

JUSTICE FOR ALL

NEW MEXICO ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

ACCESS TO JUSTICE FUND GRANT DEADLINE

The 2024-2025 Access to Justice Fund Grant Commission Request for Proposals (RFP) was released on February 1, 2024. The RFP and application process information can be found on the State Bar of New Mexico's website through the link below.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: Noon, Monday, April 1, 2024

<https://www.sbnm.org/Leadership/Commissions/Access-to-Justice-Fund-Grant-Commission>

CHAMPIONS OF ACCESS TO JUSTICE



Chief Justice C. Shannon Bacon

March's Champion of Access to Justice is Chief Justice C. Shannon Bacon, who has consistently dedicated herself to ensuring that justice for all is a reality in New Mexico. She was recently recognized by USA TODAY as one of their Women of the Year, a recognition of women across the country who have made significant impacts in their communities. As Chief Justice Bacon concludes her 2-year term serving as Chief Justice, in April 2024, the Access to Justice Commission extends a sincere "Thank You" to the Chief Justice for her commitment, guidance, and dedication to New Mexico's ATJ efforts.

Chief Justice Bacon was appointed to the New Mexico Supreme Court on January 25, 2019, and before that appointment, she served as a district court judge, in the civil division, at the Second Judicial District Court. Her experience,

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SPOTLIGHT



March's Spotlight is on Enlace Comunitario (Enlace), a local nonprofit dedicated to providing culturally and linguistically specific services to domestic violence (DV) survivors in Central New Mexico's Latine and immigrant communities.

Enlace was formed in 2000 as a social justice organization to meet community needs in the wake of a survivor's tragic death during a DV incident. Since that time, Enlace has focused on providing previously unavailable DV survivor services to Spanish-speaking immigrants and their families. Enlace provides direct intervention services to over 600 families yearly and serves thousands more through community outreach and education. While Enlace is a culturally specific organization, Enlace will support any DV survivor in need.

Enlace provides support for survivors and families, including wraparound intervention services to adults, youth, and children affected by domestic violence. These services include crisis intervention, case management, housing assistance, therapy, legal assistance, life skills/parenting groups, financial capability training, and workforce development support.

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Want to highlight your civil legal service program? A pro bono event? ATJ efforts in your district? Tell us about it! atj@nmcourts.gov

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both as an attorney and as a judge, highlighted the challenges New Mexicans face in accessing the justice system. Under her guidance as Chief Justice, New Mexico has expanded the judiciary's efforts to support language access services and accommodations, resulting in New Mexico currently ranking first in the nation for language access in the justice system. Chief Justice Bacon has emphasized and empowered those around her to facilitate meaningful access to civil legal resources through rule changes, plain language forms, legal advice, and self-help centers. She has long understood that a stable and thriving community is rooted in a civil justice system that is accessible and understandable, regardless of location or status.

As an active chair, co-chair, and member of numerous commissions, committees, and working groups across the country, she remains a leader in access to justice improvements nationally and in New Mexico. She has encouraged collaborative and innovative efforts to fill the justice gap across the State, including support in the development and launch of the Modest Means Helpline, the Rural Justice Initiative, and placing "justice station" kiosks in the Eleventh Judicial District, identified as one of the legal deserts across the State. She has facilitated expansion of the judiciary's scribing programs, pro bono activities, and the development of a statewide self-help center. During her tenure as Chief Justice, she spoke at a White House event regarding New Mexico's eviction diversion and prevention program, with New Mexico's program having been identified as the gold standard. The Access to Justice Commission congratulates the Chief Justice on the completion of her term as Chief Justice and looks forward to her continued support and efforts in the Commission's work going forward.



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All services are client-centered and client-directed. Enlace's prevention team provides a non-therapeutic support group, intergenerational leadership development programs, and prevention classes that foster equitable, gender-affirming relationships between youth and their parents/caregivers, as well as within their larger communities.

The prevention team partners with several schools embedded within client communities to host community members' participation in Healthy Relationships and Incredible Years classes. Enlace, in celebration of Women's History Month, launched its latest client-centered video: [Enlace Comunitario | Yesenia's Story \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...). Enlace, as part of its immigration work, supports clients with VAWA and U Visa cases and is currently in the process of submitting its Department of Justice accreditation.

Enlace accepts donations from individual donors and private foundations and receives financial support from city, county, state, and federal entities. Additionally, Enlace accepts donations of items to assist survivors and their families. More information about Enlace's programs and activities is available in Spanish and English on their website: <https://www.enlacenm.org/>



Effective March 20, 2024, the Administrative Office of the Courts has adjusted the fee schedule for the Court-Appointed Attorney Program ("CAAP") to reflect the hard work undertaken by court-appointed attorneys. The process to request payment is straightforward, requiring the attorney to submit, via email, an invoice and their order of appointment to CAAP. If it is the attorney's first time submitting an invoice to a state entity, they will need to obtain a "Vendor ID" number through a simple process. For more information please visit the judiciary's website or contact CAAP. The revised fee schedule and invoice forms can be reviewed on the Court's [website](https://www.enlacenm.org/).

UPCOMING EVENTS

New Mexico Immigrant Law Center CALL FOR PRO BONO ATTORNEYS

NMILC Pro Bono Clinic for
SIJS State Predicate Orders
April 26, 2024
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Modrall Sperling Law Office

PETER H. JOHNSTONE LEGAL FAIR AND MEDIATION DAY

[HTTPS://VAPNM.ORG/TELECLINICS](https://vapnm.org/teleclinics)

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2024
FROM 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURTHOUSE
400 LOMAS BLVD. NW, ALBUQUERQUE, NM
87102

MODEST MEANS HELPLINE

Small Business Webinar
April 24, 2024
From 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
Click to register:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_6OIHGUGESgalxZTmUmtf7g#/registration

The State Bar of New Mexico is offering one-hour virtual CLEs that will satisfy the new requirement in Rule 18-201 for Equity in Justice CLEs. Webinars are scheduled throughout the year. More information can be located at <https://www.sbnm.org/Member-Services/Equity-in-Justice>



Questions, submissions, and requests for accommodations can be sent to Tesha and Twila at atj@nmcourts.gov

SBNM Bankruptcy Virtual Workshop

Each month, on the 4th Wednesday,
from 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
To register, call 505-797-6094
For more information, call 505-797-6000

SBNM Divorce Virtual Workshop

Each month, on the 1st Wednesday,
from 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
To register, call 505-797-6094
For more information, call 505-797-6000

Legal Resources for the Elderly Program (LREP) Virtual Workshop

Each month, on the 2nd Tuesday,
beginning at 11:00 AM
To register, call 505-797-6006 or
1-800-876-6657

NMILC Wednesday Workshop

Each month, on the 3rd Wednesday,
the NM Immigrant Law Center hosts a walk-
in workshop focused on DACA and Green
Cards.
visit: <https://www.nmilc.org/daca>

Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court

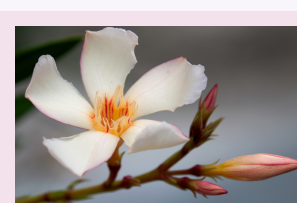
Each month, on the 2nd Friday, Metro holds
Teleclinics. To participate, parties can call the
Self-Help Office at 505-841-9817

ATJ COMMISSION 2024

MEETING SCHEDULE

Please pre-register for in-person attendance

June 7, 2024/Retreat
September 13, 2024
December 6, 2024



The NM Commission on Access to Justice (ATJ) is an independent, statewide body dedicated to expanding and improving civil legal assistance in the state.