

MID-YEAR

# DONOR IMPACT REPORT

JANUARY THROUGH JUNE 2025





# INTRODUCTION



## SIX MONTHS IN...

As we reach the halfway mark of the year, we want to take a moment to reflect on the progress we've made - progress made possible by you. In a time of unprecedented challenges, your unwavering support has fueled our fight to uphold justice, protect democracy, and defend the rights that make our nation stronger. Together, we have resisted, rebuilt, and renewed our commitment to a fair and equitable future.

What follows are both some exciting updates regarding the leadership of AFJ and the launch of some new programming, as well as progress on our longstanding programs.





# WELCOMING BOLD LEADERSHIP

## RACHEL ROSSI JOINS AFJ

We are thrilled to welcome Rachel Rossi as the new leader of Alliance for Justice. Rachel brings deep experience in the law; her career is defined by fearless advocacy and progressive leadership. As she puts it:



*"I am deeply honored to join Alliance for Justice, an organization with a proud history of defending the integrity of our courts and advancing social justice. Today's challenges call for an unyielding commitment to justice, a dedication to uplifting underserved communities, and strong opposition to policies that undermine our rights and freedoms. I look forward to building on AFJ's legacy and expanding its impact at a time when our democracy demands bold and courageous leadership."*



Rachel's leadership comes at a pivotal moment, and we look forward to building a stronger movement with her vision and guidance. [Read our press release and check out our welcome page] to learn more.







## NEW PROGRAM

# AFJ LAW

In addition to hiring Rachel, AFJ is pleased to share that we are preparing to launch **AFJ Law**, a new program that builds on the success of Bolder Advocacy by **providing progressive groups with compliance legal services**, more important than ever as they face increased pressure from bad actors. This year, AFJ will hire a Program Director for AFJ Law (search began in May 2025) as well as a Program Manager. These two staff positions will be charged primarily with building the structure for this program and developing a plan to pilot these services in the next year, **prioritizing grassroots, community organizing**, and other **power-building organizations**.

Separate from AFJ Law, AFJ is also in discussion with several partners about launching a broader nonprofit defense legal network whereby we and our partners will connect nonprofits in need of legal representation with networks of pro-bono attorneys.

Both distinct efforts are meant to meet the significant need of nonprofit organizations who are increasingly under threat, particularly those groups led by women or people of color or other marginalized and underserved communities, often serving constituencies that are in the crosshairs: immigrants, LGBTQIA+ individuals, and more. We look forward to sharing more about these initiatives later this year.





# DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, & ACCESSIBILITY (DEIA)

At Alliance for Justice, we believe that diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) are not just principles, but the foundation of our strength. At our all-staff retreat in September 2024, we reaffirmed and built upon those longstanding values through a new staff working group dedicated to DEIA. After months of collaboration, the group produced a new DEIA statement that we share here:

## OUR DEIA STATEMENT

*At Alliance for Justice, we celebrate the richness that our differences bring. We believe that diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) are not just principles, but the foundation of our strength. Every individual brings a distinct and invaluable perspective, and we thrive when all voices are encouraged to speak openly, authentically, and with confidence. By embracing who we are and where we come from, we create a culture where everyone is welcomed, heard, and empowered to contribute to our collective mission.*

Now, our DEIA work continues against the backdrop of the Trump administration's all-out assault on diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts. From threatening to pull funding from a state because of support of DEI, removing all mentions of DEI on federal websites, and scratching references to "transgender" on national LGBTQ+ landmarks such as the Stonewall Inn, this attack is a frightening rollback of the progress we have made towards a true multiracial democracy that celebrates and benefits from the diversity of this country. *That* is why Alliance for Justice stands firm in our commitment to DEIA.



# FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE IN THE COURTS

With attacks on democracy escalating, we have doubled down on ensuring fair courts and defending the judicial system from partisan threats:



## DEEPENING THE BENCH

Recognizing the critical role magistrate judges play in every district court, Alliance for Justice is expanding our Building the Bench program to raise awareness of the power of magistrate judges, and to increase interest in this pathway to the bench with highly qualified, diverse judicial candidates.

In February 2025, we hosted a Magistrates 101 session for lawyers interested in becoming magistrate judges, educating more than **100** attendees on pathways to the judiciary — an essential step in shaping fair courts for the future.



## AFJ ACTION'S IMPACT

In Wisconsin, Susan Crawford's decisive victory ensured a 4-3 liberal majority on the state supreme court. Despite Elon Musk's \$25 million investment backing the opposition and a flood of anti-transgender ads, voters delivered a resounding defeat to Musk-backed candidate Brad Schimel, securing justice by a double-digit margin. AFJ Action supported Susan Crawford through [what AFJ Action did]. This victory reaffirms the importance of state courts in safeguarding democracy and rejecting corporate influence over our judiciary. (Alliance for Justice as a 501(c)(3) public charity did not participate in or intervene in this or any other political campaign).

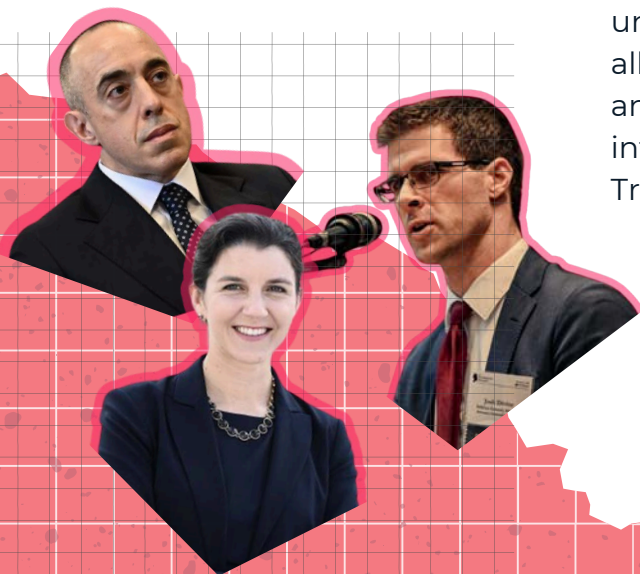


PROVIDING ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

# OUR UNIQUE RESEARCH ON JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO STAY INFORMED, SPREAD THE WORD, AND JOIN THE FIGHT FOR FAIR COURTS BY USING THESE FACT SHEETS AS ADVOCACY TOOLS TO PROTECT JUSTICE FOR ALL.

Uncovering the records of Trump's judicial nominees is key to highlighting the danger and stakes of their confirmations. Even before Trump's first nominations, we launched a series of fact sheets outlining his first-term judges' impact on our rights, our communities, and our democracy. This spring, we quickly got to work combing through his first round of nominees' backgrounds, highlighting [Josh Divine](#), [Emil Bove](#), and [Whitney Hermandorfer's](#) egregious positions: advocating for the return of literacy tests at the polls; firing prosecutors who had investigated the January 6 attacks; and defending near-total bans on abortion (respectively). Our unique research ensures our supporters, allied organizations, champions on the Hill, and the media have clear, digestible information about the loyalist judges Trump is trying to install on the bench.





# BOLDER ADVOCACY

## BY THE NUMBERS

900+

technical assistance  
questions answered  
through our **free** hotline.



375+

workshops held  
(and on track for  
**400** by year-end)



267

unique  
organizations  
served



9,000

participants  
engaged



22

webinars held



650+

individuals were  
in attendance



## EMPOWERING NONPROFITS & ADVOCATES THROUGH BOLDER ADVOCACY

Through our Bolder Advocacy program, we are equipping organizations with the tools to stand strong in an increasingly hostile political climate by:

### LAUNCHING A NEW ADVOCACY SERIES

On our April 2 episode of BA's Rules of the Game podcast, we debuted a [new eight-part social justice series](#). Each episode spotlights advocacy in a specific issue area — to date, this includes advocacy for LGBTQ+ communities, racial justice, civil rights, and immigration, criminal legal reform, environmental justice, and gender and reproductive justice.





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## BOLDER ADVOCACY

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### EDUCATING ORGANIZATIONS THROUGH WEBINARS

In addition to tailored trainings for to meet organizations' needs, our public webinars have covered key issues to help nonprofits meet the moment we're in. Our March 18 webinar guided nonprofits on how to prepare for politically motivated attacks, and our April 29 webinar equipped nonprofits with recordkeeping best practices, strengthening their ability to advocate effectively and defend themselves if they come under attack.

### HIRING A SENIOR STATE LAW & LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

With this new position, we're expanding our guides on state rules governing lobbying, voter assistance, and other advocacy strategies, as well as dedicating capacity to tracking and responding to attacks on nonprofits from the Hill and other policymakers.



BUILDING COMMUNITY

# EXPANDING OUR MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

## AS OUR MOVEMENT GROWS...

As our movement grows, we have strengthened AFJ's membership structure to offer deeper connections and more impactful support:

### WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

In the first half of 2025, we've welcomed 18 new organizations to our network, expanding our collective advocacy power.

### INNOVATING MEETING STRUCTURES

We've redesigned member meetings to group organizations into cohorts based on their structural needs, such as multi-entity organizations with both 501(c)(3) and 501 (c)(4) components. This shift fosters collaboration and shared strategies tailored to their organizational frameworks.

### MENTORING MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Members can now book one-on-one sessions with our Communications and Development teams, receiving guidance on branding, messaging, and fundraising strategies.



# AMPLIFYING VOICES THROUGH HOLDING COURT

Our Holding Court series continues to bring experts, authors, and community leaders directly to our audiences — sparking critical conversations on justice and democracy. In the first half of 2025, we've engaged over 2,500 viewers, fostering meaningful dialogue on the future of advocacy.

**SAVE THE DATE**

## IN PERSON HOLDING COURT

**Tuesday, September 09, 2025**

6:00 PM ET

**Lankford Auditorium**

at the True Reformer Building

**1200 U St. NW,**

Washington, DC 20009

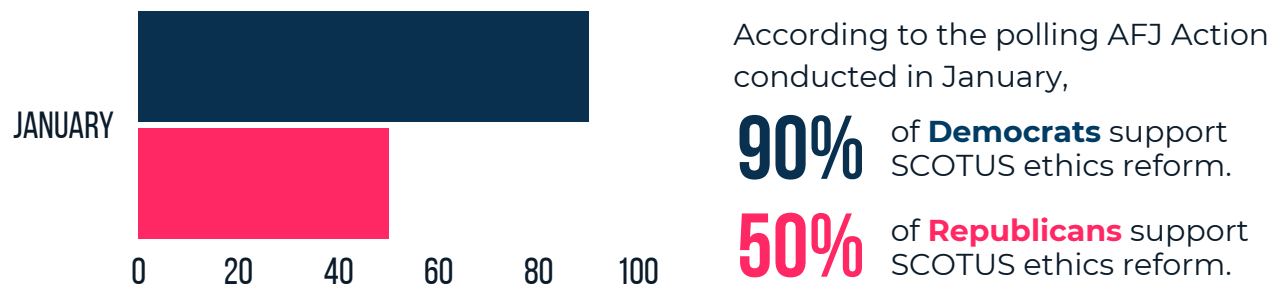
**MORE DETAILS SOON. WE HOPE YOU JOIN US!**



# HOLDING THE LINE AGAINST AUTHORITARIANISM

In February 2025, our teams held the State Court Strategy Summit, convening the leading advocates in judicial elections and appointments to map out our strategy over the next six years. Post-convening, we are continuing conversations with attendees to move forward this work and stay connected. We plan to map out all the priority states leading into 2032 and hold meetings with key leaders to figure out how to fill gaps at the state level.

Along with our coalition peers, we have been effective at driving public attention and awareness to the Supreme Court's ethics crisis.



In a final show of how much we won the public argument in this area, in July 2024 President Biden and Vice President Harris endorsed the need for Supreme Court ethics reform. For the Trump administration, while we continue to watch judicial ethical lapses, we expect the biggest fight in this arena will be SCOTUS vacancies.

In the decades since our inception, and in our work over the past four years, we have helped reinforce the guardrails of our democracy, with judges holding the line. When the Trump Administration attempted to pause billions of dollars in essential grant and loan programs, threatening the safety and security of millions — including nonprofits serving vulnerable communities — judges we championed, including Amir Ali and Loren AliKhan, ruled to restore those critical funds.



### HOLDING THE LINE AGAINST AUTHORITARIANISM

Ali ruled against the freezing of foreign aid, and AliKhan blocked the unconstitutional attempt to sidestep Congress, ensuring lifesaving funds continued to flow. More recently, in May, AliKhan ruled against Trump's executive order targeting the law firm Susman Godfrey, which represents Dominion Voting Systems in its cases challenging Trump's claims that the 2020 election was stolen. In fewer than six months under the second Trump administration, we are seeing why judges are a crucial part of our government's checks and balances and one we cannot ignore no matter what party leads the others.







## LOOKING AHEAD

# A MOMENT OF OPPORTUNITY & RESOLVE

While we face unprecedented threats to democracy, we have been here before — and we know how to fight. We’ve built power during past challenges, and we’ve made our democracy stronger even in the most daunting of times.

This work has never been more urgent. And yet, thanks to your support, we are prepared, emboldened, and ready.

We look forward to being in conversation with you throughout the year, working together to confront injustice and build a future where democracy, fairness, and equality are upheld.

As longtime AFJ staff member and our current General Counsel Nona Randois said:



*“The administration wants to scare us to keep us quiet — to stop us from challenging their cruel actions, standing up for the Constitution, the rule of law, and each other. We need to be motivated by our shared humanity, not our fear. Now is the time to bravely stand for the vision of an inclusive democracy with liberty and justice for all.*

***Alliance for Justice will be there with you.”***





# YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT MATTERS

## WE CANNOT DO THIS WORK ALONE.

Your partnership strengthens our ability to confront injustice and drive meaningful change. We encourage you to stay engaged — whether through donations, advocacy, or sharing our mission with others.

Thank you for standing with us. Together, we are shaping a more just and equitable future.



**TOGETHER, WE ARE SHAPING A MORE  
JUST AND EQUITABLE FUTURE.**