

Equal Justice Authority
Board Meeting
June 15, 2026

- I. Welcome
 - A. The meeting was convened at 4:31 p.m. by board chair Matt Baca and conducted via Zoom.
 - B. Board Member and Staff Attendance
 - 1. Matt Baca, Allison Esser, Cesar Jimenez, Toni-Anne Nunez, , Lauren Peach, Renzo Walton Reategui, Charlie Willman, and Elise Bechthold (staff).
 - a) Renzo departed at 5:00 p.m.
 - 2. One member of the public was present: Tracy Griffith.
- II. Approval of Minutes
 - A. Toni-Anne made a motion to approve the minutes and Charlie seconded. The minutes of the April 15, 2026, board meeting were approved with no changes.
- III. 2026 Grant
 - A. Scoring Overview & Vote (Allison & Lauren)
 - 1. EJA received 43 applications and the review committee determined 40 were eligible for funding.
 - 2. Allison reviewed the committee's approach: they each reviewed applications separately and scored Criteria 4 and 5. The committee independently listed questions they had. They then came together for an in-person meeting to go through each application individually. Following that meeting, they had Elise outreach to organizations for whom they had follow up questions. The committee then met again, this time remotely, to review the submitted answers and complete scoring.
 - a) Allison flagged scoring around PT attorneys, weighing them all the same for fairness. This area is worth further discussion at the next meeting for possible changes next year.
 - 3. Lauren detailed the follow up questions the committee had for some grantees, explaining they were focused on reported data.

This was to ensure the board did its due diligence in obtaining clear and accurate information.

- a) Lauren flagged that DOJ Accredited Representatives came up several times, however the statute clearly articulates that only attorney data can be considered.

(1) Charlie suggested this could be a friendly amendment to the statute, along with SRLCs. The board agreed to revisit this conversation in the future.

- 4. The board voted for awards in one batch. Each member verbally confirmed they had no new conflicts from last year's declarations. If any "no" votes arose, the board determined they would move to voting for approvals by individual organization.

- a) Charlie made a motion to approve the process and disbursements as recommended by the committee.

Allison seconded. The board unanimously approved the 2026 grant awards.

B. Application Survey Results

- 1. Renzo reviewed the application survey results. The survey was open for 3 weeks and had 12 replies.

- a) Most applicants spent between 2-5 hours completing the application
- b) Feedback included that this was a straightforward application, previewing the entirety of the application was helpful, the attorney hours question was confusing, and it was new to some to not request a specific amount of funding.

IV. New Business

A. ATJC Staffing Contract

- 1. Toni-Anne sent information on the new staffing contract to the board. The contract terms are expected to stay the same, with the exception of moving from an 18-month staffing contract to a more standard 12-month staffing contract.

2. Charlie made a motion to approve the staffing contract with the amendment from 18-months to 12-months. Lauren seconded. The board unanimously approved the contract.

B. July Grantee Onboarding Meetings (Cesar)

1. Cesar reviewed the upcoming grantee onboarding meetings that will take place. These will be 20-minutes long and will review the administrative reporting duties and create space for any questions grantees may have.
 - a) Charlie suggested asking grantees if they have any additional feedback on the application process.
 - b) Lauren suggested reminding grantees about tracking attorney hours and data from the application.
 - c) Toni-Anne, Cesar, and Allison volunteered to join these meetings. Elise will send calendar invites.

C. EJA Finances

1. Charlie updated the board on EJA's finances, including that there will be approximately 4.2M available for grant awards this year. The board is still waiting on 4 checks/transfers in this fiscal year.
2. Charlie proposed a new budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027, estimating approximately 4.3M in total collected fees.
 - a) Toni-Anne inquired about insurance costs and website costs. Charlie shared that he allocated funds for a potential 10% increase. Elise reviewed the invoices for the website, as they have all been received for 2026.
 - b) Matt asked about current interest rates and if there was room to improve. Charlie reviewed current rates and expressed he felt it was in the board's best interest to stay with their current financial institution.
 - c) Toni-Anne asked about category changes, to which Elise reviewed the new ACH subscription through BILL that will support electronic grant payments.
3. Toni-Anne made a motion to approve the draft budget as it stands. Allison seconded. The board unanimously approved the

FY2026-2027 budget (Renzo had exited the meeting prior to the vote).

V. Old Business

A. Legislative Update (Matt)

1. The licence plate bill did not progress through the legislature this year due to the minimal TABOR impact. They will work on it again next year, as the signatures are good for one more legislative session.
2. ELDF & FVJF were preserved at prior funding levels.

VI. Next Meeting

- A. Monday, July 27th at 4:00 p.m.

VII. Adjournment

- A. The meeting was adjourned at 5:29 p.m.