

# JUSTICE OUT OF BALANCE

---

Profit Making through Debt Collection  
in the Courts: How Funders Can Help  
Restore Balance

January 26th, 3pm-4pm EST



AFN is the leading national grantmaker membership organization focused on advancing equitable wealth building and economic mobility.

- ✓ Broaden your Knowledge Base
- ✓ Connect to a Powerful National Network
- ✓ Amplify your Impact
- ✓ Collaborate for Influence

# WEBINAR CONTROL PANEL

## PARTICIPATE

Type your question in the  
**Q&A BOX**  
to be addressed during  
discussion breaks or during  
Q/A

## CLOSED CAPTIONS

Captions can be turned on via  
**LIVE TRANSCRIPT**  
to be viewed in real-time and  
will also be available in the  
recording afterwards

Audio Settings ^



Chat



Raise Hand



Q&A



Live Transcript

Leave

# SPEAKERS



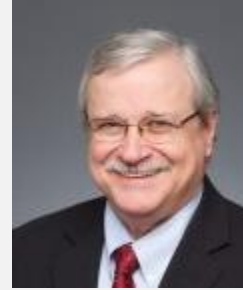
**Velvet Bryant**  
*(moderator)*

Asset Funders  
Network



**Joe Antolín**

Asset Funders  
Network



**John Bouman**

Legal Action  
Chicago



**Jennifer Bentley**

Michigan State Bar  
Foundation

Thank you to our brief sponsor:



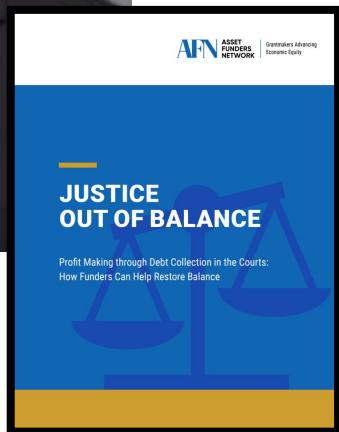
**MetLife**  
Foundation

# JUSTICE OUT OF BALANCE

---

Profit Making through Debt Collection  
in the Courts: How Funders Can Help  
Restore Balance





## Brief Author:

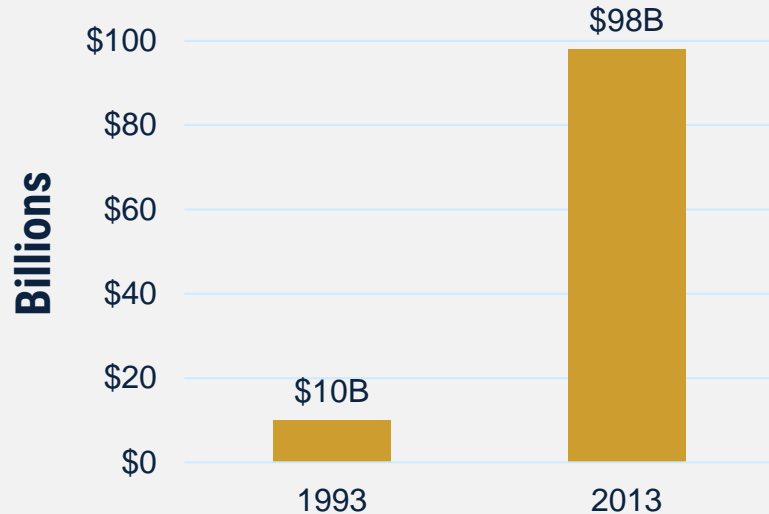
**JOHN M. BOUMAN**  
Director, Legal Action  
Chicago

# Disruption to the debt collection system is needed to advance economic equity.

Creditors bundle overdue debts and sell to debt buyers for pennies on the dollar, then write off the debts.

No guarantee of accurate information on the debtor or the debt amount.

## Value of Debt Bought by Debt Buyers





# The current system is not advancing equity.

---

- Unreliable information about debtor and debt amount.
- Lack of meaningful notice and scheduling
- Default judgments has become the norm.
- Collectors have all the court-aided tools to carry out aggressive wage and wealth-stripping.

**Current debt  
collection  
practices  
undermine funder  
investments to  
address the racial  
wealth gap.**



# Now, it is time to prevent further harm.

---

Funders can work in partnership with people directly impacted by debt collection, legal and policy advocates, practitioners, public agencies, judges and researchers to help restore balance within the courts.



# Funders Can Help Restore Balance.

---

Support reform agendas that:

- Make legal representation more accessible
- Improve court procedures and rules to increase plaintiff accountability, promote fairness, reduce defaults
- Improve courts' data-keeping and self-monitoring to promote fairness and constant improvement
- Protect more wages and assets from creditors

## Contact Information

John Bouman

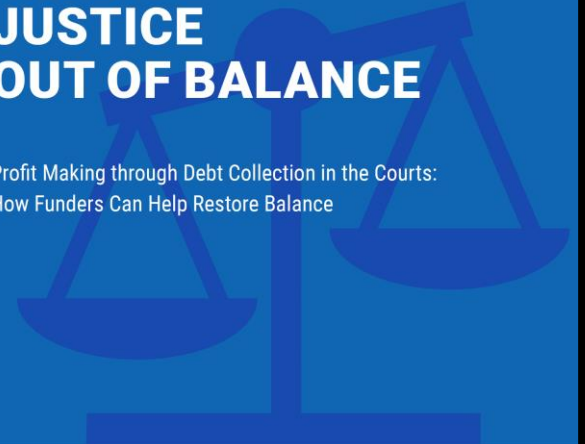
Director

Legal Action Chicago

[jbouman@legalactionchicago.org](mailto:jbouman@legalactionchicago.org)

## JUSTICE OUT OF BALANCE

Profit Making through Debt Collection in the Courts:  
How Funders Can Help Restore Balance





Grantmakers Advancing  
Economic Equity