



Quality, client-focused legal services in Southwest Colorado

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Senator Kyle Mullica, Chair, Senate Finance Committee, Colorado General Assembly
via email only: kyle.mullica.senate@coleg.gov

Re: Please Support HB24-1286 – Equal Justice Fund Authority

Dear Senator Mullica:

We urge you to do all you can to support the *Equal Justice Fund Authority* legislation (HB24-1286) in the Senate Finance Committee so that it can be taken up by the full Senate this session. This bill provides a crucial, well-conceived first step to address a dire need of Colorado's most vulnerable citizens.

We operate a small law firm in Durango and regularly volunteer our time to represent parties pro se and help organize local resources to serve citizens in need of pro se counsel. But such efforts, and those of our local Colorado Legal Services staff, only meet a fraction of that need. Far too many of those in our community who are most vulnerable to abuses in the civil legal system are unable to protect their rights. Every day such folks unnecessarily suffer domestic violence, lose out on veterans' benefits, lose their homes, suffer elder abuse, and are exploited by employers because they are unable to secure an attorney to vindicate their rights.

We represent civil litigants every day. The small fee this legislation would add to civil court filing fees would not in any way hamper the ability of such litigants to receive their day in court, while creating desperately needed, sustainable funding for legal aid in Colorado.

Please do all you can to support and enact this vital legislation in 2024.

Sincerely,

SOUTHWEST WATER AND PROPERTY LAW LLC

Kimberly C. Perdue

Jeffrey M. Kane

cc: Senator Cleave Simpson (cleave.simpson.senate@coleg.gov)
Representative Barbara McLachlan (barbara.mclachlan.house@coleg.gov)
Representative Junie Joseph (junie.joseph.house@coleg.gov)
Representative Mandy Lindsay (mandy.lindsay.house@coleg.gov)
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