

# JUSTICE FOR ALL

NEW MEXICO ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION  
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## CHAMPIONS OF ACCESS TO JUSTICE



### Representative Dayan Hochman-Vigil

July's Champion for Access to Justice is Representative Dayan "Day" M. Hochman-Vigil who serves as the State Representative for New Mexico House District 15. Representative Hochman-Vigil also manages her own law firm, DHV Law LLC, specializing in Aviation & Space Law.

A graduate of the University of New Mexico School of Law and longtime New Mexico resident, Representative Hochman-Vigil was first elected in 2018 and immediately became a leader in criminal justice reform and transparency in government.

As a Champion for Access to Justice, Representative Hochman-Vigil has brought legislation seeking to expand access to legal services for vulnerable New Mexicans across the state.

In the 2023 Legislative Session, she specifically sponsored bills providing support to the Commission's mission for legal services.

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## SPOTLIGHT ON CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES

### New Mexico Immigrant Law Center

This month's spotlight is on the New Mexico Immigrant Law Center ("NMILC"), whose mission is "to advance justice and equity by empowering low-income immigrant communities through collaborative legal services, advocacy, and education."

NMILC's goal is to make high-quality legal representation accessible to low-income immigrant communities. NMILC provides holistic and trauma-informed legal services to immigrant survivors of crime, trafficking, and domestic violence; asylum seekers both in detention and

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## COMMUNITY WEBINARS

Check out the latest Community Webinar, an Online Tour of Law Help NM presented by Carol Garner!

Watch all Community Webinars on the  
NM Courts YouTube Channel  
@NewMexicoCourts

[accesstojustice.nmcourts.gov](https://www.accesstojustice.nmcourts.gov)

### ATJ Commission Meetings

September 22, 2023 (Hybrid)

December 8, 2023 (Hybrid)

Pre-Registration required for in-person attendance.

living throughout NM; immigrant youth pursuing Special Immigrant Juvenile Status; and immigrants seeking a path to residency and citizenship. NMILC does this work through direct legal services, pro se programs, policy advocacy, and education.

NMILC was actively engaged in coordinating community-led efforts to support House Bill 15 in the last legislative session, now codified as NMSA 1978, Sections 40-18-1 to -4 (2023). These concerted efforts led to critical changes in New Mexico's legislation on Special Immigrant Juvenile Status by bringing New Mexico's law into alignment with the SIJS federal statute and preserving this critical avenue for eligible youth and children up to the age of 21. SIJS is a unique immigration remedy that creates positive generational change by allowing vulnerable immigrant children to obtain protections, including access to a work permit, healthcare, educational opportunities, deferred action (protection from deportation), the pathway to permanent residency, and eventually citizenship. **Pro bono attorneys can help, positively impacting the career and educational opportunities for newly SIJS eligible immigrant children and youth in NM, through representation in state court proceedings. No prior experience necessary. Contact NMILC Volunteer/Pro Bono & Development Manager, Delaney Swink, at [dswink@nmilc.org](mailto:dswink@nmilc.org), to get involved.**

**Want to highlight your civil legal service program? A pro bono event? Tell us about it!**

**ATJ@nmcourts.gov**

**Contact Tesha and Twila**

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

## REPRESENTATIVE DAYAN HOCHMAN-VIGIL

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The Commission looks forward to continued collaboration with Representative Hochman-Vigil on expanding access to justice.

### Scribing in New Mexico Courts

In November of last year the NM Supreme Court expanded its pilot scribing program to all districts in NM. Under the program a trained court employee or volunteer reads a court form out loud and writes down an individual's answers. The scrivener reads the answers back to the individual to assure accuracy and provides the individual with the completed form. If an interpreter is needed, AOC's Language Access program pairs an interpreter with a scrivener to complete the scribing process.

Scriveners do not offer legal advice but provide an essential resource for individuals who, due to limited English proficiency, low literacy skills, low computer literacy or access, or disability, are unable to complete necessary forms. The Administrative Office of the Courts has developed community outreach materials and an informational video.

<https://www.nmcourts.gov/videos/>



**Please contact ATJ@nmcourts.gov for any accommodation needs.**