



LDEF

DEFEND — EDUCATE — EMPOWER

NAACP LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATIONAL FUND, INC.

FOUNDED IN 1940,
THE NAACP LEGAL DEFENSE AND
EDUCATIONAL FUND, INC. (LDF)
IS THE COUNTRY'S FIRST AND
FOREMOST CIVIL AND HUMAN
RIGHTS LEGAL ORGANIZATION.

LDF seeks to ensure full and fair access to democratic citizenship by promoting equality in education, voting and political participation, economic justice and criminal justice. LDF has an unparalleled record of expert legal advocacy in state and federal courts and its legal victories serve as the foundation for the civil rights that all Americans enjoy today.

Initially the legal arm of the NAACP, LDF has been a wholly separate and independent organization with its own board of directors for nearly 60 years. LDF was founded by legendary civil rights icon Thurgood Marshall at a time when the nation's aspirations for equality and due process of law were stifled by widespread state-sponsored racial inequality. Marshall led LDF to the 1954 landmark victory in *Brown v. Board of Education* ending the doctrine of "separate but equal" and outlawing segregation in our nation. Marshall later became the first African-American Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

Today, LDF's mission encompasses not only precedent-setting litigation and policy initiatives, but also strategic campaigns informed by the latest and most innovative developments in social and political science and economics. In addition to litigation and policy advocacy, LDF employs public education, community organizing and communications strategies to bring about durable structural change.

LDF IS ADVANCING THE GOALS OF
RACIAL JUSTICE AND EQUALITY,
TRANSFORMING AMERICA INTO A
MORE JUST AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETY.



PILLARS OF



We believe that **CIVIL RIGHTS** work is the work of **DEMOCRACY MAINTENANCE**. Every American has a stake in advancing the promise of **EQUALITY, JUSTICE AND OPPORTUNITY** that lies at the core of our country's ideals.

— SHERRILYN A. IFILL
LDF President and Director-Counsel



EQUALITY

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

EDUCATIONAL EQUITY

POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT AND VOTING RIGHTS

ECONOMIC JUSTICE

SCHOLARSHIPS

THURGOOD MARSHALL INSTITUTE

AFRICAN AMERICANS MAKE UP
12 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL
U.S. POPULATION BUT REPRESENT
40 PERCENT OF PRISONERS
FACING DEATH ROW.

1 IN 3 BLACK MEN WILL SERVE TIME
IN JAIL OR PRISON AT SOME POINT IN
THEIR LIVES, COMPARED TO
1 IN 17 WHITE MEN.

Few issues confront our nation with the blunt force of flagrant and persistent racial inequalities of our criminal justice system. The U.S. has the largest prison population in the world, and the vast majority of those prisoners are African-American and Latino. Since its inception, LDF has challenged the inappropriate role of race in the administration of criminal justice and has targeted such systemic injustices as inadequate legal representation, discriminatory jury selection, biased exercise of police and prosecutorial discretion, the death penalty and other excessive sentences.

LDF produces a quarterly report, **DEATH ROW USA**, a vitally important resource for litigators, researchers, journalists and others that tracks death row populations by state and other data pertaining to capital punishment in the United States.

OUR WORK

- **CHALLENGE** unlawful and racially biased policing practices, including stop-and-frisk.
- **DEFEND** condemned prisoners on death row.
- **OPPOSE** racially biased exercise of discretion by police and prosecutors.
- **END** juvenile life-without-parole sentencing.
- **ELIMINATE** racial bias in jury selection.
- **OPPOSE** – and ultimately end – the disproportionate impact of the “War on Drugs” on people of color.



LDF Community Organizers [Lumumba Bandele](#) (center) and [Marquis Jenkins](#) (right), along with LDF Associate Director-Counsel [Janai Nelson](#) and former Communications Associate [Jennifer Parker](#)

There is a historic and direct link between educational access and the enjoyment of full economic, political and social opportunity. Despite significant progress, African-American students and other children of color continue to be denied equal access to high-quality educational opportunities at alarming rates. The causes of this crisis are complex and trace back to our country's sordid history of slavery, entrenched resistance to *Brown v. Board of Education's* desegregation mandate and failure to adequately invest in public education.

Through comprehensive legal advocacy, legislative proposals, policy initiatives, community organizing, coalition-building and research, LDF is expanding opportunities for children to learn together in safe and nurturing environments that produce the best citizens of tomorrow. LDF is actively working to eliminate policies that contribute to racial disparities in the American educational system, from early childhood education through post-secondary schooling.

OUR WORK

- **ENSURE** access to equal educational opportunities from pre-K through post-secondary education levels.
- **ELIMINATE** the "school-to-prison pipeline" that disproportionately criminalizes African-American youth and is fueled by overly punitive disciplinary practices such as school suspensions, expulsions and arrests.
- **ERADICATE** racial disparities in student achievement so that all students are prepared for college and careers.
- **PROMOTE** educational equity throughout all school system operations, including resource allocation.
- **ENSURE** access to higher education pipelines to leadership through vigorous protection of affirmative action.

DESPITE RESEARCH DEMONSTRATING THAT AFRICAN-AMERICAN CHILDREN DO NOT MISBEHAVE MORE FREQUENTLY OR MORE SEVERELY THAN THEIR WHITE PEERS,

AFRICAN-AMERICAN CHILDREN ARE **THREE TIMES** MORE LIKELY TO BE SUSPENDED OR EXPELLED THAN THEIR WHITE PEERS.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN GIRLS ARE ON AVERAGE EXPELLED **SIX TIMES** MORE THAN WHITE GIRLS (AND MORE THAN MOST BOYS, EXCEPT FOR AFRICAN-AMERICAN BOYS AND NATIVE AMERICAN BOYS).



CRIMINAL JUSTICE
EDUCATIONAL EQUITY

POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT AND VOTING RIGHTS

ECONOMIC JUSTICE
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Our civil rights laws protect the right of African Americans to elect their candidates of choice and to participate equally in the political process.

LDF is the preeminent voice in the struggle to protect and expand the right to vote. LDF uses litigation, legislation, public education and other advocacy tools to ensure that everyone has the ability to participate fully, equally and actively in America's democratic process.

OUR WORK

- **CHALLENGE** racially discriminatory efforts to limit access to the polls and suppress the voting power of African Americans, such as unnecessarily burdensome voter ID laws, restrictive registration requirements and reduced or terminated early voting.
- **ERADICATE** racially discriminatory practices that weaken the collective voting strength of communities of color, such as at-large methods of election and discriminatory redistricting plans.
- **EXPAND** access to voting through challenges to racially discriminatory laws that deny the vote to people with criminal convictions and count prisoners as residents of their prisons (as opposed to residents of their home communities) for purposes of redistricting and apportionment.
- **SUPPORT** passage of the Voting Rights Amendment Act, which would, among other things, restore federal power to stop discriminatory voting changes and require jurisdictions to provide notice of such changes before they are implemented.

PREPARED TO VOTE

LDF'S ANNUAL **PREPARED TO VOTE** EFFORTS ARE STRATEGIC PUBLIC EDUCATION, ORGANIZING AND ADVOCACY CAMPAIGNS AIMED AT SUSTAINING AND INCREASING BLACK POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS. IN NOVEMBER 2016, LDF CONDUCTED OVER A DOZEN IN-STATE TRAININGS, DEPLOYED NEARLY 100 VOLUNTEERS AND MONITORED OVER 200 PRECINCTS

ON ELECTION DAY IN SIX STATES: ALABAMA, GEORGIA, LOUISIANA, MISSOURI, SOUTH CAROLINA AND TEXAS.

THROUGH **PREPARED TO VOTE**, LDF PROVIDES CRITICAL NONPARTISAN ELECTION PREPAREDNESS INFORMATION LEADING UP TO AND ON ELECTION DAY TO VARIOUS PARTNERS IN TARGET STATES.

IN FAYETTE COUNTY, GA, historic voter turnout led to the election of the first African-American county commission in over two centuries in the 2014 midterm elections. After the untimely vacancy of that commissioner, an additional LDF victory ruling led to the election of the second African-American commissioner in the history of the county.

VIRGINIA

198,902

Estimated number of voters affected by Virginia's strict photo ID law in 2014

16,727 Margin of victory in 2014 Senate race

ALABAMA

250,000-500,000

Estimated number of voters affected by Alabama's strict photo ID law in 2014

320,139 Margin of victory in 2014 gubernatorial races

TEXAS

1,200,000 Estimated number of voters affected by Texas' strict photo ID law in 2014

1,107,561 Average margin of victory in 2014 Senate and gubernatorial races

NORTH CAROLINA

200,000 Estimated number of voters affected by North Carolina's cut to early voting in 2014

48,511 Margin of victory in 2014 Senate race

GEORGIA

40,000 Estimated number of voters affected by delayed processing of registrations in 2014

201,788 Average margin of victory in 2014 Senate and gubernatorial races



HOTLINE TO JUSTICE

POTENTIALLY DISCRIMINATORY OR ILLEGAL VOTING CHANGES OR ISSUES CAN BE REPORTED TO **1-866-OUR-VOTE** AND **VOTE@NAACPLDF.ORG** FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATION. WE'VE TAKEN ACTION TO HALT ILLEGAL VOTING PROPOSALS THROUGHOUT THE SOUTH AND OTHER JURISDICTIONS.

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EDUCATIONAL EQUITY
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ECONOMIC JUSTICE

SCHOLARSHIPS
THURGOOD MARSHALL INSTITUTE

THE NATIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR BLACKS IS MORE THAN DOUBLE THAT OF WHITES.



Students supporting the Baltimore Red Line, a project that would provide much-needed transportation access for residents. Maryland Governor Larry Hogan cancelled the plans, diverting funding to highway projects in other parts of the state, disproportionately harming African Americans in Maryland.
Photo by Maryland GovPics on Flickr.

WITHOUT FAIR AND EQUITABLE employment, housing, public transportation and health care, those who face discrimination will become mired in poverty. LDF investigates and litigates claims of environmental and economic injustice in its fight to increase fairness and equal opportunity for African Americans in all aspects of the economy.

OUR WORK

- **ELIMINATE** persistent occupational segregation and discrimination, including discrimination in the low-wage workforce.
- **ENSURE** that employment selection policies like criminal and credit background checks and hiring and promotion exams do not have a disparate impact on African-American job seekers.
- **PROMOTE** fair housing with a focus on government actors.
- **MONITOR** consumer law practices such as foreclosures and student loan policies to ensure that they do not disproportionately impact African Americans.

LDF's Scholars Program has been in existence since the early 1960s. Our scholarships for undergraduate and law students are designed to advance our overall mission of promoting racial equality and educational opportunity for African Americans.

More than 50 years following the first scholarship award from the Herbert Lehman Fund, LDF's goal remains constant: to provide scholarships that will help students achieve their academic goals and fulfill the promise of *Brown v. Board of Education* to involve students in advancing the cause of civil rights and create a leadership pipeline.

Financial restrictions and the soaring costs of higher education make it increasingly unfeasible for students to do the hard work of fighting for civil rights while pursuing their academic goals.

Since the program's inception in 1964, LDF has provided more than \$15 million in scholarship support to nearly 4,000 talented students pursuing higher education.

LDF scholarships make it possible for highly qualified students to attend the nation's most competitive colleges, universities and law schools.



RECEIVING THE EARL WARREN SCHOLARSHIP *has validated my desire to better understand the power of racial fear in this country, confirming my belief that* **SCHOLARSHIP IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE FIGHT FOR RACIAL JUSTICE.**

It's also an incredible honor to feel as though I'm a small part of the legacy of the Legal Defense Fund."

— **BRITTANY FARR, 28**
Yale Law School
Earl Warren Scholarship Recipient

THE HERBERT LEHMAN SCHOLARSHIP (LEHMAN SCHOLARS)

IS A NATIONAL, HIGHLY COMPETITIVE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM THAT MAKES ANNUAL AWARDS TO QUALIFIED, OUTSTANDING UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS.

THE EARL WARREN LEGAL TRAINING PROGRAM, INC. (WARREN SCHOLARS)

IS AN ANNUAL AWARD GIVEN TO RISING LAW STUDENTS WHOSE COMMITMENT TO SOCIAL JUSTICE DEMONSTRATES OUTSTANDING POTENTIAL FOR TRAINING AS A CIVIL RIGHTS AND PUBLIC INTEREST ATTORNEY.

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1

LDF's Thurgood Marshall Institute is a collaborative hub within LDF that combines a multidisciplinary approach to advocacy with our traditional litigation strengths to advance a modern vision of racial justice. This ambitious new project was seeded with a \$5 million grant from Atlantic Philanthropies to empower new, more innovative and comprehensive forms of civil rights advocacy to address today's challenges, including policing reform, educational equity and voting rights.

TARGETED MULTI-YEAR CAMPAIGNS

The Institute launched the Policing Reform Campaign (PRC) as its inaugural campaign initiative. In 2014, the PRC used the approaches and resources of the Institute to reform policing policies and practices through work at the federal, state and local levels.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

LDF is refreshing the civil rights story in the public imagination, driving the discourse with new language, and grounding the story in the deeper truths about today's multi-racial America. We are elevating the discourse on racism, its impact and potential solutions through strategic messaging and marketing.

ADVOCACY AND ORGANIZING

Our organizers work on the front lines to mobilize communities and advance campaigns and ensure that LDF's advocacy agenda reflects the needs of local residents. We spearhead advocacy that changes laws, policies and practices to improve the lives of large numbers of people, or create local programs that can be scaled up for maximum impact.

RESEARCH FELLOWS

The goal of the Fellows Program is to directly engage with leading scholars, researchers and thought leaders to develop and advance new models, theories, analyses and data on racial and social justice. The research produced through the Fellows Program will constructively inform the work of LDF's advocates and allies, as well as enhance our campaigns, communications and other advocacy efforts.



2



3

1. A community member speaks, Town Hall on Policing Reform—Baltimore, MD (September 2016)
2. From left: Dean Donald Tobin, University of Maryland Carey School of Law; Sherrilyn Ifill, LDF President and Director—Counsel; Representative Elijah E. Cummings (D-Maryland), Town Hall on Policing Reform—Baltimore, MD (September 2016)
3. From left: Edward Bryant III, President of the North Charleston Branch of the NAACP; Monique Dixon, LDF Deputy Policy Director and Senior Counsel; Town Hall on Policing Reform—North Charleston, SC (June 2016)



Senior Fellows

PHILLIP ATIBA GOFF (L) and RICHARD ROTHSTEIN (R)

THURGOOD MARSHALL INSTITUTE LABS

LDF's Thurgood Marshall Institute Labs convene scholars, practitioners, activists and other thought leaders for intensive information-sharing and strategy sessions with LDF's staff. These regularly scheduled forums create greater opportunity for broad, innovative thinking within LDF and in its larger community. The Labs are invitation-only and are designed to showcase the leading scholarship and expertise on relevant civil rights or social science issues.



1. [Damon Jones](#), New York Representative of Blacks in Law Enforcement of America
2. Professor [Rachel A. Harmon](#), University of Virginia School of Law
3. [Sherrilyn Ifill](#), LDF President and Director-Counsel and [Janai Nelson](#), LDF Associate Director-Counsel
4. Professor [David Rudovsky](#), University of Pennsylvania Law School

LABS

RACE AND POLICING REFORM LAB

DECEMBER 1, 2015

IMPLICIT BIAS AND POLICING REFORM LAB

APRIL 8, 2016

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION (POST-FISHER) AND CURRENT POLICING CRISIS LAB

JULY 13, 2016

With your support, we can continue to protect the rights of the most vulnerable and ensure racial equality and opportunity for all.

To make your donation please call **212.965.2200** or visit **www.naacpldf.org/donate**.*

** LDF is an entirely separate organization from the NAACP and has been since 1957.*

STAND WITH US



LDF
DEFEND EDUCATE EMPOWER

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS 40 Rector Street, 5th Floor, New York, NY 10006 | 212.965.2200
WASHINGTON, D.C. OFFICE 1444 I Street NW, Washington, DC 20005 | 202.682.1300
www.naacpldf.org