EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Double Down on Justice

Dear Defender of Justice,

As a child and young adult, I should have fallen through the cracks. I have strong memories of programs like food stamps and Section 8 Housing, which translated to survival for my parents, my siblings, and me. These very real experiences from my childhood inform my perspective on the world today.

My father passed away at the young age of 49 when I was just a teenager. From that moment on, I didn't have a single family member in New Mexico. I should have fallen through the cracks because I was very literally "on my own." There were highs and lows, but at one point my car was repossessed, I was no longer able to stay in the apartment I was renting and was forced to take everything I owned and place it in a black plastic trash bag. I was then forced to lean on my community, non-profit organizations provided support and friends allowed me to sleep on their coaches until I wore out my welcome in each home.

By the numbers, I should have fallen through the cracks and would have taken a very dark road ahead. But—**community saved me**. Ultimately, I was able to live my father's dream and become the first in my family to graduate from college and go on to law school.

I share my story with you *because the lens we look through matters*. For me, and my colleagues at Singleton Schreiber—our lens is grounded in empathy

and an informed perspective of what it means to be in the margins. When you grow up understanding what it feels like to be on the edge and then have the opportunity to become an attorney and advocate for others facing similar challenges, there's nothing more rewarding.

This motivates and drives me every day. Which is why I'm so proud to share with you that Singleton Schreiber New Mexico will once again provide a **$25,000 Matching Challenge Grant for Equal Access to Justice**. Every gift made by December 11th *will be matched dollar-for-dollar*, doubling your impact for New Mexicans and making sure no one falls through the cracks.

For more than three decades, I have dedicated my career to law and public service because, like you, I believe justice should be accessible to everyone. Whether serving as New Mexico's State Auditor or advocating for clients today as Managing Partner of Singleton Schreiber New Mexico, I have seen firsthand how profoundly *legal representation can change the course of a person's life.*

That belief is deeply personal to me. Throughout my career, I have met New Mexicans who work hard, raise families, serve their communities, and do everything right, yet found themselves facing legal crises they could not navigate alone. Too often, the difference between stability and hardship is having a lawyer in your corner. When people cannot afford legal help, rights that exist on paper become impossible to exercise in reality.

That is why I am proud to support Equal Access to Justice and serve on their Leadership Committee. Every day, vulnerable New Mexicans face challenges that threaten their homes, livelihoods, health, and futures. A

senior may be denied critical benefits. A veteran may struggle to obtain the support they earned through service. A worker may have wages withheld. A family may face an unlawful eviction with nowhere else to turn. In moments like these, legal aid can be life-changing.

Thanks to supporters like you, Equal Access to Justice helps fund *New Mexico Legal Aid, DNA People's Legal Services, the New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty, and other statewide legal aid nonprofits*, **ensuring that low-income New Mexicans have access to skilled legal advocates** when they need them most. These services do more than resolve legal problems. They help keep families housed, protect income and benefits, preserve safety, and create pathways to greater stability and opportunity.

For the past four years, Singleton Schreiber has proudly supported Equal Access to Justice, who does a tremendous job of *maximizing every dollar for people living on the margins.* Our firm believes we have a duty to center those New Mexicans so they can have a lawyer in their corner. I hope you will join us in this effort and give generously today.

As attorneys, we understand that even the strongest case means little if someone cannot get through the courthouse door. We also know that a lawyer's advocacy can mean the difference between keeping a home and losing one, between obtaining benefits and going without, between hope and uncertainty.

So today I am asking you, as a colleague, to **double down on justice with a gift of $500, $1,000, or maybe even $2,500 today**. It is an honor to ask

my peers to join me in this investment, because it pays dividends for democracy, for justice, and for a brighter future for all New Mexicans.

With gratitude and in service,



Brian S. Colón

Managing Partner, Singleton Schreiber New Mexico
Leadership Committee, Equal Access to Justice

P.S. *Your gift goes **2x** as far when you give by **December 11th**. Every dollar is matched, up to $25,000, by the team at Singleton Schreiber New Mexico.*

P.S.S. *Thank you for stepping up and making sure no one falls through the cracks!*