

AFJ INSIDER



Dear Friend,

I want to begin by thanking you. Your support makes it possible for Alliance for Justice to show up every day in the spaces where our democracy is being tested. And as we mark Pride Month amidst not just the increasing attacks against LGBTQ+ people but also the resilience of our communities, **we are reminded that the fight for equality, dignity, and full participation in all aspects of life is ongoing.**

It is a time to celebrate progress, but also to recommit to protecting the rights that remain under threat.

As you know, AFJ is working on multiple fronts to protect the integrity of our courts and the communities they serve. **We are providing resources to nonprofits facing increasingly aggressive and intimidating threats, including raids and investigations.** We are working tirelessly to slow and scrutinize judicial nominees who could reshape the courts for generations, making sure the stakes are clear, and accountability is not lost in the process. We celebrate progress where we can, while keeping our eyes firmly on the work ahead.

This is even more important as we await rulings from a Supreme Court that has proved all too willing to bestow ever increasing power on President Trump and the executive branch, writ large; and to eliminate hard-fought rights and protections.

For instance, in [*Trump v. Slaughter*](#), the Court took another step in eroding democracy with its latest effort to give Trump as much power as possible. It overturned more than 90 years of precedent, weakening the independence of agencies that protect workers, consumers, and the media.

There are also two cases before the Court that threaten the rights of transgender people. The Court is weighing *West Virginia v. B.P.J.* and *Little v. Hecox*, both of which challenge laws that ban transgender students from participating on school sports teams consistent with their gender identity – who they are. These cases are about whether transgender students will be treated fairly and given the same opportunities as their peers. The Court's decision will set a precedent that affects young people across the country.

These cases reflect the same broader truth: **the rules of safeguarding fairness, accountability, and equal justice are being tested.**

That's why AFJ's work and your partnership matter so much right now.

We are fighting to protect the courts, defend the voices of advocacy and dissent, and ensure that justice remains within reach for everyone. But we cannot do it without you. Please continue to stand with AFJ. **Your voice, engagement, and support are essential as we meet this moment together.**

With gratitude and determination,

Rachel Rossi

President of Alliance for Justice

DONATE TODAY

How We Fight Matters

FEDERAL COURTS

Last week, the Senate confirmed [Tony Mattivi](#) and [Tony Powell](#) to lifetime seats as federal judges for the District of Kansas. Additionally, the Senate confirmed [Justin Smith](#), Trump's personal lawyer, to a lifelong judgeship on the Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit.

From Powell's [termination](#) of safeguards ensuring equitable public education funding, to Mattivi's weaponization of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation to [pressure a political opponent](#), to Smith's unethical [representation of Trump](#) in the E. Jean Carroll sexual assault and defamation case, all three have records that are deeply concerning. Even among these unqualified and unfit judicial nominees, Smith's track record shows he is one of the worst: he is anti-abortion, anti-LGBTQ+, anti-democracy, and anti-environment, and has defended Trump in the presidential immunity Supreme Court case. AFJ [led over 40 organizations](#) in opposing his nomination based on this record. Smith will undoubtedly rule to enable Trump's authoritarian agenda, bucking the rule of law and harming everyday people along the way.

We are disappointed to see more of Trump's allies rewarded for their loyalty with lifetime positions on the judiciary, but we will continue to lead the fight against other loyalist judicial nominees who Trump puts forward.

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

State Courts

Defending Democracy

Utah Gov. Spencer Cox (R) has [filled two newly created seats](#) on the now [seven-member](#) Utah Supreme Court, appointing Jay Jorgensen, senior counsel for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and Stephen Dent, a senior federal prosecutor in Utah. The Utah Senate [confirmed](#) both nominees on June 17, and they are expected to be sworn in soon.



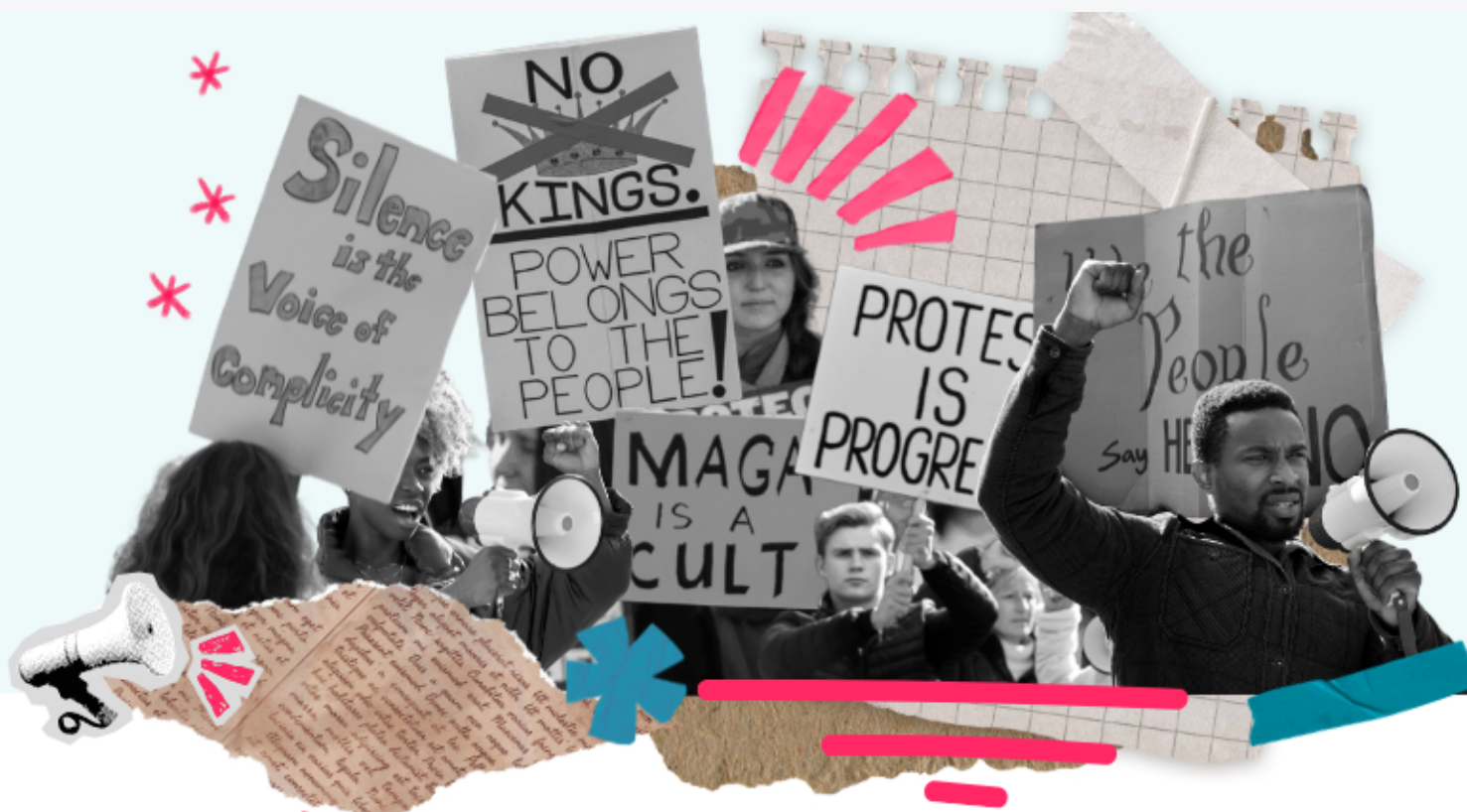
Cox will also make two additional appointments following the [retirement](#) of Justice Diana Hagen in May and the [upcoming retirement](#) of Chief Justice Matthew Durrant on August 31.

In Delaware, Gov. Matt Meyer (D) nominated Vice Chancellor Morgan Zurn to the state's high court to succeed Justice Karen Valihura, who will retire on July 25.

Zurn has served on the Court of Chancery since 2018 and previously worked as a deputy attorney general. She was voted out of committee last week and seems likely to be confirmed soon.

AFJ is also monitoring vacancies on state supreme courts in [California](#), [Mississippi](#), [Rhode Island](#), [Kansas](#), [Hawaii](#), [Idaho](#), and [South Carolina](#). Meanwhile, two states are weighing changes to judicial selection systems. In August, Kansas [voters will decide](#) whether to replace the state's [assisted appointment method](#) for supreme court justices with direct elections. In Ohio, Justice Jennifer Brunner has [filed a federal lawsuit](#) challenging a 2021 law requiring appellate judges to run with partisan labels, arguing it conflicts with judicial ethics rules that restrict candidates from discussing political issues.

[Help protect our state courts →](#)



Our Momentum

BOLDER ADVOCACY

Protecting Nonprofits on the Front Lines

Nonprofits that receive or rely on federal funding should be paying close attention to a sweeping proposal from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) that could reshape the federal grants landscape.



Among other changes, the proposal would impose significant new restrictions on issue advocacy, voter registration activities, services for immigrant communities, DEI initiatives, and more. Our Bolder Advocacy team recently analyzed what these changes could mean for nonprofit organizations and their advocacy efforts. To learn more, check out our blog on [“The OMB Rule Proposal That’s Got Nonprofits Talking.”](#) Then, consider submitting a public comment before the July 13 deadline.

To learn more about the lobbying and election season advocacy rules that apply to your nonprofit organization, feel free to reach out to our [free technical assistance hotline](#). We are also available to [host a training](#) for your team or coalition.

[Tune in now to learn more →](#)

MEMBERSHIP & OUTREACH

A Stronger Movement — Because of You



We are so excited to welcome eight new member organizations into the Alliance. Four organizations who joined as AFJ members are nationally focused: [314 Action](#), [Alliance of Tribal Coalitions to End Violence](#), [Coalition on Human Needs](#), and [TransFamily Support Services](#). The other four organizations are state- and local-based, including in Georgia, Maine, Michigan, New York, Texas, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. Those organizations are [Black Feminist Future](#), [Diverse City Fund](#), [Maine Philanthropy Center](#), and [More Than Our Crimes](#). We are so proud to welcome these eight organizations as our newest members. To learn more about membership or to apply for AFJ membership for your organizations, please visit our [website](#).

[Join the movement →](#)

AFJ INSIGHTS

What Matters Most Right Now

Don't miss timely reads from our experts breaking down the issues shaping our courts and our communities. [More on the blog →](#)



June 11, 2026

[**Federal Funding: The OMB Rule Proposal That's Got Nonprofits Talking**](#)

If approved, these federal proposals could have a significant impact on nonprofits across the country, particularly organizations working on DEI, immigrant rights, reproductive justice, LGBTQ+ equality advocacy, and coalition-building.

[Read the blog here →](#)



June 23, 2026

[**Supreme Court Hands Trump Administration New Way to Remove Lawful Immigrants**](#)

In a 6–3 conservative majority, this ruling gives immigration officials the power to deny green-card holders readmission to the country if they simply suspect that they have committed a crime.

[Read the press release here →](#)



A big thank you to all our interns! AFJ couldn't do what it does without you!

Every year, AFJ benefits from the enthusiasm and smarts of summer interns who come to work with our different teams, bringing amazing skillsets and various expertise. The interns infuse excitement into our work, energizing all of us at AFJ; and, of course, their work adds meaningful capacity to our efforts that ripple long past when they've returned to school.

JUSTICE

Malaika John, a rising second-year law (2L) student at Baylor Law in Texas, has joined our **Federal Courts team** for the summer. She is providing crucial capacity to research and advocacy efforts opposing the worst of President Trump's judicial nominees, calling upon her undergrad degree in Professional Writing and Rhetoric to our nominee reports.

Connor Kraska is also a rising 2L, hailing from the UCLA School of Law. Connor has a strong interest in LGBTQ+ rights and workers' rights and will be working with our **State Courts team**, researching state court nominees and campaigns. Outside of academia, Connor is a world champion competitive and professional jump roper.

Aditi Ganesan is currently a rising 2L at Fordham Law in New York. Prior to starting law school, Aditi lived in Philadelphia and volunteered with Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania, mainly to drive community engagement and escort patients to and from the center. Aditi is interning this summer with our **Building the Bench team**, helping to identify, train, and nurture individuals interested in potential judicial service.

BOLDER ADVOCACY

Lina Zuluaga is a rising 2L at Florida International University College of Law. She has years of nonprofit compliance experience, including working with Miami-based multi-entity nonprofits and 501(c)(4) advocacy organizations. A long-time user of Bolder Advocacy resources, she's excited to be in the fold supporting the **Bolder Advocacy team** this summer!

OUTREACH & MEMBERSHIP

Sinclair Harris is a rising senior at Brown University studying History and International Affairs, supporting the work of the **Outreach and Membership team** helping with the team's public events like Trivia Night, and planning autumn's *Holding Court* event. Sinclair is passionate about criminal justice reform, specifically prison justice, and tackling the system's inequitable treatment of Black and brown individuals.

COMMUNICATIONS

Nawal Irfani is a rising junior at Brandeis University where she is studying Anthropology and Journalism. This summer she is interning with the **Communications team**, where she brings her experience as Editor-in-Chief of one of Brandeis' independent student newspapers to us. In her free time, Nawal also volunteers at a local immigration law clinic through a club at Brandeis.

COURTS ARE DECIDING THE
FUTURE OF OUR FREEDOMS RIGHT NOW.

ALLIANCE FOR JUSTICE IS FIGHTING BACK,
BUT WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU.

DEFEND JUSTICE. SHAPE THE FUTURE.

GIVE TODAY



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