many thanks to our Monthly Giving Circle Members*

Monthly Giving Circle members support Equal Access to Justice through automatic, recurring gifts. Thank you for your reliable, steady stream of support, which sustains our work year-round!

Join this great group and help *expand* our circle. *To better support legal aid, we need a deeper bench for the season ahead!*

# Defenders of Justice

Thank you for shining bright for justice! Your generosity provides life-changing civil legal services for the most vulnerable in our community.

### *Gifts of $10-149 (continued)*

Julia McFall
Donald Meaders
Paige Menking
Astarte Moreno
Joseph Morris
Stephen Natelson
Dan Noyes
Sigrid Olson
Dorothy Onikute
Honorable Leonard J. Padilla
Verenice Peregrino Pompa
Maureen Polikoff
Rada Potts
Debora Ratliff
Vivienne Riggio
Dennis P. Ritschel
Bill Sabatini
Rodolfo Sanchez
Robert and Betty Santandrea
William Slattery
Honorable Leslie C. Smith
Edna Frances Sprague
Arlene Strumor
Grace Su
Meryl Sutton
Gale Sutton
Allison Tanton
Shawn Turung
Gloria Valencia-Weber & Robert J. Weber
Honorable Virginia Vigil
Tiffany Wang
Karen and Richard Weiner
Celia Yapita
Hessel Yntema and Patricia Contreras Yntema

## Your generosity increases our impact in the community!

Volunteer Attorney Program of New Mexico Legal Aid

New Mexico Legal Aid's **Volunteer Attorney Program** connects private attorneys with low-income individuals in need of civil legal help. Through pro bono representation, clinics, and outreach across the state, volunteers assist with issues like housing, family law, and consumer protection. To support volunteer attorneys, VAP offers free CLE's, and maintains a web-based resource portal with practice-area materials and CLE recordings.

# So Many Ways to Give

## Monthly Giving Circle

Make a difference all year long. By setting up a recurring, monthly gift, you provide steady support that helps sustain our work and expand access to justice every day. It's simple, convenient, and easy to fit into your budget.

## Workplace Giving

Workplace giving is an easy way to support Equal Access to Justice throughout the year. Whether you contribute through a United Way campaign or recurring payroll deductions, your ongoing support helps sustain our mission. *Many employers will match your charitable gifts!*

## Multi-year Gifts & Grants

Join other like-minded visionaries with your powerful pledge for justice today! Your reliable, transformative gift will sustain our work, build capacity, and fund greater solutions.

**Justice Society**
$30,000 or more *(Multi-year intention: $10,000+/year)*

**All Rise Society**
$15,000 - $24,999 *(Multi-year intention: $5,000+/year)*

**The Fair Shake Society**
$7,500 - $14,999 *(Multi-year intention: $2,500+/year)*

*For more information on recurring and multi-year gifts, please contact Heather Norfleet at (505) 399-8096,*

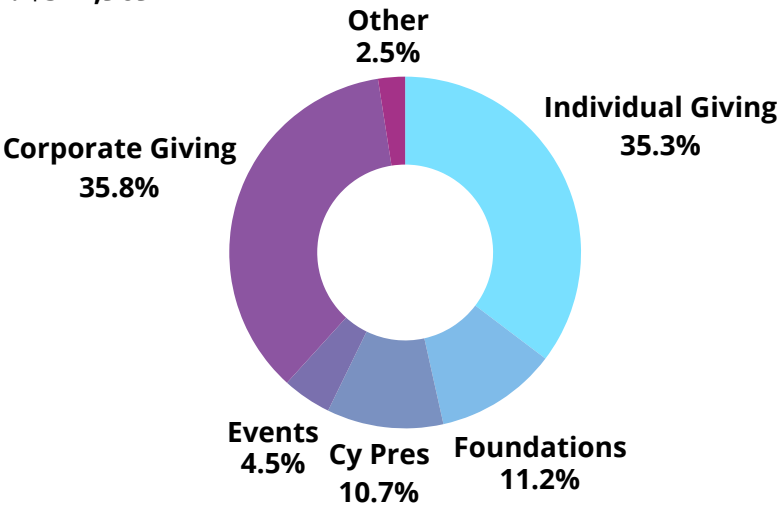
"Our path towards equality must be guided first and foremost through empathy and kindness. These are core principles for Equal Access to Justice's mission. Their unwavering efforts for our most in need and underprivileged within our community inspire us to stand with them now more than ever."
*- Julio C. Romero | Kelly Stout Sanchez, Justice Society Members*

# Financial Overview

For Fiscal Year April 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026

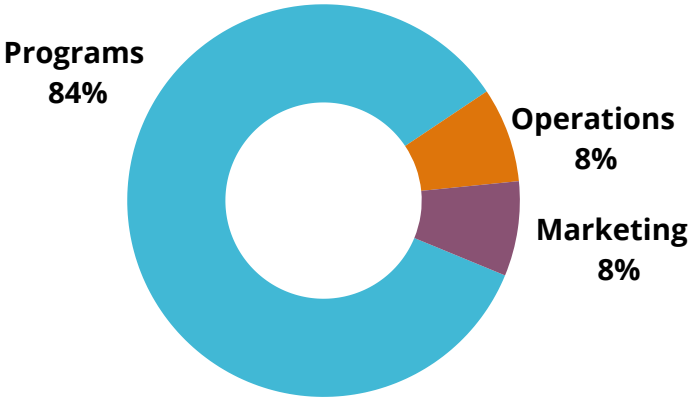
## REVENUE

**Total: $517,969**




## EXPENSES

**Total: $412,371**




*Funds raised in FY 2025-26 lead to grants made in the next fiscal year.*
*View 990s and previous annual reports:* ***eaj-nm.org***

# So Many Ways to Give

## Donor Advised Funds

Increase your impact by recommending a grant to Equal Access to Justice today. Our tax ID# is 85-0437183.

## Retirement Account Gifts

If you are age 70½ or older, you may be able to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) directly from your IRA to support Equal Access to Justice. A QCD can provide tax advantages and, for eligible donors, may help satisfy all or part of your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). *Please consult your tax advisor for details.*

## Leadership Society

Firms, organizations & foundations come together annually to support civil legal services for low-income New Mexicans. *Be a forward thinking, inspirational leader with a* ***Keystone Society*** *($25,000+) or* ***Polaris Society*** *($10,000+) gift!*

## Grow our circle of supporters:

- Host a gathering at your home or place of business
- Inspire others with a Matching Gift Challenge
- Be creative!

## Estate Gifts

Include Equal Access to Justice in your estate plan and leave a legacy of justice! *If you are planning a gift to EAJ in your estate plan and would like to be recognized please contact: heather@eaj-nm.org*

Thank you, **Feferman, Warren & Mattison,** for directing *cy pres* funds to Equal Access to Justice!

*Cy pres* awards play a vital role in ensuring meaningful access to justice for low-income New Mexicans. *If you are involved in a class action case, please consider designating EAJ as a cy pres recipient for any undistributed funds.*

*In Photo: Rick Feferman, Susan Warren and Nick Mattison*

**Expanding resources and advocacy for New Mexico's legal aid programs is a collective effort.** Equal Access to Justice values and recognizes our partners in this critical work: New Mexico Access to Justice Commission, New Mexico State Bar and Foundation, the New Mexico Civil Legal Services Commission, policymaker champions, Volunteer Attorney Program, all the legal services providers, **and you!**

**Backcover Artwork**: *Candy Colored Pueblo*, Don Vigil. Featured in Jam for Justice: The Art Show, (Juried Exhibition, 2026)

**Equal Access to Justice**
www.eaj-nm.org
505-339-8096
PO Box 25941, Albuquerque, NM 87125
EIN (tax ID number): 85-0437183

*Every effort is made to accurately reflect your support. If you find an error, please contact Heather Norfleet at (505) 339-8096 or heather@eaj-nm.org*