

EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE



2023-24 Annual Report

Defending Justice For All



Equal Access to Justice's mission is to increase access to justice. Our work helps ensure that New Mexicans are not denied justice due to an inability to afford it.

www.eaj-nm.org

Board of Directors

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Heather Norfleet

Expanding resources and advocacy for New Mexico's legal aid programs is a collective effort. EAJ 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!

Defending Justice For All

**Thank you for being an important part
of defending justice in New Mexico *for all*,
not just for those who can afford it.**

Dear **Defender of Justice**,

Simple acts inspire great change.

Thank you for your solidarity this year and extending the reach of justice in our community. By embracing Equal Access to Justice's Annual Campaign, you sent ripples of opportunity to every corner and county in New Mexico!

You didn't think twice; just stepped up and did your part. Your sense of fairness and generosity *helped us raise over \$410,000* to better support our civil legal aid partners. This provides much-needed resources for New Mexico Legal Aid, DNA People's Legal Services, and the New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty, helping them play an even greater role in the community's solutions to systemic poverty.

You know that access to legal aid is life changing. *It can tip the scales between shelter and homelessness, safety and danger, and economic security and poverty.* And, you know that financial resources are needed to help expand access to these life-changing solutions.

Thank you for your gifts to Equal Access to Justice which result in no-strings-attached funding for our legal aid partners. Your simple act of generosity helps combat homelessness among veterans, ensures safe working conditions, and helps natural disaster survivors get back up on their feet.

Thank you for being a catalyst for change by simply doing what comes naturally. Thank you for giving back to our community, upholding everyone's right to justice, and sending more ripples of opportunity out into New Mexico.



M. Karen Kilgore
President



Heather Norfleet
Executive Director

Your Support Makes a Difference!

Every day, our partner organizations provide vital support to New Mexicans facing a variety of legal challenges. They go beyond legal assistance and representation by actively engaging in the community through training sessions, free legal clinics, and pro bono programs. They also create and distribute educational materials, serving as invaluable resources for groups and organizations across the state, ensuring everyone has access to justice and legal support.

"New Mexico Legal Aid stands alongside survivors of domestic violence, families facing homelessness, individuals burdened by predatory loans, and countless others grappling with critical legal challenges. The support we receive from Equal Access to Justice is vital, enabling us to provide essential services to low-income New Mexicans and expanding our reach to address the growing needs across the state. Together, we are making a profound impact on the lives of those who need it most."



Sonya Bellafant, executive director, New Mexico Legal Aid

Law Student Scholarship Funded by EAJ!

"I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for the **2024 Craig Othmer Scholarship Award** that I was fortunate to receive. I am incredibly thankful for the generous support you have provided me in pursuing my aspirations and commitment to serving the social and economic needs of New Mexico, particularly among marginalized populations." - *Alicia LaRaé Ulibarri, JD Candidate, UNM School of Law, Summer Fellowship at Southwest Women's Law Center*

Your Support Makes a Difference!

"The New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty is honored to receive this incredible support from the legal community. This funding will accelerate bold work ahead and ensure our families have access to food, housing, healthcare, education and legal services. While the barriers we are fighting to dismantle are significant, our efforts have shown that change is possible when we work together unwaveringly to pursue rights, dignity and justice with our communities. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this year's outstanding Equal Access to Justice campaign!"



The New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty Team in front of their office

"DNA People's Legal Services' service area is extremely large, rural, and remote, with a shortage of legal professionals; a lack of basic infrastructure, such as water, electricity, and internet or phone service; and language and cultural barriers that make it difficult to provide services. Within this service area live a high proportion of working poor, elderly, disabled, Native Americans, persons of color, and other marginalized communities, who struggle each day just to survive. DNA uses Equal Access to Justice funding to help people live safe, healthy, stable lives by preventing the wrongful denial of health and financial benefits; stopping unlawful evictions, repossessions, and financial abuse; and preventing mental and physical abuse."



*Rudy Sanchez,
executive director,
DNA People's
Legal Services*

CAMPAIGN RESULTS

\$410,402 RAISED

During EAJ's 2023-24 Fiscal Year (4/1/2023-3/31/2024)

319 Defenders of Justice

263 Individuals, 32 Law Firms, 22 Solo Practitioners & 2 Foundations

from **36 communities** across New Mexico (and beyond!) including **19 out of 33 counties**

70%

of donors gave this year
AND last year

65

new supporters
welcomed this
year

43%

increase in revenue
over last year

Your heartfelt generosity increased our impact in the community!

Every dollar raised results in *increased, flexible funding* for our legal aid partners. EAJ's **unrestricted, noncompetitive grants** provide maximum flexibility to 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.

Defending Justice For All

Leadership Society

Thank you to the many **firms, solo practitioners, associations, and foundations** for their generous annual campaign contributions supporting civil legal services in our community. Special recognition to **Peifer, Hanson, Mullins & Baker, The Eaves Law Firm, and Feferman, Warren & Mattison** for directing cy pres funds to Equal Access to Justice.

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



Beacons of Justice *(Gifts of \$5,000 or more)*

Cuddy & McCarthy
Thomas A. and Mary E. Dugan
Foundation
Freedman, Boyd, Hollander &
Goldberg
Lerner & Rowe

McGinn, Montoya, Love, Curry &
Sievers
Merrion Family Foundation
NM Defense Lawyers
Association

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

Bruce Thompson Law Firm, *In
Honor of Justice Ed Chávez*
Freedman, Boyd, Hollander &
Goldberg
Hunt Law Firm
Law Office of J. Alison Cimino, *In
Memory of Gwen Harrington &
Jeanette Overturf*

Law Office of Daymon Ely
McGinn, Montoya, Love, Curry
& Sievers
McGraw Law
Singleton Schreiber
Steffy Law Firm

*The tiers reflect the per attorney amount given to EAJ's
Annual Campaign (4/1/2023-3/31/2024)*

“Access to justice within the legal system sits squarely at the center of democracy. EAJ does a tremendous job maximizing the impact of resources that provide access for individuals in the margins who have limited resources. Singleton Schreiber New Mexico 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, Managing Partner, Singleton Schreiber NM

Leadership Society

Thank you to the many **firms, solo practitioners, associations & foundations** for their partnership! *Your investment in our community provides critical legal aid services for many families facing hardship.*

Guardians of Justice (\$500 - 999 per attorney)

Atkins & Walker Law	Rodey Law
Greacen Associates	Salazar, Sullivan & Jasionowski
The Jones Firm	Rebecca Sitterly LLC *
Lerner & Rowe	Law Office of Alexandra Smith
Martinez, Hart, Sanchez & Romero	The Spence Law Firm
John B. Pound LLC *	Touchet Law Firm
The Law Office of Feliz A. Rael	

Champions for Justice (\$250-499 per attorney)

Anonymous *	Martone Law Firm
Ben Sherman Law	Eileen R. Mandel Attorney at Law
Cuddy & McCarthy	Modrall Sperling
Curtis & Co.	Montgomery & Andrews
Feferman, Warren & Mattison	Law Offices of Michael Stout
Law Offices of Stefanie J. Gulley	

Advocates for Justice (\$100-249 per attorney)

Aubrey Law Firm LLC	Mike Gallegos Attorney LLC
Barnhouse, Keegan, Solimon & West	Attorney M. Yvonne Gonzalez
The Bregman Law Firm	Miller Stratvert
Chavez Law Office	Parnall Law Firm
Chestnut Law Offices	Rothstein Donatelli
Davis Kelin Law Firm	Saiz, Chanez, Sherrell &
Fadduol, Cluff, Hardy & Conaway	Kaemper

Friends of Justice (\$50-99 per attorney)

Aldridge, Actkinson & Rutter	Cheryl McLean Law Offices
Dixon, Scholl, Carrillo	Myers, McCready & Myers
German, Burnette & Associates	Ronald Taylor Law Office
Hinkle Shanor	

* Monthly Giving Circle

The tiers reflect the per attorney amount given to EAJ's Annual Campaign (4/1/2023-3/31/2024)

Defending Justice For All

35th Anniversary Event

On September 20, 2023, Equal Access to Justice celebrated the Honorable Justice Edward Chávez and his contributions to civil legal aid. The sold-out event celebrated our community's legal aid champions, shared the history and roots of legal aid in New Mexico, and challenged each person to do their part to increase access to justice.



Photos by Adria Malcolm

Watch the full program, including Justice Chávez' keynote speech and the special gift presentation by Hakim Bellamy, and enjoy more photos at: eaj-nm.org/events.

**"Among all the opportunities that New Mexico has offered me, none have more clearly shaped me than my work with legal aid."
Honorable Edward Chávez"**

Leaders for Justice

Thank you for extending the reach of justice and being a catalyst for change!

Gifts of \$5,000 or more

Paul F. Abrams **, *In Honor of Stuart
Bluestone & Maria Garcia Geer*
John B. Bigelow
Mary Metzgar, *In Memory of Bernie
Metzgar*

Patricia & Luis Stelzner
Bruce E. Thompson, *In Honor of
Justice Ed Chávez*

Gifts of \$2,000-4,999

Anonymous
Lori M. Bencoe
Gary F. Brownell & Mary Ann Brownell
Bruce H. Cottrell *
Jane & Norm Gagne
Richard C. Minzner & Sabieann Baca
Minzner **

Peg & Charles Moore
Roberta Cooper Ramo & Dr. Barry
Ramo
Edward R. Ricco & Mary Ann
Sweeney
Terry M. Word

Gifts of \$1,000-1,999

Anonymous
Dan A. Akenhead
John Arango, *In Memory of David Norvell*
David E. Arnold *
Alex D. Beach, *In Memory of Arthur Beach*
Bidtah Becker & Paul Spruhan
Honorable Kristina Bogardus
Honorable Michael D. Bustamante
Honorable Edward L. Chávez
Susan & Briggs Cheney
Marsha & David Freedman
Stacey J. Goodwin *
Marianne & Dennis Hill
Honorable Cynthia A. Fry & Daymon Ely
Peggy & Michael L. Keleher, *In Memory of
Art Beach*

M. Karen Kilgore *
Barbara J. Koenig & Michael J. Maccini
Erin K. McSherry
Mary Malwitz & David Stout
Susan Miller
Elicia Montoya & Kurt Gilbert
Clifton B. Perry
Honorable Lynn Pickard
Kip Purcell & Georgia Will
Slater-Roessel Family Fund
Paula Tackett
Senator Bill Tallman
Rob Treinen
Jana L. Walker

** Legacy Society
* Monthly Giving Circle

"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

Defenders of Justice

Thank you for sending ripples of opportunity and life-changing solutions into our community!

Gifts of \$500-999

Anonymous
Anonymous, *In Memory of Cliff Davidson*
Randy S. Bartell
Hakim Bellamy
Stanley I. Betzer
Bonnie Bishop
Sarah M. Bradley
Michael B. Browde & Ruth Singer
Amy L. Brown & Lisa White *
Stuart R. Butzier
Honorable Celia Castillo, *In Memory of David Norvell who was passionate about justice for all.*
Bruce & Mary Keleher Castle
Michael Joseph Condon
Michelle & Jeffrey M. Croasdell
Honorable John A. Dean & Gayle Dean *
Amy Diaz & Eric Hewit
Samuel M. Freund
Paul G. Fyfe & Mary F. Chavez
Corbin P. Hildebrandt
Christopher A. Holland
Charlotte Itoh
Tammy M. Jasionowski
William R. Keleher
Charlotte & James Martin, *In honor of Barron Jones*
Jean A. McCray

Paula Maynes & Jeff McFall
Gianna M. Mendoza
Jennifer L. Munson & William Harty
Honorable Lisa Chavez Ortega
Felicia L. Orth
Honorable Leonard J. Padilla
Carol M. Parker
Philips Family
Peter & Dinah Pierotti
Tim Price
Ellen Castille, Priscilla Garcia, Deborah Kendall-Gallagher, Christina Chavez Kelley, Sheila Lewis, Ann McCollum, Rosemary McCourt, Trace Rabern, *In Memory of David Norvell & in honor of Rep. Gail Chasey*
Louis W. Rose
Robert E. Sabin
John & Terri Salazar
Pia Salazar
Justin R. Sawyer
Andrew Schultz
Charles & Mary Seibert
William E. Snead
Patrick W. Sullivan
Gabrielle Valdez
Jacqueline Woodcock
Honorable Wendy E. York

* Monthly Giving Circle

"So many around us lack the ability to stay clothed and housed, much less the means to protect themselves from unfair practices or to vindicate their basic rights in court. Equal Access to Justice provides one of the most basic essentials: dignity."

- Bruce Thompson

Defending Justice For All

Defenders of Justice

Thank you for sending ripples of opportunity and life-changing solutions into our community!

Gifts of \$350-499

Anonymous
Honorable Theodore C. Baca
Kathryn S. Becker *

Francesca & Thomas F. Blueher
Stuart M. Bluestone
Sandra Brinck, *In honor of Karen Kilgore*
Ismael L. Camacho, *In honor of Bill Strouse*
Travis & Kathleen Collier
Douglas P. Cordova
Martha A. Daly
Barbara & Douglas Decker
Daniela Dwyer
Caren I. Friedman
Maria & William Geer
D. Eric Hannum
Robert N. Hilgendorf
Whitney Johnson

Charlotte Rich Joseph *
Ed Marks & Lynne Blahnik
Gaelle D. McConnell
Karen J. Meyers
David Charles Mielke
Jennifer Moore
Heather Norfleet *
Gordon R. Palmer
Dennis P. Ritschel *
Rachel & Julio Rodriguez *
Leo M. Romero
Jennifer Jo Saavedra
Tiffany L. Sanchez
Michael Sievers
Stephen A. Slusher
M. Eliza Stewart
Honorable Barbara J. Vigil
Daniel Yohalem

* *Monthly Giving Circle*

Gifts of \$150-349

Anonymous
Janice Bandrofchak & James Sharp
Sonya Bellafant
Ricardo A. Berry
Cynthia L. Blackwell
John W. Boyd & Roberta Price

Aja & Johnny Brooks
Cathrynn Brown
Denise M. Chanez
Representative Gail Chasey
Rosalie Chavez
Aleli & Brian Colón, *In honor of the great team at EAJ & its impactful work that removes barriers daily*

"Making a monthly contribution to EAJ is so easy. And it's a simple way to put your professional values into action. Every month, I feel great when I see the charge come through, because I know I'm helping someone out with their legal needs. No hassles, no reminders needed. I'm proud to do my part, love how easy it is, and hope others will join me in doing the same." - John B. Pound

Defenders of Justice

Thank you for sending ripples of opportunity and life-changing solutions into our community!

Gifts of \$150-349 (continued)

J. Ashley Cummings
Jerry & Susan Dickinson
George Gary Duncan
Judith M. Espinosa
Jeffrey L. Fornaciari
Allison Freedman
Julia Guarino *
Alicia L. Gutierrez
Bruce Herr
Damon Hudson *
Honorable Valerie A. Huling
Mark S. Jaffe
Honorable Ted Kase
Greta & Thomas Keleher
Christina Chavez Kelley
Stacey Leaman, *In honor of Sireesha Manne*
Oneida L'Esperance

Cynthia & Nathan Mann
Honorable Francis J. Mathew
Dalva L. Moellenberg
Honorable Nan G. Nash *
Honorable Cecelia M. Niemczyk
Thomas W. Olson
Jennifer Salazar *
William Slattery
Mary H. Smith, *In honor of Justice Ed Chávez*
Robert Tinnin
Honorable Alan C. Torgerson
Marit Tully & Andy Thomas
Gloria Valencia-Weber
Joseph P. Walsh *
Kateri Garcia West
Kathryn M. Wissel
Christopher D. Woodward

Gifts of \$1-149

Anonymous
David A. Baca
Dr. Stefanie Beninato
Barry Berenberg
Ellen & Paul Biderman, *In honor of Justice Ed Chávez*
Rosalind Bienvenu
John W. Blair
LaMerle M. Boyd
William R. Brancard
John J. Britt
Martha G. Brown
Honorable Carl J. Butkus
Michael Carter
George Chandler
Leigh Anne Chavez, *In memory of Byron J. Fodor*
Sean M. Cunniff

Hugh W. Dangler
Nancy Desiderio, *In honor of Judge Santiago Campos, Judge James Parker & Professor Fred Hart*
Gerald G. Dixon
Larry M. Dreyfus
Charles N. Estes
Ella Joan Fenoglio
Brian Fisher
Alexander F. Flores
Mariana G. Geer
Nicholas R. Gentry
Ryan Golten
Honorable Kenneth J. Gonzales, *In memory of the Honorable James A. Parker*
Steven F. Granberg

Defending Justice For All

Defenders of Justice

Thank you for sending ripples of opportunity and life-changing solutions into our community!

Gifts of \$1-149 (continued)

Donna J. Griffin
Katalina Hadfield
Bruce & Patricia Hall
James Edward Harrington
Tom Horan & Mary Ann Campbell-Horan
Tova Indritz
Gregory Ireland
Jazmine Johnston
Jeffrey H. Kauffman
Ellen Rhona Kemper
Mari S. Kempton
Anita Andree Agu Letter
Michael W Lilley
Honorable Elaine Patricia Lujan
Honorable Petra Jimenez Maes
Barbara Mandel
Charles McCormack & Sally Bergen
Karen S. Mendenhall *, *In honor of Marion Tonjes*
Mixcoatl Miera-Rosete
Megan A. Muirhead
Ted Occhialino
Lisa E. Pullen
Honorable Stephen Quinn
Debora E. Ramirez
Clifford M. Rees

Honorable John F. Robbenhaar
Jacquelyn Robins
Sabrina Rodriguez Salvato
Honorable Freddie Joseph Romero
Brenda M. Saiz
Geraldine & David Salazar
Robert & Betty Santandrea
John Sledd
Caitlin C. M. Smith
Richard B. Spinello
Arlene Strumor
Phyllis Subin
Ellen Taylor
Corliss Thalley
Krystle A. Thomas
Brian VanDenzen
Honorable Virginia Vigil
Honorable James J. Wechsler
Karen & Richard Weiner
Charles Wellborn, *In memory of David Norvell*
Christina S. West
Hessel Yntema & Patricia Contreras
Yntema

* *Monthly Giving Circle*

Many thanks to our Monthly Giving Circle Members

Monthly Giving Circle members support Equal Access to Justice through automatic, recurring gifts. For many, it's a convenient way to give and easily integrate into a monthly budget. We appreciate the steady stream of support, which sustains our work year-round!

If you would like to join the Monthly Giving Circle, you can easily do so by setting up a recurring donation on our giving page at www.eaj-nm.org.

Campaign Committee

We are grateful to these amazing **27 volunteers** who gave generously of their time and made EAJ's 2023-24 Annual Campaign so successful!

M. Karen Kilgore, co-chair
David Stout, co-chair

Dan Akenhead
Hakim Bellamy
Sonya Bellafant
Berry Berenberg
John Bigelow
Denise Chanez
Honorable Edward Chávez
Bruce Cottrell
J. Ashley Cummings
Honorable John A. Dean
Allison Freedman
Kurt Gilbert
Damon Hudson

Charlie Hughson
Sireesha Manne
Susan Miller
Elicia Montoya
Charles Kip Purcell
Honorable Richard Ransom
Rodolfo Sanchez
Jeanine Steffy
Senator Bill Tallman
Bruce Thompson
Jackie Munro Vahey
Todd Wertheim

Connect with friends. Build community. Make a difference.
Step up and be part of the 2024-25 Annual Campaign
Committee! Contact us at: heather@ej-nm.org

So Many Ways to Give!

Donate Online

Easily make a one-time gift at **www.eaj-nm.org**. Feel great every month by starting a recurring gift and joining our **Monthly Giving Circle!** *Individual gifts of \$1,000+ will be specially recognized as Leaders for Justice.*

Matching Gifts

Double your impact with a matching contribution from your employer. Some companies match retired employees' charitable gifts, too. *Ask your employer if they participate in a matching gift program.*

Leadership Society

Firms, corporate counsel, solo practitioners, & associations come together annually to support civil legal services. *Invest in our community at the per attorney levels, or further increase your impact with a **Keystone Society** (\$25,000+) or **Beacons of Justice** (\$5,000+) gift!*

Cy Pres

Involved in a class action case and unable to distribute all the funds? Designate Equal Access to Justice as a cy pres recipient. A great candidate for fulfilling a case's charitable objectives, EAJ is favorably considered by the courts to be an excellent choice for cy pres awards.

Donor Advised Funds

Increase your impact by recommending a recurring grant to Equal Access to Justice. Consider a transformative **Legacy Society** gift (\$25,000+ over a multi-year period.)

Workplace Giving

Designate Equal Access to Justice as a recipient of your charitable gifts. Whether you participate in a workplace giving campaign, like United Way, or individually through employer pay-roll deductions, this is an easy, automatic way to give.

Retirement Funds

If you are age 70½ or older, you can donate up to \$100,000 directly from your IRA and Roth IRA, without treating the withdrawal as taxable income. *Consult your tax advisor for details.*

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 us at (505) 339-8096.*

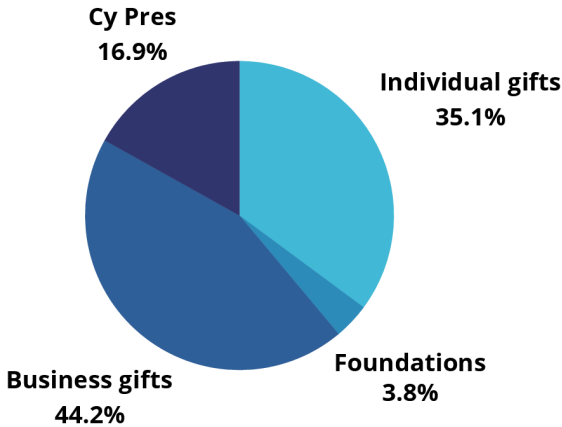


Equal Access to Justice has earned a **Four-Star Rating - Charity Navigator's highest possible rating!** This third-party accreditation from a trusted nonprofit evaluator further validates our operational excellence.

Financial Overview

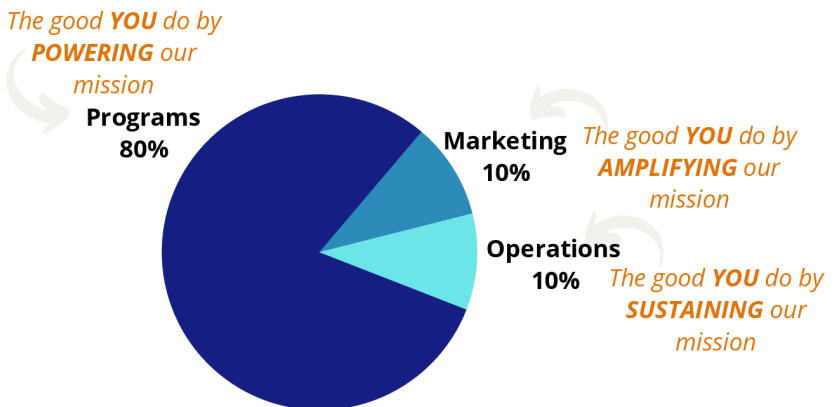
For Fiscal Year April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2024

Revenue: \$410,403



Funds raised in FY 2023-24 lead to grants made in the next fiscal year.

Outflows: \$304,083



Visit www.eaj-nm.org to view 990s and past annual reports

Defending Justice For All

Robing Room Rules

"It is inappropriate to define the governmental interest as maintaining only opposite-gender marriages, just as it was inappropriate to define the governmental interest as maintaining same-race marriages in *Loving* "

- *Grigso v. Oliver*

Of the people,
Better yet, E pluribus plebe
A New Mexico in which all New Mexicans
get a fair shake.

Where we hold the right to fall in love sacred.

And there will be occasions
where we are called upon to separate the rights
of customers
from those of the corporations.

Where there may come a time
when we are called upon
to protect the next generation's future

property
interest
in the present environment...

... to protect their right to equal access and protection.
Their unenumerated right
to marathon the same mountaintops we did.

To know the difference between human rights
and wrong.

To forego the practice of profit
for the practice of law.

To fancy ourselves a court
with liberty and justice

for all.

"When litigants allege that the government has unconstitutionally discriminated against them, courts must decide the merits of the allegation because if proven, courts must resist shrinking from their responsibilities as an independent branch of government, and refuse to perpetuate the discrimination—regardless of how long it has persisted—by safeguarding constitutional rights."

- *Rodriguez v. Brand W. Dairy*

In this business,
our opinion
is someone's reality.

We hold ourselves accountable for accessibility.
Knowing that there is a whole lot riding on our humanity.

Just because it's called a bench
doesn't mean it's a game.

Every court is the last resort
for those with little to no means.

The kind of zealous advocacy
that believes you've got to lose a little sleep
for the things you believe in.

That competent representation
is not a function of circumstance
it is a Constitutional guarantee.

Whether you went to college "back East"
or spend summers cattle ranching in La Palma,
there is place in this profession
for people who look like you.

The kind of court
that serves as a mirror
to remind all of us

what justice looks like.

"[A]n owner/occupant of a commercial baseball stadium owes a duty that is symmetrical to the duty of the spectator ...Spectators must exercise ordinary care to protect themselves from the inherent risk of being hit by a projectile that leaves the field of play and the owner/occupant must exercise ordinary care not to increase that inherent risk. This approach recognizes the impossibility of playing the sport of baseball without projectiles leaving the field of play."

- *Edward C. v. City of Albuquerque*

When you render a judgment
deliver it with your whole entire body.

When age and illness
inevitably catch up with you
you will be glad that you did.

Just because life isn't fair
doesn't mean we shouldn't strive to be.
Justice is its own language
and every judge and jury ought to be accented agnostic.

Give these cases everything you got, kid.
As though the faith of this institution depends on it.
But not at the expense of your family
and all the things you love dearly.

To remember that the law
simply serves as a collective reminder
of all the things we, as society,
deem *sine qua non* to protect.

To be more than curious,
to be unafraid to question.

To take incredible pride
in the amount of labor required
to arrive at the unpopular answer

so long as we are just.

By Hakim Bellamy

Inspired by the life and times of Ret. Chief Justice Edward L. Chávez. Presented by Hakim Bellamy on behalf of Equal Access to Justice on September 20, 2023.



Thank you for uplifting our community and sending ripples of opportunity to every corner of New Mexico. Because of you, our neighbors are able to live with dignity, put food on the table, and keep their loved ones healthy and safe. Thank you for being so remarkable!

Equal Access to Justice is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.
Our federal tax ID is: 85-0437183. ***Donations to Equal Access to Justice are:***

- **100% tax deductible**
- ***A perfect way to fulfill your pro-bono & professional obligations by supporting civil legal services***
- ***A tangible way to take action to meet the unprecedented and rising civil legal needs in New Mexico***



**EQUAL
ACCESS TO
JUSTICE**



Equal Access to Justice

www.eaj-nm.org

505-339-8096

PO Box 25941, Albuquerque, NM 87125

EIN (tax ID number): 85-0437183

To correct any errors, please contact Heather Norfleet at (505) 339-8096 or heather@eaj-nm.org