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## ANNUAL REPORT FY19

NAACP LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATIONAL FUND, INC.

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# A MESSAGE

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Even as we celebrated the 65th anniversary of *Brown v. Board of Education*, one of the most monumental wins for civil rights in this country's history, the nation struggled with concerted efforts to undermine and overturn the civil rights gains that *Brown* ushered in.

We know that the fight for racial justice and equality is a long one. LDF is committed to fighting every day to advance towards the promise of a more perfect union. Whether in the courtroom, in the halls of government, or in the public square, we do the work to strengthen our democracy and fight for justice and equality for all. With your support, we continue to push forward and achieve results that would make our founder, Thurgood Marshall, proud. The record of our accomplishments in fiscal year 2019 speaks to our commitment and success.

### Highlights of our 2019 Successes

This year, LDF's [Thurgood Marshall Institute](#) (TMI) released two important voting rights reports. [Democracy Defended](#) details the challenges and suppression tactics the Prepared to Vote teams observed during the 2018 midterm elections. It also continued to update [Democracy Diminished](#), the organization's ongoing documentation of discriminatory voting changes proposed or implemented since the *Shelby County v. Holder* decision, as well as LDF's own experience litigating cases challenging voter suppression. These reports give a detailed overview of the current state of voting rights in the country, as well as a roadmap for the future.

In cities across the country, such as Baltimore, Ferguson (MO), Tulsa (OK), New York City, and North Charleston (SC), LDF focused on much needed police accountability issues. Our policing reform campaign was designed to help promote unbiased and responsible policing policies and practices at the national, state, and local levels, particularly in cities that have seen some of the most egregious instances of police injustice in recent memory.



Another product of TMI, the [Water/Color](#) report highlighted the water affordability crisis in American cities and the disproportionate impact on Black communities. Using Baltimore and Cleveland as test cases, the report looks at the ways in which water services are allocated and what policy solutions can be put in place to encourage equal access to one of the main necessities of life in these and other cities.

“This is your democracy.  
Make it. Protect it. Pass it on.”

— THURGOOD MARSHALL, LDF FOUNDER

## Honoring the Past, Protecting the Present

In honor of the 65th anniversary of *Brown v. Board of Education*, LDF, along with other civil rights organizations, such as The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, National Women's Law Center, and the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund held a celebration and rally on Capitol Hill alongside members of Congress. Speakers honored the historic verdict while also discussing the additional work needed to ensure and protect true equality in education, particularly in light of several newly appointed judicial nominees refusing to re-affirm the historic verdict during their confirmation hearings.

## Looking Ahead

Whether we're fighting discriminatory policies of the Trump administration or those advanced by state and local governments, LDF will continue to fight for racial justice and equality, and for recognition of the full dignity and humanity of marginalized people and communities in the U.S. Our work to defend the progress of the past and enlarge the possibilities for the future is far from over, but with your backing, I know the staff of LDF will continue their outstanding work to make real the promise of the Fourteenth Amendment: the promise of equal justice for all.

Sherrilyn A. Ifill

President and Director-Counsel



# A MESSAGE

## FROM THE BOARD

The NAACP Legal Defense Fund has been pursuing the cause of righting wrongs and fighting for equality for nearly 80 years. Our resolve to protect and preserve our democracy through litigation and advocacy, so that the promise of liberty and justice for all Americans can finally be realized, remains strong.

Advancing civil rights for the next generation has always been a challenge. However, in recent years, we've found the ground we've already won being slowly eroded by unprecedented political opposition.

As always, LDF remains equal to the task. This annual report is a testament to LDF's remarkable success in and out of the courtroom. In the pages that follow, you will read about our work in the areas of police accountability and water rights, our wins for educational equality, and our continued fight for the voting rights of all Americans.

Of course, none of this critical work would be possible without supporters like you. We are, as always, profoundly thankful for your generosity and commitment. We are also exceptionally grateful to the members of the Board for all that they do for LDF.

Though our opposition is persistent, so is the team at LDF. With your continued support, we will keep living up to the mission of our organization by speaking against injustice and strengthening our democracy for all.

Thank you for standing with LDF.

Gerald S. Adolph

David W. Mills

Co-Chairs, Board of Directors



# LITIGATION



## EDUCATION

### [I.S. et al. v. Binghamton City School District](#)

LDF filed a lawsuit in *I.S. et al. v. Binghamton City School District*, where four 12-year-old Black and Latina girls were strip-searched by the assistant principal and school nurse because of “hyper and giddy” behavior during lunch.

### [Bradford v. Maryland](#)

Last year, parents and civil rights groups sued the Maryland Board of Education in response to persistently inequitable and unconstitutional education funding in Baltimore’s public schools, which disproportionately affected the city’s Black and Brown students. The state moved to dismiss the Plaintiffs’ case, raising several previously rejected arguments, however, LDF was able to argue the motion in court. It is expected that much of 2020 will be spent gathering information regarding conditions in the affected schools.

“Diversity in the classroom improves students’ critical thinking, communication and problem-solving skills—better preparing graduates for the multicultural workforce and society we live in.”

— MICHAELE TURNAGE YOUNG, SENIOR COUNSEL

### [Students for Fair Admissions \(SFFA\) v. President and Fellows of Harvard College](#)

LDF filed an amicus brief on behalf of 25 Harvard student and alumni organizations condemning a divisive lawsuit that sought to eliminate the consideration of race in admissions. Most recently, LDF filed proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law, urging the Massachusetts federal court to reaffirm Harvard’s right to consider race as one of many components in a holistic admissions process.

### [65th Anniversary of \*Brown v. Board of Education\*](#)

2019 marked the 65th anniversary of the landmark civil rights case *Brown v. Board of Education*. LDF, along with several other civil rights organizations and members of Congress, celebrated with a rally on Capitol Hill in which speakers addressed both the historic verdict and continued struggle for equality in education.

# POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

## [LDF v. U.S. Department of Justice \(DOJ\)](#)

In March 2018, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross announced that the upcoming 2020 U.S. Census would include a citizenship question. LDF and other groups successfully filed a lawsuit opposing the addition of a citizenship status question and U.S. District Judge Jesse Furman of the Southern District of New York ruled against its inclusion.

## [Department of Commerce v. New York](#)

In April 2019, LDF filed an [amicus brief](#) urging the U.S. Supreme Court to affirm a lower court ruling in *Department of Commerce v. New York*, which rejected the U.S. Department of Commerce's deceptive attempt to add a citizenship status question to the 2020 Census as purportedly necessary to defend voting rights. In June 2019, civil rights groups secured a critical victory in this case and against the Trump administration's attempt to manipulate the 2020 Census to the detriment of people of color and the accurate enumerations of the American public. In a 5-4 decision, the Supreme Court rejected the Department of Commerce's rationale for adding a discriminatory citizenship status question to the 2020 Census and sent the case back to a lower court.

*“Until the Voting Rights Act is fully intact, we must all play a role in protecting every individual's right to vote.”*

— LEAH ADEN, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF LITIGATION

## [Terrebonne Parish v. Louisiana](#)

Nearly two years after LDF, in partnership with Louisiana attorney, Ronald L. Wilson, filed a lawsuit under the Voting Rights Act challenging the parish's discriminatory at-large electoral method, a federal court ordered a remedy that serves as long-awaited relief for the area's Black voters. The case began in 2018 after a sitting judge on the court was re-elected even after being suspended for attending a Halloween party in racist costume that included blackface, an orange prison jumpsuit, handcuffs, and an afro wig as part of his offensive parody of a Black prison inmate. The federal court found that the state's use of at-large voting for electing five judges to a state court with jurisdiction over Terrebonne Parish was in violation of the Voting Rights Act and the U.S. Constitution.

## [Alabama State Conference of the NAACP et al. v. City of Pleasant Grove](#)

In December 2018, LDF, in partnership with Alabama voting rights attorney Jim Blacksher, challenged Pleasant Grove's at-large method of election for city council, which has prevented a Black candidate from ever being elected.

Pleasant Grove has a well-documented history of racial discrimination in voting, education, employment, and housing. In *City of Pleasant Grove v. United States* (1987), the U.S. Supreme Court found that the city had intentionally discriminated when it annexed nearby unincorporated white communities, but not similarly situated Black communities. In August 2017, LDF won a similar lawsuit against Louisiana state officials, where an at-large voting model had prevented a Black candidate from being elected to the state judiciary in Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana. The court held that Louisiana had intentionally discriminated in refusing to adopt single member districts that would permit Black voters to elect candidates of their choice.

TMI Reports:

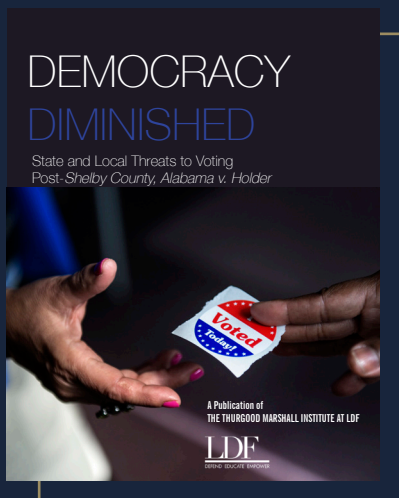
## Democracy Defended and Democracy Diminished



These reports provide a detailed analysis of both the 2018 midterm elections and the state of voting changes across the nation, especially in the South.

*Democracy Defended* outlines the record-breaking 2018 elections, which saw 39 million early ballots cast (an increase from the 20 million in the 2014 midterm elections), \$5.2 billion spent (an increase from 2016's \$4.4 billion record), and the highest voter turnout percentage (49.2) in a midterm election since 1914. The election saw an unprecedented increase in women elected to Congress, including the first Native American women, the first Muslim American women, and the first openly bisexual woman.

*Democracy Diminished* details a collection of state, county, and local voting changes enacted after *Shelby County, Alabama v. Holder*. This decision eliminated the pre-clearance provision of the Voting Rights Act that, for the last 50 years, required jurisdictions with a history of voting discrimination to submit proposed changes to a federal authority before implementation.



### Racism as a National Security Issue

President and Director-Counsel, Sherrilyn Ifill, [wrote an op-ed](#) for the *Washington Post* detailing the ways in which continued racism in America is becoming a threat to national security. The piece outlines how racial tensions were used to undermine our democratic process and how strengthening voting rights for all Americans can help us strengthen our democracy and make our country safer.



# CRIMINAL JUSTICE

## [Grottano v. The City of New York](#)

A class-action lawsuit was brought against the New York Department of Corrections (DOC) in 2015 in response to a policy of strip-searching and cavity searching visitors at Rikers Island without provocation. Existing law states that such searches are only allowed when officials have a reasonable suspicion that the visitor is secreting contraband. After more than three years of litigation and mediation, the case was settled and the city agreed to undertake significant reforms with regards to this practice. LDF will work with the city to revise its training protocol, ensure accountability, and to modify visitor search policy, consent forms, and signage to clearly indicate the proper way to search visitors. The DOC also agreed to submit to two years of post-settlement oversight.

## [Reams v. Arkansas](#)

Kenneth Reams is on death row for the death of a white man during the course of an ATM robbery in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Review of Reams' case showed serious signs that various injustices prevented him from receiving a fair trial. Reams' legal aid lawyer was inadequate and didn't further investigate his case, trial prosecutors excluded Black prospective jurors on the basis of race and withheld critical evidence, and the trial judge who presided over the case was later convicted of a felony and removed from the bench. Even though Reams was not the shooter in the case, he received the death penalty while his co-defendant,

the man actually responsible for the murder, received a life sentence. After a successful oral argument by LDF in September 2018, the Arkansas Supreme Court issued a decision in November 2018, affirming the sentencing relief and remanding to the lower court the issue of Reams' conviction.

## [Flowers v. Mississippi](#)

A U.S. Supreme Court case concerning District Attorney Doug Evans' efforts to exclude Black people from jury service in the case of Curtis Flowers, a Black man, who was sentenced to death by a nearly all-white jury. LDF filed an amicus brief detailing the DA's long, disturbing history of denying Black people the right to serve on a fair jury. In June 2019, the Supreme Court reversed Mr. Flowers' 2010 conviction and death sentence. He had been tried six times for the same charges because of several instances of jury bias and prosecutorial misconduct.

## [Bates v. Ohio](#)

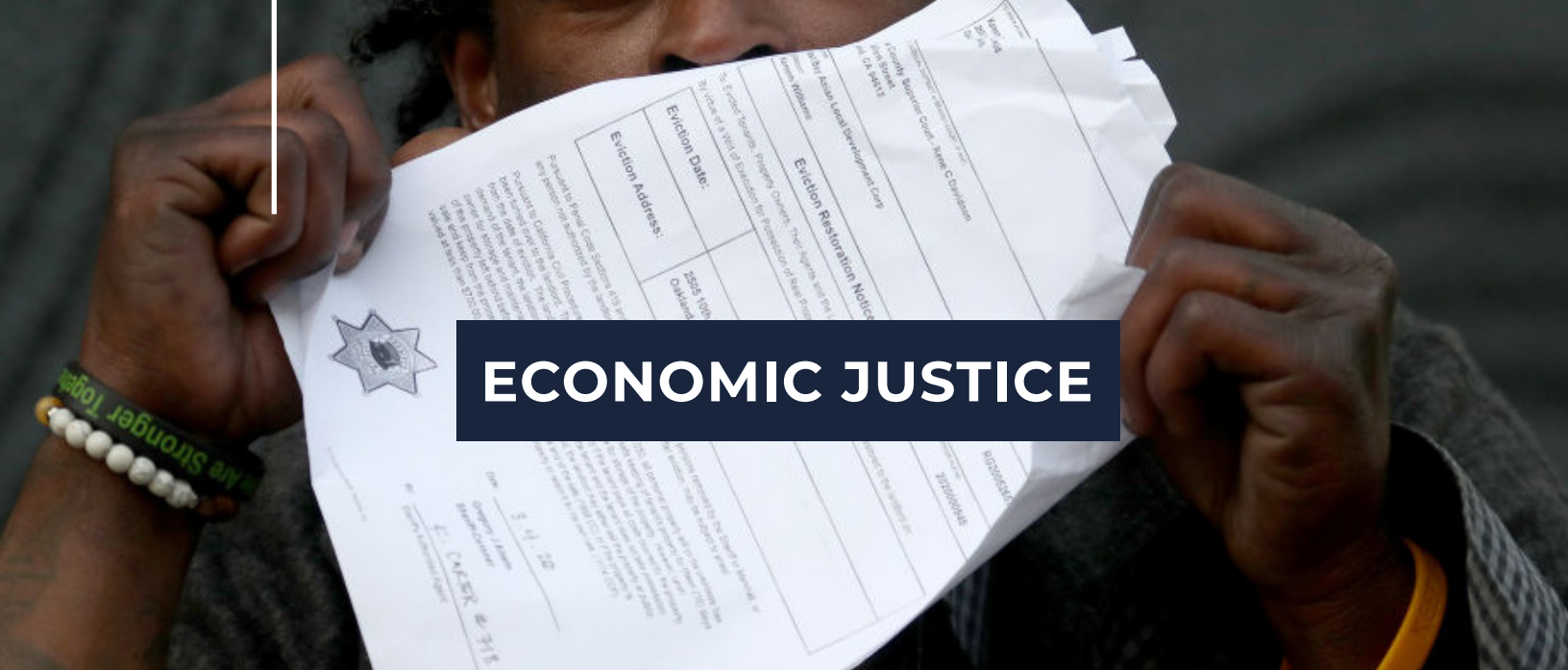
LDF argued before the Ohio Supreme Court in the case of Glen Bates, who was sentenced to death by a jury that included three jurors who expressed blatant racial bias in their questionnaires and another who expressly stated that she strongly believed Black people were more violent than other races. LDF challenged the verdict on the basis that Bates' trial counsel failed to protect his constitutional right to an impartial jury.





### **Police Accountability and Public Safety**

In response to the national policing crisis that continuously puts the lives of Black communities and other communities of color at risk, LDF launched its policing campaign to promote unbiased and responsible policing policies and practices at the national, state, and local levels. The effort will utilize litigation to eliminate racially discriminatory policing and policies, support demands for federal civil rights investigations, promote the expanded role of prosecutors, link federal funding to data collection and training, and more. This work has already begun, with targeted outreach in Baltimore; Ferguson; Tulsa; North Charleston; and New York City, which have been epicenters of some of the most egregious instances of police injustice in recent memory.



# ECONOMIC JUSTICE

### Morningside v. Sabree

LDF, the ACLU of Michigan, and Covington, and Burling LLP reached a settlement with the City of Detroit to provide financial relief to residents at risk of losing their homes due to the city’s discriminatory tax foreclosure policy. The agreement will save the homes of over 300 homeowners and their families, and will make it less burdensome in the future for residents to apply for a city program exempting low-income homeowners from taxes they cannot afford. Previously, seven Detroit homeowners and a coalition of neighborhood associations from across the city alleged that the Wayne County Treasurer’s practice of foreclosing on homes, despite the well-known illegal over-assessments underlying each tax debt, constitutes illegal housing discrimination and is in violation of the federal Fair Housing Act.

### Timbs v. Indiana

LDF filed an amicus brief urging the Supreme Court to uphold the Eighth Amendment’s protection against excessive fines and fees in state as well as federal cases. Historically, states used criminal fines as a way to force Black people into indentured servitude, and communities of color are still disproportionately subjected to criminal fines and forfeitures. In response, the Supreme Court made a unanimous decision that the ban on excessive fines does in fact apply to the states through the Fourteenth Amendment.

### Obduskey v. McCarthy

LDF filed an amicus brief in *Obduskey v. McCarthy*, in which a foreclosure law firm claimed that the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (FDCPA) didn’t apply to non-judicial foreclosures. Enacted in 1977, the FDCPA bans debt collectors from using unfair or deceptive practices to collect debts from people. The content of LDF’s brief outlined for the court the history of housing discrimination against Black people and the ramifications that are still felt today, including home foreclosure rates that are still significantly higher in predominantly Black neighborhoods. In March 2019, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the protections in the FDCPA at issue in this case did not apply to McCarthy.

“Detroit’s tax foreclosure crisis has decimated African American communities throughout the city,”

— AJMEL QUERESHI, SENIOR COUNSEL

**TMI Report: *Water/Color: A Study of Race and the Water Affordability Crisis in America's Cities***

The *Water/Color* report highlights the water affordability crisis in American cities and the disproportionate impact on Black communities. The report focuses on Baltimore and Cleveland to demonstrate how water services are allocated and provides a framework for potential litigation and policy solutions that challenge water lien sales and service shutoffs.

**Discriminatory TSA policies**

LDF attorneys and other civil rights organizations testified before the House Homeland Security Committee on how the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) policies amount to profiling and are disproportionately burdening people of color -- including adding to the barriers and judgments Black people face when they display their natural hair.



*“We cannot talk about the water affordability crisis without centering the conversation on its disproportionate racial impact. Americans must think of this crisis not only as an environmental justice issue, but as a racial justice one too.”*

– COTY MONTAG, SENIOR COUNSEL; AUTHOR, WATER/COLOR REPORT



# JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

## Judicial Nominees Decline to Affirm *Brown v. Board of Education* Decision

Several of the judicial nominees put forth by President Trump refused to reaffirm the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* decision that ruled racial segregation in public schools is unconstitutional. LDF was vocal on this issue, declaring such a position as completely unacceptable. The refusals were unprecedented and LDF broadly condemned the nominees, noting that the failure to affirm the decision should be seen as a disqualifying action for anyone seeking to be confirmed to any judicial position. As Sherrilyn Ifill noted in her widely read [Washington Post op-ed](#), “Even the most conservative judges affirmed its centrality to our nation’s democratic character.”

## Brett Kavanaugh Confirmation Hearing

LDF and other racial justice organizations strongly opposed the confirmation of Judge Brett Kavanaugh to the U.S. Supreme Court. LDF conducted a detailed review of the limited available record of Judge Kavanaugh’s long career in public life. [This report](#), along with the circumstances of the hearing, prompted concern over his nomination. LDF called for a halt of the scheduled hearings and confirmation process until Kavanaugh’s full record could be received and examined, and until all allegations were fully investigated

“We will continue to demand that our legal system honor the words etched into the edifice of the United States Supreme Court: equal justice under law.”

– LDF STATEMENT



# THURGOOD MARSHALL INSTITUTE (TMI)

Launched in 2015, the Thurgood Marshall Institute is a multidisciplinary center within the NAACP Legal Defense Fund that brings critical capabilities to the fight for racial justice, including research and targeted advocacy campaigns. TMI also houses a collection of materials chronicling the legal history of the Civil Rights Movement, known as the LDF Archives.

# TMI BRIEFS

## Introduction of TMI Briefs

The Institute began creating and publishing a series of short primers on legal principles and racial justice with the intention of furthering LDF's goal to help educate and empower the public. Developed by TMI's experts, the briefs cover topics such as the Fourteenth Amendment, the U.S. Census, water rights, and much more.

## TMI Lab: Fair Housing Expert Training

TMI hosted a special forum where social scientists, advocates, and peers discussed strategies to combat civil rights challenges, including best practices for litigating Fair Housing Act cases. The training, which included new and established experts in a variety of fields, as well as a group of experienced civil rights attorneys, took place at the Kenan Institute for Ethics at Duke University.

## TMI Lab: Electoral Accountability and Get Out the Vote

Participants in the November 2018 TMI Lab discussed current electoral research from experts in the field and strategies to better equip our country's voters for the challenges they face at the polls.





## LDF ARCHIVES

### Archives

The LDF Archives are a repository of the pleadings, research, and correspondence related to thousands of cases LDF has litigated. It contains the record of the legal struggle for Black equality since 1940, including the legal battles of the Civil Rights Movement. The LDF Archives Department provides library services and research assistance to LDF staff and on a limited basis to outside researchers. It also oversees the management of information within the repository.

*“LDF’s archives illuminate the use of the Constitution and civil rights laws to effect social change.”*

— DONNA GLOECKNER,  
DIRECTOR OF ARCHIVES &  
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT







# LDF IN THE MEDIA



**Sherrilyn Ifill**  
PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR COUNSEL, NAACP LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

## OP-EDS, BLOGS AND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

- Janai Nelson, CNN, *Georgia Gubernatorial Candidate's Huge Conflict of Interest* (October 16, 2018)
- Todd A. Cox, The Hill, *The Kavanaugh Fight is Over—the Fight for the Judiciary is Not* (October 9, 2018)
- Leah Aden, Rewire News, *Changing the Rules to Rig the Game: Our Supreme Court's Hypocrisy on Civil Rights* (October 8, 2018)
- Cara McClellan, The Undeclared, *Happy Birthday, Serena: I'm Proud That You Spoke Up* (September 26, 2018)
- Ivy Yan (Harvard amici), Teen Vogue, *An Asian-American Harvard Student Defends Affirmative Action* (September 26, 2018)
- Sherrilyn Ifill, CNN, *Judge Kavanaugh's Hearings Must Be Delayed* (September 4, 2018)

## PRINT/ONLINE

- Sherrilyn Ifill, Curbed, *Facial Recognition is Becoming One of the 21st Century's Biggest Public Space Issues* (October 19, 2018)
- Leah Aden, The New York Times, *Georgia Voting Begins Amid Accusations of Voter Suppression* (October 19, 2018)
- Leah Aden, BET, *Outrage After Elderly Black Voters in Georgia Were Forced Off Bus Taking Them to Polling Place* (October 19, 2018)
- P.R. Lockhart, Vox, *The Lawsuit Against Harvard That Could Change Affirmative Action in College Admissions, Explained* (October 18, 2018)
- Sherrilyn Ifill, Quartz, *Algorithms Can't Fix Societal Problems—and Often Amplify Them* (October 17, 2018)
- Sherrilyn Ifill, Boston Globe, *As trial begins, Harvard's Admissions are Under Scrutiny* (October 15, 2018)

- Cara McClellan, Connecticut Mirror, *Do Magnet Schools Need White Students to Be Great?* (October 15, 2018)
- Sherrilyn Ifill, The LA Times, *Chicago Jury Convicts Police Officer of Murder in Shooting Death of Laquan McDonald* (October 5, 2018)
- Sherrilyn Ifill, USA Today, *Abortion Rights: Supreme Court Considers Overruling Several Lesser Precedents. Could Roe v. Wade Be Affected?* (October 3, 2018)
- Sherrilyn Ifill, The Baltimore Sun, *Bringing a Dark Chapter to Light: Maryland Confronts Its Lynching Legacy* (September 25, 2018)
- Sam Spital, The New York Times, *Sessions Says Justice Dept. Has Helped Preserve Free Speech on Campuses* (September 17, 2018)
- Janai Nelson, Associated Press, *Members of Congressional Black Caucus Urge Senate to Reject Kavanaugh* (September 6, 2018)
- Sherrilyn Ifill, Education Week, *Kavanaugh: ‘Brown v. Board of Education’ is Supreme Court’s ‘Greatest Moment’* (September 5, 2018)
- Sherrilyn Ifill, USA Today, *Why Brett Kavanaugh’s Hearing is Flawed: Today’s Talker* (September 5, 2018)
- Janai Nelson, The New York Times, *Trump’s Justice Department Redefines Whose Civil Rights to Protect* (September 3, 2018)

*“The way we shape the narrative outside the courtroom and outside of the legislative corridors can sway the court of public opinion and may ultimately influence how legal doctrine is formed—if we do it right—and, in turn, whether access and equity are protected and expanded.”*

— JANAI NELSON,  
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR-COUNSEL



## TELEVISION AND VIDEO

- Janai Nelson, *LDF's Janai Nelson Joins Andrea Mitchell Reports to Discuss Voter Suppression* (October 16, 2018)
- Sherrilyn Ifill, *LDF's Sherrilyn Ifill Discusses Kavanaugh Confirmation Vote on All in with Chris* (October 5, 2018)
- Janai Nelson, *LDF's Janai Nelson Joins Hardball with Chris Matthews to Discuss Judge Kavanaugh's Upcoming Confirmation Vote* (September 20, 2018)
- Sherrilyn Ifill, *LDF's Sherrilyn Ifill Joins the AM Joy Show with Joy Reid to Discuss Judge Kavanaugh's Upcoming Confirmation* (September 2, 2018)

## RADIO AND PODCAST

- Sherrilyn Ifill, *The Tom Joyner Morning Show, LDF's Sherrilyn Ifill Discusses the Confirmation Hearings of Judge Kavanaugh on The Tom Joyner Morning Show* (September 4, 2018)

# FELLOWSHIP & SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

Building upon the legacy of *Brown v. Board of Education*, Herbert Lehman scholarships support talented undergraduates with awards of \$2,000 per year over four years. Awards are provided to graduating high school seniors, first-year students in accredited four-year colleges, or students transferring into accredited four-year colleges. Awards are offered to approximately 25 qualified students a year. Named after the former Governor and United States Senator from New York, the scholarship program honors his integrity, courage, and persistence on behalf of numerous civil rights causes.

Named in honor of the 14th Chief Justice of the United States, whose stewardship of the Supreme Court helped end school segregation, the Earl Warren Scholarship Program awards \$10,000 per year for three years. In addition to financial assistance, Earl Warren scholars are given special consideration for two unique opportunities: an LDF internship, externship, or guided research project and an invitation to LDF's Civil Rights Training Institute, an invitation-only annual civil rights conference that brings together civil rights advocates, scholars, and attorneys to discuss strategies and to network.



## DERRICK L. PARKER

Derrick graduated from Morehouse College with a 4.0 GPA and will be attending Harvard Law School. He has a long, impressive list of awards, including being selected as a finalist for a Rhodes Scholarship. His recommenders spoke of his "compassion for the marginalized" and "unlimited leadership potential." Derrick interned for the Georgia Legislative Black Caucus and U.S. House of Representatives and was the President of his sophomore class.



## JALEN GRANT

Jalen pursued excellence in school while being homeless and was able to maintain good grades throughout, despite personal hardship. Her essay on educational variation showed a deep level of critical thinking as she equates the lack of adequate funding in education today to the denial of education during slavery. Jalen writes "that struggle is not the worst thing in the world." Struggle makes you work harder and you will appreciate the reward at the end of the battle. Jalen wants to become a lawyer so she can advocate for marginalized communities. She attends Loyola University.



# NATIONAL EQUAL JUSTICE AWARDS 2018

LDF held its 32nd Annual National Equal Justice Awards Dinner, Justice Equality Democracy, on Thursday, November 1, 2018 at The Ziegfeld Theater in New York City. In addition to paying tribute to the tremendous work LDF accomplished over the prior year, LDF honored the achievements of several distinguished civil and human rights leaders. Over 650 attendees helped to raise over \$2 million to further LDF's mission.

Marian Wright Edelman, the founder/president of the Children's Defense Fund, and Judge U.W. Clemon, Alabama's first African American federal judge, received the Thurgood Marshall Lifetime Achievement Award. Other National Equal Justice Awards recipients were Bryan Stevenson, Founder and Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative, and philanthropists Diana and Dr. P. Roy Vagelos.

TV and radio personality Jacque Reid served as emcee and in keeping with the evening's theme, Tony and Grammy Award-winning artist Renee Elise Goldsberry performed the inspirational song "People Get Ready." Special thanks to everyone who helped make the 2018 National Equal Justice Awards Dinner a night to remember, including honorary chairs Kenneth and Andrea Frazier, and Robyn and Tony Coles, and co-chairs Angela Vallot and Kim Koopersmith.



Honoree Marian Wright Edelman



Honoree U.W. Clemon



Honoree Bryan Stevenson



Angela Vallot, Sherrilyn Ifill, Kim Koopersmith, Janai Nelson



# DONORS

# FY2018-2019 SUPPORTERS

## LEADERSHIP GIFTS

LDF is grateful for the partnership of its leadership supporters, who help sustain LDF's programs and core operations through multi-year gifts of one million dollars or more. The following funders are fulfilling multi-year commitments made in prior fiscal years.

The Ford Foundation  
George Lucas Family Foundation  
JPB Foundation  
Michael R. Klein and Joan Fabry  
New York Life  
W.K. Kellogg Foundation



## \$500,000 & ABOVE

Anonymous (3)  
Damien Dwin  
Andréa W. and Kenneth C. Frazier  
The Klarman Family Foundation  
Kim Koopersmith and William Borner  
Open Society Foundations  
Silicon Valley Community Foundation  
Angela E. Vallot and James G. Basker

## \$100,000 TO \$499,999

Anonymous  
Aviv Foundation, Inc.  
Black Economic Alliance  
Jacqueline and James Castillo  
Elizabeth Davis and Luis R. Penalver  
Diageo North America  
John D. Eder  
Kathleen B. Fuld and Richard S. Fuld, Jr.  
Gilead Sciences, Inc.  
Chris Larsen Fund  
NEO Philanthropy, Inc. / Carnegie Corporation  
Neukom Family Foundation  
Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP  
Steven B. Pfeiffer  
Rockefeller Brothers Fund  
Solidarity Giving  
Elizabeth and David Steinglass  
Uber Technologies, Inc.  
Paula D. and Anré D. Williams

## \$50,000 TO \$99,999

American Express  
The Boulé Foundation  
Robyn and Tony Coles  
Corporate Counsel Women of Color, Inc.  
Davis, Polk & Wardwell LLP  
Goldman Sachs  
Janet and Richard Hart  
Helen A. and Virgil L. Jones  
Anne L. and David E. Kendall  
Kirkland & Ellis LLP  
The Lutz Fund  
Julie H. Lutz and George Wallerstein  
Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP  
Northrop Grumman Corp.  
PepsiCo Inc.  
Jonelle Procope and Frederick O. Terrell  
Judith M. Scheide  
The Starbucks Foundation  
Stavros Niarchos Foundation  
Diana and P. Roy Vagelos  
Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz  
Nina M. and Ted V. Wells  
The WhyNot Initiative  
Williams & Connolly LLP

## \$10,000 TO \$49,999

Billye S. and Henry Aaron  
Michael E. Abramowitz  
Gwen and Gerald Adolph  
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP  
Aldrich Family Charitable Foundation  
Amazon Corporation  
Norma and Jon E. Barfield  
Jen and Jeff Belle  
Dame Pamela Banks and S. Andrew Banks  
Joyce M. Bloch  
The Honorable William W. Bradley  
Helen Brandshaft  
Madeleine and Thomas J. Burrell  
Jeffrey O. Byers  
William J. Bynum  
Cahill Gordon & Reindel LLP  
Michael Caren  
The Ferriday Fund Charitable Trust  
Clifford P. Case, III  
Jessica Case  
CBS Corporation  
Kathryn Chenault and Kenneth I. Chenault, Sr.  
The Lois Chiles Foundation  
The Coca-Cola Company  
Columbia University in the City of New York  
Mary P. and Dennis R. Connolly  
George L and Theresa L Cotsirilos Merced Foundation  
Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP  
CREDO  
Theodore Cross Family Charitable Foundation  
Christa Dalimonte  
Debevoise & Plimpton LLP  
Defense Against Thought Control Foundation, Inc.  
Nancy and Chad Dickerson  
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# DONOR HIGHLIGHT: THE OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS

*“For 80 years now, LDF has set the standard for pushing this country to live up to our highest ideals of liberty and justice for all,” Tom Perriello, Executive Director of Open Society-U.S. “At a time when racism, hate crimes, and structural inequality are all on the rise, we are proud to deepen our commitment to this landmark institution and its inspiring leader, Sherrilyn Ifill, and urge other funders to step forward to support their vital labors for years to come.”*

During this fiscal year, the Open Society Foundations awarded LDF a \$15M grant to support LDF’s 80th anniversary, recognizing the vital role civil rights lawyers play in securing, defending, and protecting democracy. The transformational gift supports LDF’s establishment of a southern office, which will serve as a regional hub for litigation and policy work, and allow LDF to work more effectively with local organizers and activists. The gift will also expand the efforts of the Thurgood Marshall Institute to conduct research and strategic advocacy campaigns to address racial discrimination and inequity.

The Open Society Foundations (OSF), founded by George Soros, are the world’s largest private funder of independent groups working for justice, democratic governance, and human rights. The Open Society Foundations have been a major supporter of LDF since 2005, and we are proud to partner with them on our work to achieve racial justice and an inclusive society.

*“We are deeply grateful to the Open Society Foundations for this generous and important gift,” said Sherrilyn Ifill, President of LDF. “Our mission has unapologetically focused on the fight for racial justice and equity. We are encouraged by OSF’s recognition of the importance and significance of our work at this moment in our country. The fight for civil rights is, at its core, a fight for our democracy. But this fight requires resources. OSF is providing critical support as we expand and deepen our work.”*



# FINANCIAL REPORT



# STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

## REVENUE AND SUPPORT

### CONTRIBUTIONS, GRANTS, AND GIFTS IN KIND:

Public Support and Grants	31,714,781
Combined Federal Campaign	555,603
Bequests	1,367,200
Special Events Revenue	2,433,184
Court Costs and Attorney Fees Awarded	454,698
Other Revenue	218,564
Investment Income	788,060
Net Appreciation on Investments and Assets Held in Trust by Other	430,206
<b>TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT</b>	<b>37,962,296</b>

## EXPENSES

### PROGRAM EXPENSES:

Legal Program Expenses	12,432,832
Thurgood Marshall Institute	4,239,540
Scholarship Programs	426,400
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSES</b>	<b>17,098,772</b>

General and Administrative	2,357,034
Fundraising and Special Events	4,850,960
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>24,306,766</b>

Change in Net Assets	13,655,530
Net Assets, Beginning of the Year	66,684,336
Charge for Pension Benefit Other Than Net Periodic Pension Cost	886,093
<b>NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR</b>	<b>81,225,959</b>

# BALANCE SHEET

## ASSETS

Cash and Cash Equivalents	22,160,064
Accounts Receivable	72,701
Investments	29,347,000
Donations and Other Receivables	17,941,475
Amounts Held in Escrow	3,425
Property and Equipment	14,282,230
Prepaid Pension Asset	231,523
Assets Held in Trust by Others	1,610,484
Other Assets	569,359
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>86,218,261</b>

## LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

### LIABILITIES:

Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	2,643,102
Mortgage Payable	2,345,775
Other Liability	3,425
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>4,992,302</b>

### DONOR UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS:

Available for Operations	5,383,064
Board Designated	4,084,113
Invested in Property and Equipment	11,936,455
Donor Restricted Net Assets	59,822,327
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>81,225,959</b>

<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$86,218,261</b>
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† - Deceased

# FY19 ANNUAL REPORT



The NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. is America’s premier legal organization fighting for racial justice. Through litigation, advocacy, and public education, LDF seeks structural changes to expand democracy, eliminate disparities, and achieve racial justice in a society that fulfills the promise of equality for all Americans. LDF also defends the gains and protections won over the past 80 years of civil rights struggle and works to improve the quality and diversity of judicial and executive appointments. LDF is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

*“It’s a democracy if we can keep it. And in order to keep it you can’t stand still. You must move.”*

– THURGOOD MARSHALL, LDF FOUNDER