EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE



2021-22 Annual Report 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 denied justice due to an inability to afford it.

www.eaj-nm.org

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Our deepest gratitude is extended to **Amy Brown** for her years of service on the board of directors.

"There can be no equal justice, without equal access to justice."

Attorney General Merrick B. Garland

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

By donating to Equal Access to Justice's Annual Campaign, you are upholding a fundamental right to justice, and changing lives for the better. This past year, to help meet the unprecedented need for civil legal services, we committed to increasing EAJ's 2021/22 campaign goal by 56% and asked you to join us in raising \$250,000. Thanks to your incredible generosity and the tireless efforts of our campaign committee, this goal was exceeded by 9%!

We are grateful for your support and pleased to share the results and impact of this year's efforts in our annual report.

As we enter the third year of the pandemic, low-income New Mexicans continue to be disproportionately impacted and are grappling with challenges to their livelihoods, health, and safety. To compound the crisis, catastrophic wildfires have swept through our state creating life altering legal problems for many families. In the coming year, legal aid will be essential for the economic, public health, and natural disaster recovery in our communities.

Thank you for joining us in our longstanding efforts to increase funding for legal aid. Like you, we find it unacceptable that less than 20% of New Mexicans that qualify for legal aid are receiving it due to lack of resources. Working together, we can effect change and improve access to justice for all New Mexicans.

In partnership,



Susan G. Chappell President



Heather Norfleet
Executive Director

EAJ 2021-22 **CAMPAIGN RESULTS**

\$274,566 RAISED

Funds raised in the 2021-22 fiscal year lead to grants made in the next fiscal year.

312 Defenders of Justice

257 Individuals, 27 Law Firms & 28 Solo Practitioners

from 40 communities across New Mexico (and beyond!) including 17 out of 33 counties

31%

Monthly Giving Circle

increase

77%

of donors gave this year Exceeded campaign AND last year goal

Every extra 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; have no onerous or time-consuming administrative requirements, freeing staff to focus on meaningful legal services; and help fill in gaps in funding.

Defending Justice For All

9%

Your Support Makes a Difference!

"We could not do our work without the support of New Mexico's legal community and Equal Access to Justice. These resources are essential to advancing systemwide changes for the health and well-being of our children and families and help the New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty respond quickly and directly to community priorities."



The New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty



New Mexico Legal Aid - Silver City office

"Advocates at New Mexico Legal Aid work every day with victims of domestic violence, families - many with childrenat risk of homelessness, people who become indebted 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 for low-income New Mexicans and helps our efforts to expand services to meet the increasing need across our state."

"At DNA People's Legal Services, we use EAJ funding to help families with legal needs that have devastating consequences if unaddressed – denials of rightful health and financial benefits for the disabled and unemployed; unlawful evictions and repossessions; physical and financial exploitation and abuse; unsafe housing conditions; and discrimination at work. In our extremely rural and remote service area, EAJ funds provide an attorney for those who need one to secure safety, stability, and a measure of dignity in their lives."



DNA People's Legal Services Outreach and Intake in Alamo







Your Support Makes a Difference!



Every day, New Mexico Legal Aid, the New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty, and DNA People's Legal Services are helping New Mexicans with a range of legal issues. In addition to providing legal assistance, representation, and systemic legal advocacy, our partner organizations are out in the community leading training series, hosting free legal clinics and pro bono assistance programs, preparing and distributing educational materials, and serving as an invaluable resource for many groups and organizations across the state.

Protecting Tenants

A young mother came to DNA complaining of multiple landlord abuses, including lack of repairs, refusal to accept rent, unlawful termination notices, and that the landlord was trying to force her family out of the home. DNA sent a demand letter to the landlord outlining the tenant's rights, the landlord's responsibilities, and a list of repair issues. In response, the landlord filed a claim for eviction and unlawfully incapacitated the tenant's heater, leaving the mother and her two small children without heat.

DNA filed an extensive answer in response to the landlord's retaliatory eviction suit, and brought the case to trial, which led to a positive settlement agreement: the heat was restored, new provisions were added to the lease, and the landlord agreed to pay the tenant \$2,100 as settlement for the claims of retaliation and unlawful diminution of services.

Advocating for Patients

A man was bitten by a brown recluse spider at home and was rushed to the hospital. After several days of treatment, he was discharged, and sent a bill for over \$60,000. Without insurance, he was paying entirely out-of-pocket. The hospital's self-pay policy lowered his bill, but it was still over \$18,000 so he sought help from the New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty. They advocated for many hours to renegotiate his bill, resulting in his bill being reduced to \$12,000 and the hospital implementing a 24-month payment plan to help him avoid collections.

NMCLP's analysis showed that as a self-pay patient, he was charged substantially more than what insurance companies would have paid for the same services. Because there is currently no limitation imposed on billing by for-profit hospitals in New Mexico, hospitals are able to pass on exorbitant charges to low-income, uninsured patients. NMCLP is pursuing systemic solutions to address this issue for thousands of uninsured patients in New Mexico.

Assuring Family Safety

A women's shelter referred a client to New Mexico Legal Aid after her recently ex-boyfriend came to her parents' home drunk, wielding a firearm, and threatening her safety and that of the couple's three children. Prior to leaving the relationship, the client had experienced significant verbal abuse and serious threats from her partner, whose drinking continued to escalate. NMLA successfully advocated for a 6-month Domestic Violence Order of Protection and obtained a custody attachment awarding the mother primary custody. Additionally, NMLA obtained a credible threat finding, and the Court ordered the adverse party to surrender his weapons.

For more examples on how our legal aid partners are helping and advocating for New Mexicans, follow us on Facebook: @EqualAccesstoJustice

Defending Justice For All

Leadership Society Members

Thank you to the **51 Leadership Society law firms and solo practitioners** for investing in our community! *Your generous support is particularly critical for many families during times of uncertainty.*

Guardians of Justice (\$500+ per attorney)

Barnhouse, Keegan, Solimon & West, LLP Susan G. Chappell Law Firm Feferman, Warren & Mattison Freedman, Boyd, Hollander & Goldberg, P.A. The Lucero Law Office, LLC

Montgomery & Andrews Law Firm Law Offices of James B. Ragan Rodey Law Firm The Law Offices of Salazar, Sullivan & Jasionowski Rebecca Sitterly LLC Walther Family Law

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

Aubrey Law Firm, LLC
Anonymous
Chandler Law of Los Alamos
Cuddy & McCarthy, LLP
Curtis & Co.
Davis Law
Michael J. Doyle, Attorney at Law
JAlbright Law, LLC
Eileen R. Mandel, Attorney at Law
Martinez, Hart, Sanchez & Romero, P.C.

Modrall Sperling
John B. Pound LLC
Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Mielke & Brownell,
LLP
The Spence Law Firm, LLC
Law Offices of Michael Stout
Tenorio Law Offices
Law Office of Stephen B. Waller
The Weaks Law Firm, P.C.

Defending Justice For All

The tiers reflect the per attorney amount given to EAJ's Annual Campaign (4/1/2021-3/31/2022)

Thank you, **Rodey Law** and **Modrall Sperling**, for continuing to lead the state in your contributions. Your steadfast commitment to and support of New Mexico's civil legal services community is deeply appreciated.

RODEY

Law

Modrall Sperling

Law

Modrall Sperling

Leadership Society Members

Thank you to the **51 Leadership Society law firms and solo practitioners** for investing in our community! *Your generous support is particularly critical for many families during times of uncertainty.*

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

Anonymous
Atkinson, Baker, & Rodriguez, P.C.
Chavez Law Offices, P.A.
Chestnut Law Offices
Law Offices of Daymon Ely
Gallagher & Kennedy, P.A.
Griego, Guggino & Associates
Guebert, Gentile & Piazza, P.C.
Law Offices of Robert P. McNeill

Miller Stratvert, P.A.
Natelson Law Firm
Law Office of Tommy D. Parker
Pregenzer, Baysinger, Wideman & Sale, P.C.
Sapien Law, LLC
Ronald Taylor Law Office

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

Aldridge, Actkinson & Rutter Barnhill Law Office Conklin, Woodcock & Ziegler, P.C. Harmonson Law Firm Myers, McCready & Myers, P.C. Parnall Law Firm
Peacock Law Firm
Rothstein Donatelli, LLP
Stiff, Garcia & Associates

The tiers reflect the per attorney amount given to EAJ's Annual Campaign (4/1/2021-3/31/2022)

"The underlying mission of Equal Access to Justice is simple, yet profound and powerful. Ensuring the ability for all persons to access justice is critical to the proper functioning of our judicial system. Montgomery & Andrews is extremely proud to support Equal Access to Justice and its mission. Our law firm's longstanding tradition of supporting Equal Access to Justice began with our then partner, Sarah Singleton, and it continues to this day. Montgomery & Andrews encourages all members of the New Mexico legal profession to consider supporting this organization and its efforts to ensure that everyone has the ability to meaningfully access our judicial system."

– J. Brent Moore, Montgomery & Andrews, P.A.

Leaders for Justice

Thank you to the following individuals who generously contributed \$1,000 or more to this year's annual campaign, helping meet the rising need for civil legal services.

Paul F. Abrams

Dan A. Akenhead

Anonymous

John Arango

David E. Arnold

Arthur O. Beach

Bidtah Becker & Paul Spruhan

Gary F. Brownell

Briggs F. Cheney

Bruce H. Cottrell

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Mary Metzgar, In Memory of Bernie

Metzgar

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Minzner

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Honorable Lynn Pickard

Kip Purcell & Georgia Will

Dr. Barry Ramo & Roberta Cooper Ramo

Glynis Redwine

Edward R. Ricco & Mary Ann Sweeney

Slater-Roessel Family Fund

Geoffrey R. Romero

Charles & Mary Seibert

Honorable Rebecca Sitterly

Patricia & Luis Stelzner

Vanguard Charitable – grant from The

Saint John Fund

Deborah K. Woitte

The extent to which you stand for and make possible – equal access to justice – will define the degree of your commitment to a just society. Your contribution to Equal Access to Justice's annual campaign is an investment for keeping access to justice alive in all New Mexico's communities, large and small. Please help us give true meaning to our pledge that in our republic there will be "liberty and justice for all." -Honorable Justice Edward Chávez



Defending Justice For All

Thank you to these generous individuals for their gifts!

20+ Years

Paul F. Abrams** Anonymous**

Janice Bandrofchak & James Sharp

Arthur O. Beach**

Bidtah Becker & Paul Spruhan**

Stanley I. Betzer Sarah M. Bradley Gary F. Brownell**

Honorable Michael D. Bustamante

Bruce & Mary Keleher Castle

Briggs F. Cheney** Bruce H. Cottrell** Martha A. Daly Robert J. Desiderio Gerald G. Dixon Ella Joan Fenoglio

David & Marsha Freedman

Paul G. Fyfe and Mary F. Chavez

Vickie L Gabin

Jane & Norm Gagne**

Maria & William Geer

Nicholas R. Gentry - In Memory of

Patrick H. Kennedy, Esq. Steven F. Granberg John Morley Greacen Corbin P. Hildebrandt

20+ Years

Robert N. Hilgendorf

Tom Horan & Mary Ann Campbell- Dr. Barry Ramo and Roberta

Horan

Tova Indritz

Mark S. Jaffe

Donald Whitney Johnson

Paul A. Kastler

Jeffrey H. Kauffman

Greta & Thomas Keleher William R. Keleher

Barbara J. Koenig & Michael J.

Maccini

Michael S. Liebman

Cynthia & Nathan Mann Charlotte & James C. Martin Paula Maynes & Jeff McFall**

Mary Metzgar** - In Memory of

Bernie Metzgar Karen J. Meyers

Richard C. Minzner & Sabieann

Baca Minzner**

Honorable Nan G. Nash

Thomas W. Olson Victor R. Ortega

Honorable James & Janice Parker

Honorable Lynn Pickard**

20+ Years

Kip Purcell & Georgia Will**

Cooper Ramo**

Edward R. Ricco and Mary Ann

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Honorable John F. Robbenhaar

Leo M. Romero Richard Rosenstock **Andrew Schultz**

Mary H. Smith David J. Stout **Robert Tinnin**

Karen & Richard Weiner

Kathryn M. Wissel Terry M. Word Daniel Yohalem

** = Generous donors gave \$1,000 or more to the 2021/22 Annual Campaign.

Thank you for leaving a legacy of justice!

"My name is Leonard Padilla. I have been licensed to practice law in New Mexico since 1988. Recently, I decided to have estate planning documents prepared for all the usual reasons. I have chosen Equal Access to Justice as a beneficiary of my estate. I make this legacy donation to acknowledge the opportunities in my life provided by a legal education and the privilege of practicing law. Also, given the current times in which we live, this gift is made under the premise that if we are to remain a nation governed by the rule of law, the rule of law must be made available to all."

- Honorable Leonard J. Padilla

Thank you to these generous individuals for their gifts!

10+ Years

Anonymous (2) John Arango** Paul G. Bardacke Ricardo A. Berry

Honorable Celia Foy Castillo

Christine G. Chandler

Honorable Edward L. Chavez

Michael Joseph Condon

Honorable Susan M. Conway &

Robert Levy

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10+ Years

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Jacquelyn Robins Robert E. Sabin

David & Geraldine Salazar

John & Terri Salazar

Charles & Mary Seibert**
Slater-Roessel Family Fund**

10+ Years

William Slattery – In Memory of

Jesse Jacobus

Robert M. St. John

Patricia & Luis Stelzner**

M. Eliza Stewart Arlene Strumor Paula Tackett William D. Teel Corliss Thalley Jana L. Walker

Honorable Michael Edward Vigil

Hessel E. Yntema

** = Generous donors gave \$1,000 or more to the 2021/22 Annual Campaign.

"If you keep your eyes and heart open, you'll find that there are lots of opportunities for all of us to help serve and uplift our community. As an attorney, I can think of no better way to manifest our profession's higher beliefs than by volunteering and supporting legal aid through Equal Access to Justice."

- Paul Abrams

Thank you to these generous individuals for their gifts!

5+ Years

Lisa B. Adams-Shafer

Anonymous

David E. Arnold**

Dr. Stefanie Beninato

John B. Bigelow

Cynthia L. Blackwell

Sam Bregman

Amy L. Brown & Lisa White

Honorable Shannon B. Bulman

Jason M. Burnette

Catherine L. Butcher

Denise M. Chanez

Travis & Kathleen Collier

Douglas P. Cordova

Barbara & Douglas Decker

Nancy Desiderio – *In Memory of*

Judge Santiago E. Campos

Samuel M. Freund

Caren I. Friedman

Duane C. Gilkey

Elizabeth A. Glenn

Bradford K. Goodwin

F. Michael Hart – *In Memory of Fred* Charles and Deborah Pechewlys

Hart

Marianne & Dennis Hill

5+ Years

Ken Hughes

Honorable Valerie A. Huling

Lee Hunt**

Charlotte Itoh

Tammy M. Jasionowski

Charlotte Rich Joseph

Honorable Ted Kase

Gail Mindy Kempler

Stacey Leaman

Stephen T. LeCuyer & Joan

O'Connell

Anita Andree Agu Letter

Edwin Macy

Jason Marks

Charles McCormack &

Sally Bergen

Jean A. McCray

Randi McGinn**

Erin K. McSherry

Judith Mellow

Gianna M. Mendoza

Peg and Charles Moore**

Clifton B. Perry

Pablo Prando

5+ Years

Dennis P. Ritschel

Rachel & Julio Rodriguez

Richard Rosenstock

Anne Alise Rudio

Jennifer Salazar

Pia Aurelia Dominguez Salazar

Kelly Stout Sanchez

Betty & Robert Santandrea

Eric Schuler

Mark & Suzanne Sheridan

Stephen A. Slusher

Phyllis Subin

Patrick W. Sullivan

Bruce Evan Thompson

Laure van Heijenoort

Brian Van Denzen

Honorable Virginia Vigil

Deborah K. Woitte**

Randy & Jacqueline Woodcock

Kerri Yamashita

** = Generous donors gave \$1,000 or more to the 2021/22 Annual Campaign.

Many thanks to our Monthly Giving Circle Members

Monthly Giving Circle members support EAJ through automatic, recurring monthly gifts. For many, it's a convenient way to give and easily integrate into their monthly budget. Plus, they never have to worry about whether they have made their annual gift. EAJ appreciates the steady stream of support, which sustains our work year-round! If you would like to become a Monthly Giving Circle member, you can easily set up a recurring donation on our giving page at www.eaj-nm.org or by calling Heather at (505) 339-8096.

Thank you to these generous individuals for their gifts!

1+ Years

Dan Alan Akenhead**

Anonymous

Suzanne Atkinson

Kathrynn Suzanne Becker

Heather R. Benavidez

Honorable Beatrice J. Brickhouse

Aja Brooks

Richard H. Cravens

Michelle & Jeffrey M. Croasdell

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Honorable Megan P. Duffy

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Eric Guerrero

James Edward Harrington

Joan Marie Hart

Bruce Herr

Katherine Howington

Ellen Rhona Kemper

Dr. Gary Kenneth King

Jennifer L. Laws

Brenda Lindlief-Hall

1+ Years

David B. Martinez

Honorable Francis J. Mathew

Sean Patrick McAfee

Alexis Mena

Earl Mettler

David Charles Mielke

Mixcoatl Miera-Rosete

Michele Morosin

Heather Norfleet

Patrick T. Ortiz

Nathan Phillips**

Honorable Leonard J. Padilla -

In Memory of David Serna

Glynis Redwine**

Clifford M. Rees

Emma Rodriguez

Sabrina Rodriguez Salvato

Julio C. Romero

Geoffrey R. Romero**

Honorable Mary W. Rosner

Owen C. Rouse

Jennifer Jo Saavedra

Paul Sapp

Andrew Scholl

Tanya L. Scott

1+ Years

Honorable Patricio M. Serna

Michael Sievers

Robert A. Skipworth

Honorable Leslie C. Smith

Senator Bill Tallman

lames D. Tawney

Ellen Taylor

Rob Treinen

Kei Tsuzuki

Marit Tully & Andy Thomas

Vanguard Charitable - a

grant from The Saint John

Fund**

Joseph P. Walsh

Christopher D. Woodward

** = Generous donors gave \$1,000 or more to the 2021/22 Annual Campaign.

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 award plays a significant role in ensuring meaningful access to justice for all New Mexicans.

So Many Ways to Give!

Monthly Giving Circle

Sign-up for automatic monthly donations to EAJ and start making a big impact that works within your budget. *Easily set this up at www.eaj-nm.org.*

IRA Charitable Rollover

If you are age 70½ or older, use your traditional IRA as a simple way to reduce your tax liability and make your charitable gift to EAJ. Contact your tax advisor for additional information.

Matching Gifts

Double or even triple the impact of your gift to EAJ by making a matching gift. Some companies will match gifts made by retired employees and/or employee spouses, too! Check with your HR team to find out if your company has a matching gift program.

Donor Advised Funds

Make a significant impact with a donor advised fund. Recommend a recurring gift to Equal Access to Justice through your existing DAF. Contact your DAF advisor to initiate your grant recommendation.

Estate Gifts

Leave a legacy of justice! Make a bequest in your estate plan to EAJ. In addition to bequests, there are many different ways to make a planned gift. Contact your financial advisor to discuss the best option for your personal circumstances. If you are planning a gift to EAJ in your estate plan and would like to be recognized as having made a planned gift, please contact us.

Leadership Society

Law firms, corporate counsel, & solo practitioners come together annually to support civil legal services through membership in the society. Partner with us and fulfill Rule 16-601 of The Rules of Professional Conduct!

United Way

Designate EAJ as a recipient of your donations through United Way. Whether you participate in a workplace giving campaign or participate individually, this is an easy way to make a sustaining gift. Stock donations may also be made via United Way.

Cy Pres

If you are involved in a class action case and are unable to distribute all the funds, designate EAJ as a cy pres recipient. A great candidate for fulfilling a case's charitable objective, EAJ is favorably considered by the courts to be an excellent choice for cy pres awards.

Unused Campaign Funds

If you are leaving public office and have campaign funds remaining, please consider donating them to EAJ. No gift is too small when the need is so great.

Give with Confidence!



EAJ earned Guidestar's seal of approval!

Financial Overview

For Fiscal Year ending March 31, 2022

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES		STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	
REVENUE		ASSETS	
		Cash	\$ 272,648
Individual Gifts	\$ 116,984	Other receivables	\$ 1,918
Business Gifts	\$ 93,358		
Cy Pres	\$ 30,421	TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 274,566
Other	\$ 33,915		
		LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	
Total Revenue	\$ 274,678	Accounts Payable	\$ 902
EXPENSE		Total Liabilities	\$ 902
Grants to Orgs	\$ 178,575	Net Assets	
Staff	\$ 56,548	Fund Balance as of 3-31-22	\$ 248,824
Operations	\$ 11,742	Change in Net Assets	\$ 24,840
Contract Svcs	\$ 2,973	Total Net Assets	\$ 273,664
Total Expense	\$ 249,838	TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$ 274,566
Change in Net Assets	\$ 24,840		



Campaign Committee

We are grateful to these **25 volunteers** who gave generously of their time to help make EAJ's 2021-22 Annual Campaign's success possible.

Dan Akenhead

John Bigelow

Susan Miller

Amy Brown

Denise Chanez

Susan Chappell

Honorable Justice Edward Chávez

Bruce Cottrell

Lewis Creekmore

Mike Doyle

David Freedman

Julia Guarino

Karen Kilgore

Barbara Koenig

Sireesha Manne

Ed Marks

Paula Maynes

Randi McGinn

Alexis Mena

John Pound

Charles 'Kip' Purcell

Rodolfo Sanchez

David Stout

Senator Bill Tallman

Alicia Ubeda-Harvey

Interested in helping with EAJ's 2022-23 Annual Campaign? Contact heather@eaj-nm.org.

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. Thank you!



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, and the everyday 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 equal access to legal aid.



Defending Instice For All

Defending Justice For All

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

<u>www.eaj-nm.org</u> 505-339-8096 PO Box 25941, Albuquerque, NM 87125