

AFJ INSIDER



Dear Friend,

As we begin 2026, I want to take a moment to **thank you for your extraordinary support** throughout 2025 and the ongoing commitment so many of you have made to AFJ.

This past year brought an outpouring of strength from our community — **new partners** stepping forward, **long-time supporters** re-engaging with renewed energy, and **all of you** standing firmly with AFJ. We are deeply grateful.

And this outpouring couldn't come at a more urgent time. Your support and energy helped AFJ double down on our nonprofit defense work. And while we've said this frequently, this work has never been more important. I recently authored a piece for [Democracy Docket](#) that speaks to the moment we are in. There is a growing (and frightening) wave of political attacks directed at nonprofit organizations across the country — groups that provide essential services, hold government accountable, and give voice to communities that might otherwise go unheard. I highlight how often unfounded accusations are used to justify investigations, create reputational harm, and intimidate organizations and the donors who support them. And of course, I touch on the ways in which AFJ, through Bolder Advocacy and the Nonprofit Legal Defense Network, is working to help nonprofits protect themselves and to continue boldly speaking out and serving their communities.

Your partnership makes this work possible. Because of you, AFJ is able to stand with organizations on the front lines, defend civil society, and ensure that the voices of communities across the country are not silenced.

Thank you for all you have done — and continue to do — to strengthen this movement. I look forward to all we will accomplish together in the year ahead.

In community,

Rachel Rossi

President of Alliance for Justice

DONATE TODAY



How We Fight Matters

Federal Courts

Trump's Judicial Nominees

- Six nominees were marked up and reported out of the Senate Judiciary Committee and are ready for Senate floor votes: [Alexander Van Hook](#) (W.D. La.), [David Fowlkes](#) (W.D. Ark.), [Nicholas Ganjei](#) (S.D. Tex.), [Aaron Peterson](#) (Alaska), [Justin Olson](#) (S.D. Ind.), [Brian Lea](#) (W.D. Tenn.), and [Megan Benton](#) (W.D. Mo.).
- Trump also recently announced four new nominees on Truth Social: [Anna St. John](#) (E.D. La.), [John Shepherd](#) (W.D. Ark.), [Chris Wolfe](#) (W.D. Tex.), and [Andrew Davis](#) (W.D. Tex.).

These nominees lack demographic diversity, and many are aligned with right-wing efforts that undermine civil rights, press freedom, access to justice, and corporate accountability. Notably, Anna St. John leads the Hamilton Lincoln Law Institute and Center for Class Action Fairness — an organization tied to the Competitive Enterprise Institute and funded by Koch family foundations, Exxon-Mobil, Monsanto, the American Bankers Association, and others — and has a record of opposing legislation to end forced arbitration and weakening consumer protections.

[View all of the unfit and unqualified nominees →](#)

State Courts

Defending Democracy

It may be a new year, but the attacks used against state supreme courts that deliver decisions protecting civil and human rights still remain the same. Earlier this month, in a 4-1 decision, the Wyoming Supreme Court [struck down](#) two near total abortion bans in the state. The four justices in the majority were all appointed by a Republican governor. However, following the decision, conservative state lawmakers quickly [rebuked](#) the decision and opened a private legislative session to consider different judicial reform proposals, including one that would shrink the court's size from five to three justices.



This knee-jerk reaction from conservative legislators highlights a dangerous trend of attacking and delegitimizing the courts following decisions they don't agree with. A [similar instance](#) happened last year in a neighboring state in Montana following the court's decisions protecting abortion access and environmental protections. These attacks call into question what conservatives believe rule of law should be.

[Help protect our state courts →](#)



Our Momentum



Bolder Advocacy

Protecting Nonprofits on the Front Lines

It's 2026, which means the midterm election year is here! For tips on how to ensure your 501(c)(3)'s election year activities remain above board, check out [our latest blog](#) on "Nonprofits, Elections, and the Art of Remaining Nonpartisan."

Then, hop on over to the [Rules of the Game podcast](#) for 10 New Year's Resolutions your nonprofit should commit to this year.

[Stand with nonprofits →](#)

MEMBERSHIP & OUTREACH

A Stronger Movement — Because of You

Alliance for Justice [invites you to join us](#) on **Thursday, February 5 at 2pm ET** for Holding Court: The Endangered Lawyer, a virtual conversation moderated by AFJ President Rachel Rossi and featuring Brett Dixon, Todd A. Cox, and Seth Frotman, with additional panelists to be announced.

In recognition of the [2026 International Day of the Endangered Lawyer](#), which has designated the United States as the focus country, the panel will examine the growing threats to the rule of law — from attacks on judges and attorneys to executive actions targeting law firms and legal nonprofits.

[Join the movement →](#)



SUSTAINER SPOTLIGHT

Thank you to every donor who supported AFJ in 2025 — especially the **259 first-time donors** who joined our community and the growing number of **AFJ Sustainers**, which more than doubled from 2024. In a year when the news often felt heavy, standing in community with you brought us strength.

Our Sustainers make a powerful impact through their consistent, monthly support. One new Sustainer shared why they chose to give:



I was drawn to Alliance for Justice because of its **clear commitment to protecting democracy**, advancing equity, and strengthening the legal infrastructure that makes long-term systems change possible. In this moment in particular, when democratic norms and access to justice feel increasingly fragile, **supporting organizations like AFJ feels both urgent and necessary to me. As a leader and a parent**, I believe deeply in investing in efforts that help safeguard the rules and norms of a fair and just society.

Becoming **a recurring donor** felt like a way to offer consistent, values-aligned support to work that often happens behind the scenes yet is absolutely **essential to a healthy democracy**. I'm grateful for the opportunity to contribute in a steady way to a mission I trust.

D A R I N S I M M O N S

Whether you're new to AFJ or have stood with us for years, thank you.

Your support fueled us through a challenging year and strengthens the fights ahead.

HELP ALLIANCE FOR JUSTICE
REMAIN A LIFELINE
IN A TIME OF UNPRECEDENTED
ATTACKS ON OUR RIGHTS.

GIVE TODAY



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