

## **Jim (James H.) Cohen**

Access Justice Founder and Executive Director

**Education:** JD, *cum laude*, University of Michigan Law School; Law Review:  
BS, *cum laude*, Cornell University; Honors Program

**Bar Admissions:** Minnesota

**Areas of Practice:** Civil and Criminal Litigation, Nonprofit, Environmental, Juvenile, and Indian Law

Jim has been a tireless and passionate public interest advocate for over 40 years. Jim founded Access Justice as the realization of a dream. Throughout his more than four decades as an advocate for the un- and under-represented, Jim saw first-hand how, all too often, our legal system consistently seems to work best for clients with the greatest financial resources. For Jim, that has never been fair nor acceptable. The creative result of his public-interest principles was to design an organization and build a top-notch professional team that would be able to, finally, offer quality and affordable legal services on a wide range of issues, to underrepresented low- and moderate-income individuals, middle class working families and small organizations of limited means.

### **Background and Experience**

- Covington and Burling, Washington, D.C.: Civil litigation and extensive Pro Bono practice
- Bureau of Consumer Protection - Division of National Advertising:
  - Deputy Assistant Director: Helped lead a staff of attorneys and other professionals in developing, litigating, and enforcing federal consumer protection laws
- Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund:
  - Established Washington, D.C. Office: Litigated and managed full docket of environmental cases in federal courts.
- Community Environmental Legal Services – Founder
  - Managed a public interest law firm that provided free legal counsel to community organizations throughout the U.S.
- Cohen Law Offices, PA:
  - Conducted full service general practice for individuals, small businesses and public interest organizations: Specialized in civil and criminal litigation, with focus on employment, juvenile and Indian law issues; substantial Pro Bono practice