

EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Annual Report
2020-21



For 30+ years, Equal Access to Justice (EAJ) has been advocating for and supporting our civil legal aid partners in New Mexico. This year, amidst the disruption and pervasiveness of the pandemic, our community's resilience, ingenuity and generosity have been the silver linings.

Your incredible support has allowed us to stay true to our decades-long mission to increase access to justice for all New Mexicans. There has always been a dire need for civil legal services in our state, and the pandemic has increased the demand, stressing already limited resources. **Thanks to you, we surpassed our annual campaign goal by 39%!** This success directly impacts the unrestricted, noncompetitive funds that are distributed to our dedicated civil legal services partners.

Because of your contributions, more legal services and solutions are being provided to families and communities who continue to be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. **New Mexico Legal Aid** has been able to close 4,500 individual cases impacting 15,000 people. Additional, through their outreach efforts, community trainings, and website materials, they gave information about legal rights to over 45,000 people. **New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty** advocated for groundbreaking policy changes that promote the health and well-being of New Mexico's families. **DNA-People's Legal Services** improved the efficiency of the intake process through a new centralized phone system increasing access to justice for our rural communities.

Thank you to all the law firms, attorneys and concerned citizens that made this possible. In addition to celebrating the success of our annual campaign, we are also celebrating the collective years of giving of our community. **Many of you have given gifts consistently since EAJ was first incorporated; others have joined us more recently on this journey - we are equally grateful to all of you.**

On a final note, we extend deep gratitude to our former executive director, Rachel Rodriguez, for her incredible leadership and for seamlessly transitioning her role to our new executive director, Heather Norfleet.

Thank you for defending justice in New Mexico with an eye toward a more equitable future!



Susan G. Chappell
President



Heather Norfleet
Executive Director

We must make sure the law is applied equally to all New Mexicans and that everyone has access to the court system. Additionally, it is important to eliminate barriers to the civil justice system that deny justice and keep people in poverty, such as racial inequities.

Justice Shannon Bacon

EAJ 2020-21 CAMPAIGN RESULTS

Funds raised in the 2020-21 fiscal year lead to grants made in the next fiscal year.

\$222,895 RAISED

exceeding our goal by 39%



7%

INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF FIRM, INDIVIDUAL, & BUSINESS GIFTS

34 law firms
24 solo practitioners
256 individuals/businesses



317 DEFENDERS OF JUSTICE CONTRIBUTED

Over 50% have been giving to EAJ for 10+ years!

14%

Monthly Giving Circle
increase

73%

of donors gave this year
AND last year

19

volunteers served on the
Campaign Committee

Defending Justice for All

The mission of Equal Access to Justice is **to increase access to justice** for New Mexicans.

We provide unrestricted, noncompetitive funds to civil legal aid organizations. These funds support New Mexico Legal Aid, New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty, and DNA- People's Legal Services in their work meeting critical legal needs of New Mexicans.

Our work helps ensure that New Mexicans are not, in the words of the late Judge Sarah Singleton, denied justice due to an inability to afford it.
www.eaj-nm.org



"Equal Access to Justice (EAJ) performs the crucial role of providing financial support for the three largest legal aid nonprofits in New Mexico. This support makes it possible for people living in poverty to obtain legal assistance that would otherwise be unavailable. Supported organizations engage in a range of important representation, from small but significant individual cases, through large impact litigation aimed at changing unjust policies.

Direct contributions are a great way to support EAJ. In addition, my firm and our clients have supported EAJ by proposing it as the recipient of cy pres awards. Thank you for joining me in making an immediate impact in the lives of struggling New Mexicans, through your continued support of EAJ."

Nicholas Mattison, Feferman, Warren and Mattison

Your Support Makes a Difference!



Rudy Sanchez, Executive Director
DNA-People's Legal Services

"Access to justice is a bedrock principle of our justice system, and we are deeply grateful for every attorney who chooses to uphold this principle by contributing to EAJ. EAJ funds are powerful. Unlike other funding, EAJ funds have no onerous or time-consuming administrative requirements, freeing staff to focus on meaningful legal services. We use EAJ funding to help families with legal needs that have devastating consequences if unaddressed - physical and financial exploitation and abuse, denials of rightful health and financial benefits for the disabled, unemployed, and parents/caregivers, unlawful evictions and repossessions, unsafe housing conditions, and discrimination at work. In other words, EAJ funds provide an attorney for those who need one to secure safety, stability, and a measure of dignity in their lives."

Rodolfo Sanchez, DNA-People's Legal Services



New Mexico Legal Aid Advocates

"Advocates at New Mexico Legal Aid work in the trenches every day with victims of domestic violence, families losing their homes, people who lose their savings to predatory lenders, and people suffering many other kinds of legal catastrophes. The money we receive from Equal Access to Justice provides essential support for all the work we do with low-income New Mexicans. We extend our gratitude to all the supporters of Equal Access to Justice."

Lewis Creekmore, New Mexico Legal Aid



Sovereign Hager, Legal Director, and Sireesha Manne, Executive Director, New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty

"Our legal community came together in unprecedented ways this year to ensure access to justice for all New Mexicans. We are especially grateful for your contributions through EAJ. This critical support advances system-wide changes for the health and well-being of our state and helps us respond directly to community priorities. Thank you!"

Sireesha Manne, New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty

2020-21 CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

We are grateful to these volunteers who gave generously of their time to help make this campaign's success possible.

Dan Akenhead, Miller Stratvert*

Mikal Melissa Altomare, Assistant City Attorney,
City of Albuquerque*

Susan Miller Bisong, Modrall, Sperling, Roehl,
Harris & Sisk, PA*

Amy Brown, Adelante Consulting & Retired
Attorney*

Susan G. Chappell, Susan G. Chappell Law Firm*

Bruce Cottrell, (Retired) Los Alamos National
Laboratories*

Lewis G. Creekmore, New Mexico Legal Aid*

David Freedman, Freedman, Boyd, Hollander,
Goldberg, Urias & Ward, PA

Peter Ives, Department of Cultural Affairs

M. Karen Kilgore, Cuddy & McCarthy, LLC*

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Stanford & Downey, PC

Alisa Lauer, The Spence Law Firm

Sireesha Manne, NM Center on Law and
Poverty*

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Director

Erin K. McSherry, City of Santa Fe

Charles ("Kip") Purcell, Rodey, Dickason, Sloan,
Akin & Robb, PA*

Rodolfo D. Sanchez, DNA-People's Legal
Services*

David Stout, UNM School of Law

Senator Bill Tallman

Asterisk () indicates EAJ Board Members*

**Special thanks to former EAJ director, Rachel N. Rodriguez,
for coordinating the 2020/21 Campaign!**

LEADERSHIP SOCIETY

To all of the law firm and solo practitioner Society members who tirelessly champion for our community and equal access to justice,
THANK YOU!

Guardians of Justice (\$500+ per attorney)

Davidson Law Firm, LLC
The Lucero Law Office, LLC
Rodey, Dickason, Sloan, Akin & Robb, PA
The Law Offices of Salazar, Sullivan & Jasionowski
Rebecca Sitterly, LLC
The Spence Law Firm NM, LLC
Susan G. Chappell Law Firm

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

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Collins & Collins, PC
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Freedman, Boyd, Hollander, Goldberg, Urias & Ward, PA
JAlbright Law, LLC
John B. Pound, LLC
Law Office of Karen Aubrey
Matthews Fox, PC
Martinez, Hart, Thompson & Sanchez, PC
Modrall, Sperling, Roehl, Harris & Sisk, PA
Montgomery & Andrews Law Firm
Walther, Bennett, Mayo, Honeycutt, PC



Special thanks to **Rodey, Dickason, Sloan, Akin & Robb** and **Modrall, Sperling, Roehl, Harris & Sisk**, which have continued to lead the state in their contributions. Their steadfast commitment to and support of New Mexico's civil legal services community is deeply appreciated.

LEADERSHIP SOCIETY

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

Atkinson, Baker & Rodriguez, PC

Barudin Law Firm

Chandler Law of Los Alamos

Chestnut Law Offices

Cuddy & McCarthy, LLP

Davis Kelin Law Firm, LLC

Davis Law New Mexico

Elsner Law & Policy, LLC

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Griego, Guggino & Associates

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Law Office of Donald D. Vigil

Law Office of Mike Gallegos

Law Offices of Robert P. McNeill

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McConnell Law Firm

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Friends of Justice (\$5-99 per attorney)

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Cheryl McLean Law Offices, LLC

Doerr & Knudson, PA

Fine Law Firm

Frye & Kelly, PC

Gallagher & Kennedy, PA

Hunt Law Firm, LLC

Jeffrey Kauffman, Attorney at Law

Law Firm of Jacobs & Jacobs

Lilley & O'Connell, PA

Miller Stratvert, PA

Natelson Law Firm

Peacock Law Firm

Parnall Law Firm

Pregenzer, Baysinger, Wideman & Sale, PC

Sapien Law, LLC

"As the former executive director for NM Legal Aid, I can tell you that even in the best of times government funding and private foundation grants for civil legal aid programs are able to meet only about 20% of the need. EAJ dollars are the most flexible of all the funding sources available for New Mexico's legal aid programs, allowing each program a strategically invaluable cushion to make sure that the most vulnerable residents and their families don't get turned away."

Ed Marks, Campaign Committee Member
10+ Years of Giving

Making a Difference

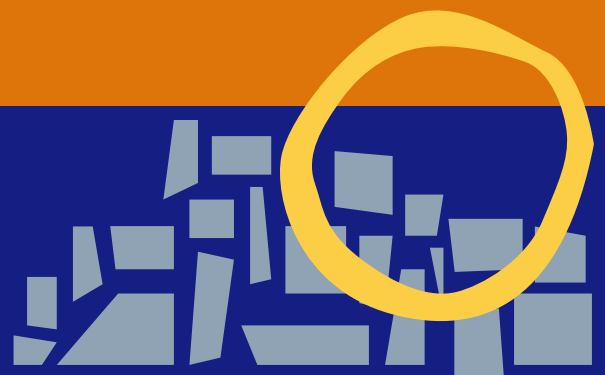
"George Floyd's death last year, and the racial justice movement that grew from it, sparked our firm's desire to do more than just issue a statement. We decided to put our money where our mouth is. Increasing the Rodey Law Firm's annual contribution to Equal Access to Justice seemed like a particularly effective and appropriate way to grow our support for social justice initiatives. The longstanding focus of EAJ's beneficiaries on addressing inequities in education, New Mexico's legal system, workplace, and housing – and their vigorous advocacy on behalf of individual clients and systemic reform alike – make EAJ well deserving of any additional funding our firm can offer. We are very proud to support EAJ's tremendous efforts toward increasing access to justice for all New Mexicans."

**- Valerie Denton, Chair, Diversity and Inclusiveness Committee
Rodey, Dickason, Sloan, Akin & Robb, PA
25+ Years of Giving**

Cy Pres Award

Throughout the country, cy pres awards (ranging from thousands to millions of dollars) have been utilized to fund vital civil legal services. We are deeply grateful to Feferman, Warren & Mattison for directing cy pres funds to Equal Access to Justice this year. This award plays a significant role in ensuring meaningful access to justice for all New Mexicans. Thank you!

Feferman, Warren & Mattison
20 Years of Giving



Defenders of Justice

Thank you to these generous individuals for their gifts!

20+ Years

Paul F. Abrams **
Janice Bandrofchak
Arthur O. Beach
S. I. (Stan) Betzer
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Stuart M. Bluestone
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Martha G. Brown
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Bernie Metzgar*
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Steven G. Farber
Jane & Norm Gagne**
Maria Garcia Geer
Steven F. Granberg
John Morley Greacen
Alicia L. Gutierrez

Thank you!

** Generous donors gave \$1,000 or more
to the 2020/21 Annual Campaign.

Defenders of Justice

10+ Years

Elizabeth Gutierrez
D. Eric Hannum
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Suzanne E. Jollensten
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Jennifer L. Munson and William Harty
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5+ Years

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5+ Years

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Patrick W. Sullivan
Bruce Evan Thompson
Laure van Heijenoort
Jacqueline and Randy Woodcock

Thank you!

** Generous donors gave \$1,000 or more
to the 2020/21 Annual Campaign.

Defenders of Justice

1+ Years

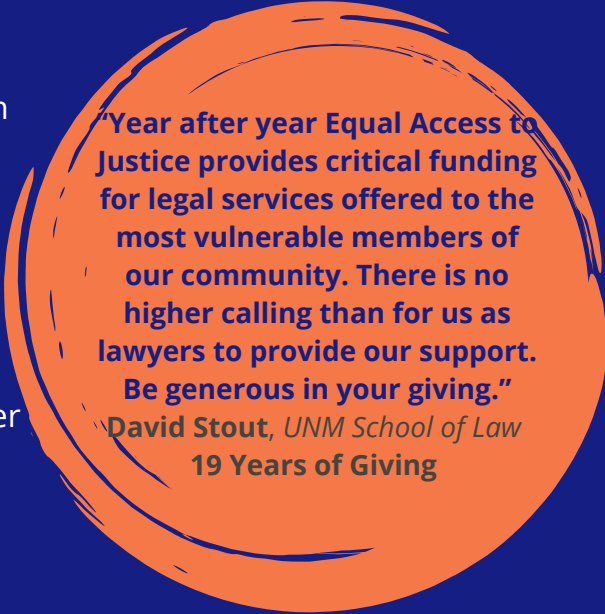
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Cmte. To elect Judge Lisa Chavez
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1+ Years

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1+ Years

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Deborah K. Woitte**
Kerri Yamashita



"Year after year Equal Access to Justice provides critical funding for legal services offered to the most vulnerable members of our community. There is no higher calling than for us as lawyers to provide our support. Be generous in your giving."
David Stout, UNM School of Law
19 Years of Giving

Thank you!

** Generous donors gave \$1,000 or more to the 2020/21 Annual Campaign.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

For Fiscal Year ending March 31, 2021

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

REVENUE

Individual Gifts	\$ 104,010
Business Gifts	\$ 115,200
Cy Pres	\$ 3,234
Other	\$ 11,454

Total Revenue \$233,898

EXPENSE

Grants to Orgs	\$ 119,310
Staff	\$ 49,851
Operations	\$ 11,472
Contract Svcs	\$ 2,869

Total Expense \$ 183,502

Change in Net Assets \$ 50,396

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS

Cash \$259,854

TOTAL ASSETS \$259,854

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Liabilities
SBA PPP Loan \$ 11,040

Total Liabilities \$ 11,040

Net Assets
Fund Balance as of 3-31-21 \$198,418
Change in Net Assets \$ 50,396
Total Net Assets \$248,814

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS \$259,854



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Susan G. Chappell Law Firm

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Equal Access to Justice

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Miller Stratvert, PA

Amy Brown

Adelante Consulting & Retired Attorney

Bruce Cottrell

Los Alamos National Laboratories (Retired)

Lewis G. Creekmore

New Mexico Legal Aid

M. Karen Kilgore

Cuddy & McCarthy, LLC

Sireesha Manne

New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty

Rodolfo D. Sanchez

DNA-People's Legal Services



Our deepest gratitude is extended to

Mikal Melissa Altomare

for her years of service on the

Equal Access to Justice Board of Directors.

A final thank you for your impact...

Through our work, you are helping our community - neighbors, friends, family - to live with dignity and safeguard their livelihood. Your continued support helps families secure safe living environments, seniors and veterans access medical benefits, survivors escape abusive and violent relationships, the working person amplify their voice for equal rights and protections.

That is a remarkable impact to make, and we appreciate your trust and confidence in our efforts to fulfill your commitment to fairness, human dignity, and access to legal aid.

Contributing to Equal Access to Justice is the perfect way to fulfill your pro-bono obligations by supporting civil legal services. Easily donate at www.eaj-nm.org.



EQUAL
ACCESS TO
JUSTICE

Equal Access to Justice

www.eaj-nm.org

505-339-8096

PO Box 25941, Albuquerque, NM 87125

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