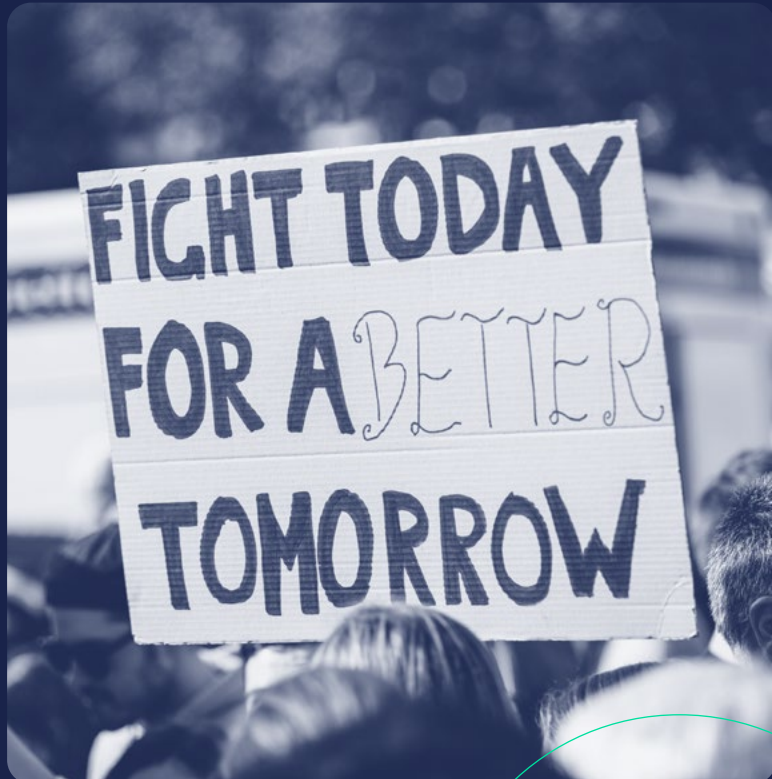


2023 IMPACT REPORT

# DEMOCRACY FORWARD



Defending Progress  
Disrupting Extremism  
Building the Future

# Dear Democracy Forward Community,

This year, the most consequential fights for people and democracy happened in communities and courts across the country. We were there—with you by our side—making sure that the people who make up the rich fabric of life in America are represented. From filing litigation to restore access to essential reproductive healthcare post-*Dobbs*, to successfully blocking state-based attempts to criminalize librarians and censor books and ideas, to holding those who promoted the “Big Lie” and then sought to destroy evidence of their involvement to account, to bringing the power of people and communities to the nation’s highest Court—we were there because **the fight for democracy is the fight for people.**

In this report, you will find a glimpse of the impact that we have made this year. You will also see how we are building a legal institution for these times—an institution that recognizes that at this inflection point in our country, the courts are both a frontline in the battle for democracy and an important backstop against unbridled extremism. **We go to court for democracy because the stakes are too high for the American people to sit on the sidelines.**

Founded in 2017 out of an urgent crisis in our democracy, Democracy Forward took the Trump administration to court more than 100 times, winning victories that improved the lives of millions. Through our work, we saw the extremists’ playbook firsthand and learned how to ensure that they don’t write the last chapter of our democracy. In the time since, we have scaled our team to address the underlying causes of these generationally defining threats: the highly-coordinated, well-funded array of extremist legal organizations that are propping up extremist actors, misusing our courts to roll back rights, and seeking to create a country in their own image, a country that only works for the few, not for all. **And we won’t let them win.**

Our three strategic pillars—**defend, disrupt, and build**—recognize that the urgent work to defend democracy and disrupt bad actors must happen alongside forward-looking action to build a bold and vibrant democracy for all people. We leverage our team’s unique mix of expertise and diverse experience, creativity, and legal excellence to win both in and outside of the courtroom. The pages that follow



show the impact of our approach over the last year.

As we look ahead to 2024, we know our work will be needed more than ever and you will see us in more courts and communities than ever before. **At this pivotal moment, we’ve got no option but to take on the hardest fights for the American people. And we know that when we fight, democracy wins.**

Onward,

**Skye L. Perryman, JD**

*President and CEO*

*Democracy Forward Foundation*

## Our strategies yield impact:

### Defend.

Defending democracy and policies that propel progress through regulatory and legal support.

### Disrupt.

Disrupting unlawful, regressive, and anti-democratic activity through litigation, legal action, and public education.

### Build.

Building coalitions, supporting communities, and creating a more democratic and just future through the law.

# 2023: Our Impact by the Numbers



# 300,000+

Doctors and health care professionals supporting access to reproductive health care in state supreme courts in response to *Dobbs*



# 150,000+

Teachers and school workers represented in Florida challenging the DeSantis administration's censorship agenda



# 250,000+

Small business and small business interests represented at the US Supreme Court in defense of a government that delivers for people in *Loper Bright v. Raimondo*



# 37+

States where Democracy Forward is actively working



# 700+

Unique news clips and stories covering our work and keeping the public informed

# 175+

Clients and partners working with us to support the federal government's modernization of regulatory review

# 75+

Active legal matters where Democracy Forward is representing clients in courts across the country

# 370+

Clients and partner organizations

# 50

Team members (and growing) dedicated to getting the job done

# The fight for democracy is the fight for **people.**

## WASHINGTON

### Gonzales v. Inslee

Contributed to state supreme court ruling that rejected a challenge to the state's COVID-19 eviction moratorium and declined to extend a harmful takings clause doctrine.

## IDAHO

### Idaho v. United States of America

Supported the Department of Justice's litigation challenging an abortion ban that violates federal law in failing to provide adequate exceptions for emergency care.

## NEBRASKA

### Nebraska v. Walsh

Represented the Communications Workers of America, the Service Employees International Union, and other worker-focused organizations on briefs defending the federal contractor minimum wage.

## COLORADO

Supported research and health experts in bolstering state efforts to combat misinformation concerning so-called "abortion-reversal."

## TEXAS

### Zurawski v. Texas

Filed brief in the Texas Supreme Court on behalf of medical experts explaining the medical harms to women resulting from post-*Dobbs* abortion bans.

## NEBRASKA

### Biden v. Nebraska

Represented legal scholars on a brief explaining that President Biden's federal student debt relief program was both necessary and legal.

## TEXAS

### Braidwood v. Becerra

On behalf of the nation's medical experts, opposed efforts to undermine the Affordable Care Act's preventative services requirements to protect patient access to cancer screenings and essential care.

## ARKANSAS

### Fayetteville Public Library, et al. v. Crawford County et al.

Secured preliminary court order blocking state law signed by Gov. Huckabee-Sanders that would criminalize librarians.

## WYOMING

Opposed efforts by Wyoming's Secretary of State to undermine environmental, sustainability, and governance conscious investing.

## WISCONSIN

### American Oversight v. Assembly Office of the Special Counsel

Secured records concerning the state Office of Special Counsel's efforts to prop up the Big Lie and ensuring government transparency in Wisconsin.

## OHIO

### Collins v. DeWine

Challenged the DeWine Administration's anti-democratic takeover of K-12 education governance in Ohio.

## OHIO

### National Association of Social Workers v. City of Lebanon, Ohio

Secured removal of "aiding and abetting" liability that would have criminalized social workers seeking to help clients navigate where to obtain abortion care in Ohio.

## WEST VIRGINIA

### GenBioPro v. Raynes

Filed first-of-its kind post-*Dobbs* case challenging an abortion ban on behalf of the generic manufacturer of mifepristone (the abortion pill).

## LOUISIANA

### Parker v. Hooper

Secured court order to remedy unconstitutional abuses at Angola prison concerning incarcerated persons' access to health care.

## FLORIDA

### Florida Education Association v. DeSantis

Represented the state's largest teachers' union in challenging the DeSantis censorship agenda.

## FLORIDA

### In re: Ballot Initiative Limiting Governmental Interference With Abortion

Opposed efforts by the state Attorney General to deprive voters in Florida of the opportunity to vote on the issue of abortion rights in the 2024 election with the filing of a brief addressing misinformation.

From coast to coast, Democracy Forward is in courts and communities building power and fighting for the future. Here is a glimpse of our work.

## NEW JERSEY

### Merck v. Becerra

Supported defense of Medicare drug price negotiation provisions in the Inflation Reduction Act to make life-saving medications more accessible and affordable.

## PENNSYLVANIA

Uncovered national movements active in undermining quality public education in Pennsylvania and equipped communities on the ground with resources to bring needed transparency and accountability.

## MISSISSIPPI

### Parents for Public Schools v. Dept of Finance Admin et al.

Secured a court order finding that Mississippi's attempt to direct COVID-19 relief funds to private schools was unlawful.

# Defend.

Defending progress and a government that works for all people

**Our work to defend** policies and a government that works for the American people extended from the nation's highest Court and halls of government to the country's vibrant local communities. We fought for economic opportunity, innovation, accessibility, and good government and made impact across the range of issues that matter to people and communities.

## Across the Country

**An Economy That Works for Workers:** As extremist attorneys general attacked the minimum wage for federal contractors in courts, we weighed in on behalf of worker advocates in defense of these critical protections. When the constitutionality of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) came under threat, we represented a coalition of small businesses to underscore the importance of

OSHA and its workplace safety standards. As the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) sought to ban employers from imposing noncompetes on their workers to help prevent the often exploitative practice that suppresses wages and prevents workers from finding better jobs, we provided the agency evidence and legal reasoning that supports these critical actions on behalf of workers and constitutional law scholars.

**Making Healthcare Accessible:** Special interests have been engaged in aggressive litigation against provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act aimed to reduce the cost of prescription drugs. On behalf of leading medical and public health organizations, in five cases defending the legality of the program, we weighed in with evidence to underscore the importance of these protections. In unrelated litigation, we represent the nation's medical experts in defending the preventative care requirements of the Affordable Care Act—provisions that make cancer screening and contraception accessible to the American people—from extremist legal attacks.

**Opposing Attacks on Corporate Board Diversity:** When extremists and interest groups that oppose our nation's rich diversity attacked the Securities and Exchange Commission's (SEC) approval of NASDAQ's board diversity disclosure requirement, we weighed in on behalf of academics and corporate governance scholars and highlighted for the court the strong evidence that links board diversity and corporate performance. The Fifth Circuit has since rejected attempts to gut the SEC's rule, ruling in favor of our clients' position.

"While the Supreme Court makeup may be more conservative than a decade ago and there is fear that it could overturn the historic ruling on same-sex marriage, organizations like Democracy Forward still provide a way to fight back."

THE TEXAS OBSERVER  
April 3, 2023



Democracy Forward represented a coalition of leading legal scholars in defending the legality of the President's student loan relief program.

**Promoting the Separation of Church and State:** On its way out, the Trump administration finalized a regulation that expressly authorized federal contractors to discriminate on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity by citing religious objections. With a coalition of tradeswomen, teachers, workers' advocates, and civil rights organizations, we fought back in court. Now, the US Department of Labor's (DOL) Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) officially rescinded the rule. This rescission from the DOL's OFCCP is a victory for the rule of law, workers across the country, and religious freedom.

## In Washington

**Protecting the Civil Service:** Throughout his administration, Trump sought to politicize our federal agencies and the civil servants who work in them. The civil service is meant to serve the American people, not politicians. The Biden administration has proposed new safeguards that will help ensure that the American people and government leaders can count on an experienced, professional, and mission-oriented civil service that puts the public interest first. Without these protections, federal employees could be the target of a future administration seeking to purge the government of the far-right's perceived enemies. We led efforts to mobilize more than 25 unique organizations in supporting the Office of Personnel Management's (OPM) proposed civil service protections and also debunked extremist arguments that undermine the civil service. Our work emphasized that a professional civil service provides valuable regulatory certainty and is best equipped to serve the American people.

"[This] new judicial term that has the potential to catastrophically disrupt the functioning of government, expand the assault on reproductive rights and unleash yet more gun violence on an already reeling country."

THE GUARDIAN

October 3, 2023



Democracy Forward represents the generic manufacturer of mifepristone in its efforts to keep the medication accessible and on the market.

**Making Government More Effective:** Until today, the federal regulatory process has been hamstrung and outdated, and federal rulemaking is often not as equitable or responsive to needs of communities across the country as it could be. To address this, we formed and led a steering committee of national organizations to support plans proposed by the Office of Informational and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) to modernize federal regulatory review so that policies are implemented in ways that better serve people. We educated more than 100 organizations about the importance of regulatory modernization, garnered support of nearly 150 organizations, trained nearly 20 organizations on how to engage, and facilitated more than 30 organizations in supporting a separate letter to ensure that underserved communities have more meaningful access to the federal regulatory process. We are pleased that OIRA has made important updates to our regulatory process.

## At the US Supreme Court

**Defending a Government that Works for People:** A number of cases arising before the US Supreme Court threaten the ability of the government to work for people. These challenges range from a radical attack on critical consumer protections against payday lending in *Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) v. Community Financial Services Association of America (CFSA)* to an effort to overturn a decades old legal precedent and open up a massive range of democratically-enacted policies to attack in *Loper Bright v. Raimondo* and *Relentless Inc. v. Commerce*, to an unlawful attempt to hamstring the SEC's ability to regulate industry in *SEC v. Jarkesy*, to efforts to undermine the nation's tax code in *Moore v. United States*. Our team is on the frontlines of these fights representing communities whose wellbeing is at stake—from rural and agricultural organizations, to scholars, to hundreds of thousands of small businesses, to medical and health care organizations. Earlier in the term, we provided the Court with

"Democracy Forward...made a similar point in an amicus brief filed in May on behalf of Farm Action and other agricultural nonprofits...the CFPB's funding structure shares key characteristics with that of the Farm Credit Administration, such that holding the former unconstitutional could threaten the latter and, with it, the food producers who depend on the financing it oversees."

LAW360

September 29, 2023

analysis from leading legal scholars on briefs in *Biden v. Nebraska*, explaining to the Court that the President's student debt relief initiatives were lawful. While the Court declined to uphold those initiatives, our team's work to shape public narratives and legal arguments has played a role in paving the way for future relief programs.

### Keeping Mifepristone on the Market:

After the US Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit issued a court order that threatened access to mifepristone—a reproductive health care medication approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that has been relied on by doctors and their patients for more than two decades—we represented the nation's only generic manufacturer of mifepristone in briefs in the US Supreme Court explaining the devastating consequences of the ruling. The Court stayed the Fifth Circuit's order and mifepristone remains available on the national market. The Court has now granted a request that we supported to review a second order from the Fifth Circuit that, if not reversed, would undermine FDA's authority and compromise access. Mifepristone, a medication used for early pregnancy termination and other reproductive health care conditions, remains on the market.

# Disrupt.

Disrupting unlawful, regressive and anti-democratic activity

**This year,** Democracy Forward has filed legal challenges across the country to disrupt anti-democratic actors who abuse the trust the public has placed in them. We fight for freedoms that are fundamental to democracy.

**Freedom to Read:** Extremists are attacking the freedom to read in schools, public libraries, and communities throughout the country. Our team has helped parents, teachers, students, and librarians to respond and reverse this harmful trend. In Arkansas, alongside a broad coalition, we challenged a law that would criminalize librarians and won a preliminary injunction blocking the law. In Florida, we represented the largest teachers' union in challenging aspects of the DeSantis' administration's censorship agenda, giving voice to the burdens that teachers and students are experiencing. Our public investigations work in states like Pennsylvania has exposed far-right and extremist religious groups for their roles in seeking to undermine public education.

**Freedom to Choose:** The vast majority of Americans believe that choices about one's reproductive health are personal ones, not choices to be made by politicians. Yet, extremists are seeking to restrict access

"GenBioPro's lawyers are arguing, essentially, that abortion bans are bad for business...It's an argument one could see the most pro-business Supreme Court in a century buying."

**ROLLING STONE**

February 4, 2023



to essential health care while at the same time undermining democracy and the will of the people. In Florida, we are opposing the state attorney general's efforts to keep the question of abortion access off the ballot in 2024. In West Virginia, we filed a first-of-its-kind federal court challenge to a state abortion ban and other restrictions on behalf of GenBioPro, the manufacturer of generic mifepristone, a medication federally approved for early pregnancy termination. The case is on appeal at the Fourth Circuit and could make medication abortion available for communities in need. In Ohio, we forced extremists to abandon their attempts to criminalize social workers for assisting those in need of care in identifying pathways to care. Our lawyers are in courts in states like Texas, Mississippi, and Idaho fighting for access to essential care.



**Freedom to Learn:** Attacks on public education are on the rise. In Ohio, we challenged the anti-democratic takeover of K-12 education by Governor DeWine and his allies in the Ohio Legislature on behalf of parents in the state. In Mississippi, we continue to represent parents in

“As book banning rages on nationwide, the issue has moved from school board meetings and school libraries to courtrooms and national political campaigns...[Democracy Forward] has stepped in to support those facing book banning and censorship in Florida, Pennsylvania, and Texas...It is not an exaggeration to say this is a fight not just to keep books on the shelves but a battle in defense of democracy itself.”

**SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL**  
June 1, 2023



Democracy Forward staff members, along with local co-counsel in Florida, in the courtroom ahead of oral arguments in our legal challenge over the state's censorship laws.

challenging the misappropriation of public funds to private schools and have won a court order for parents.

**Freedom to Invest:** Investors deserve the freedom to consider all financial risks, including climate-related harms. However, extremists in states across the nation are seeking to hamper sustainable investments and to blacklist companies that have adopted environmental or sustainable business models. Our team is working with coalitions across the country to push back. In Wyoming, we opposed a proposed regulation that imposed burdensome requirements on investment professionals that incorporate environmental, social and governance (ESG) considerations into their investment strategies or analysis. In Texas, we worked alongside lawmakers and business leaders to provide the public with information regarding harmful legislation that blacklists companies. We are building strong and unique coalitions of business leaders, nonprofit leaders, scholars, and community leaders to push back.

**Freedom to Vote:** Voting is fundamental to democracy, yet extremists seek to undermine voting and fair elections including by promoting misinformation regarding the “Big Lie” in 2020. Following the 2020 election, Wisconsin became ground zero for the “Big Lie” where allies of former President Trump launched “investigations” to cast doubt on the results of the 2020 election. Wisconsin officials have sought to destroy the evidence of their attempts to undermine the 2020 election. Democracy Forward has litigated to prevent the destruction of these records and secured a court order requiring that records be preserved.

“Today’s ruling is a victory for democracy that affirms what we’ve been arguing all along: Wisconsin’s Office of Special Counsel is a state agency and must follow Wisconsin’s public records retention laws.”

**RACHEL FRIED**  
*Democracy Forward Foundation*  
**AP NEWS** June 5, 2023

**AP** Associated Press

**Wisconsin judge: Don't delete records from probe into 2020 Trump loss**



# Build.

## We are building a bold democracy for all people

through new partnerships, new ideas, and new tools to both fight back and propel forward.

### Advancing a Multiracial Democracy:

Anti-equity extremists, including former Trump administration officials who have formed new legal organizations, view the courts as a friendly forum for their efforts to create a country for some, not all. They have unleashed an avalanche of litigation and policies threatening equality and equity across the country. We are anchoring a legal strategy group to respond to these attacks, developing affirmative and defensive measures to address attacks on racial equity, inclusion and diversity programs and policies. This year, we were in court on behalf of medical organizations opposing attempts to undermine incentives for anti-racism plans in medicine as well as on behalf of corporate governance scholars who know that diversity is critical to business performance. We made a number of regulatory submissions on behalf of clients underscoring the importance of data, which can help measure progress toward making sure our institutions reflect all of us, and initiatives to help improve representation. We launched a rigorous monitoring tool that tracks the work of anti-equity extremists and the spread of regressive legal doctrines, addressing serious threats to the promise of democracy that are flying under the radar. Currently, this resource connects communities and advocates at all levels of engagement with initial use by more than 60 organizations and an influence that is building.

### Responding to the Unbridled Expansion of Harmful Legal Theories:

Last year, the US Supreme Court issued a decision in *West Virginia v. EPA* where it relied on what it has termed the “major questions doctrine” to strike down an important environmental protection program. This new doctrine—which suggests that agencies can only address matters of significant economic or political importance with clear congressional authorization—joins the ranks of several legal theories that are opportunistically used by special interests to substantially weaken the federal government’s ability to implement policies

Building a  
people-centered  
democratic future

that serve the American people. We launched a team that monitors attempts by extremists and special interests to expand these legal theories and have seen groups try to use the “major questions doctrine” to block abortion access, student debt relief, anti-discrimination protections for pregnant people, and the ability of federal agencies to protect investors. Our rigorous monitoring and analysis enables

“While these forces attacking democracy may be vocal, they do not represent the majority. We are grateful to know that through the partnerships we have forged, Democracy Forward will continue to be a fierce legal ally and a critical force by our side.”

**DAN MCNEIL**

*American Federation of Teachers*



Democracy Forward staff takes time away from the courtroom to connect with each other through volunteering at a Habitat for Humanity service project.

us to respond. This year, we filed the first major brief by legal scholars in the US Supreme Court since *West Virginia v. EPA* explaining the limits of “major questions doctrine” and we’re also countering attempts to expand “major questions doctrine” in lower courts across the country on behalf of communities most impacted and at risk of harm. We are presently monitoring and responding to a number of other legal doctrines—from misuse of the takings clause of the US Constitution to regressive interpretations of the appointments clause of the US Constitution—and working to ensure that the law and the courts work for all of us.

**As Technology Advances, So Must Democracy: Our Work in the Birthplace of Democracy:**

This past May in Athens, Greece—the birthplace of democracy—our President and CEO Skye Perryman spoke to emerging leaders, civil society representatives, and experts from Greece, the United States, and across the world as part of the Partners in Democracy symposium hosted by the US Embassy in Greece and the Delphi Economic Forum. The symposium addressed the challenges democracies face, including the rise of authoritarianism, societal inequalities, and disinformation, and opportunities to use this time as a catalyst for building a more inclusive and democratic world. Skye’s comments focused on the need to strengthen our democratic institutions

“Thank you to Democracy Forward for the work that you do...because of all of the people here working all together we can make it happen.”

**DOLORES HUERTA**  
September 28, 2023

as technology and artificial intelligence (A/I) are advancing. Other symposium speakers included former Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, US Congressman Don Beyer, world-renowned photographer Platon, and other artists and civic leaders.

**The Fight for Democracy is the Fight for the Future:** The fight for democracy is one for every generation. That is why we took our work on the road and have built intergenerational relationships, most prominently featured at SXSW this year where we premiered a video on the legacy of the late Congresswoman Barbara Jordan to a full house at our panel “2023: Democracy is Worth the Fight.” Policy and Public Affairs Director Tatiana Calderón led a discussion—featuring President & CEO Skye Perryman, voting rights advocate Tayhlor Coleman, and Gen-Z activist Olivia Julianna—about the fight for democracy’s future on the ground, in the states, and in the courts. Over four days, the team participated in nearly three dozen sessions and meet ups, expanding the bench of advocates for our work. Later in the year, at the National Museum of American History, we gathered the



Democracy Forward President & CEO Skye Perryman, voting rights advocate Tayhlor Coleman, and Gen-Z activist Olivia Julianna on stage at SXSW 2023.

Democracy Forward community for a showing of of the exhibit “A More Perfect Union: American Artists and the Currents of Our Time,” which features diverse and moving depictions of the American experience and demonstrates the essential and symbiotic relationship between democracy and artistic expression. We were joined by 93-year-old Presidential Medal of Honor Winner and legendary civil rights activist, Dolores Huerta, who spoke about the power everyday people can play in achieving democracy in this time.



Presidential Medal of Honor Winner and legendary civil rights activist Dolores Huerta speaks to Democracy Forward supporters at the National Museum of American History.

# Ahead in 2024: Our work is just **beginning.**

## When we fight, democracy wins.

Nearly every Presidential library from Hoover to Obama has warned that the state of our democracy is fragile and in need of protection. The United States remains on the list of “backsliding” democracies in the world, having been added for the first time in 2021. **2024 will be a pivotal year.**

It will be critical to confront misinformation, promote voting access, and to oppose coordinated efforts by extremist organizations to roll back the rights of people. Already, public reporting has revealed that extremist groups have developed a shadow government planning operation at the federal level, seeking to attain the Presidency and then to accelerate efforts to undermine how our government functions and our democratic processes. The Heritage Foundation and other groups have published reports with details of their plans, launching an unprecedented multi-million dollar campaign that would, among other things, seek to purge the civil service of workers extremists see as insufficiently loyal to their cause. In the country they seek to create, irreplaceable civil servants with decades of experience and expertise running programs that benefit communities across the country could be the target

“The stakes... are too high for government to be a spectator sport.”

FORMER  
CONGRESSWOMAN  
BARBARA JORDAN



 PBS NEWSHOUR

**13 presidential libraries from Hoover to Obama warn of fragile state of U.S. democracy**

PBS NEWSHOUR Nov 7, 2023 10:07 AM EST

of a future Presidential administration seeking to purge perceived “enemies” from government service.

### **We were built for this moment**

and have scaled our operations for the work ahead. Sign up for our weekly newsletters and ask your friends and family to do so as well. We will provide

you with timely updates, ways to get involved, and opportunities to use your power as an individual in this generationally defining time. In 2024, the future of our democracy—and the well-being of people—will be on the ballot in our communities and on the docket in our courtrooms.

# In the News

In 2023, our work was covered by a range of national and regional news outlets, generating more than 700 unique news clips in markets across the country. Our team's strategic use of communications and storytelling enhances our impact and ensures the public is informed about the state of democracy and the work needed to advance it. *Read some of our highlights and go to our website to see more coverage.*



**'Shelves Have Been Left Barren'**  
Florida teachers sue DeSantis' government over school library regulations ↗

USA Today | March 17, 2023



**Abortion Pill Maker Sues F.D.A. to Protect Drug if a Court Orders It Off the Market** ↗

New York Times | April 19, 2023



**How the Supreme Court ruled in a major election law case** ↗

Deseret News | July 1, 2023



**CFPB's Funding Structure Earns Wide Support At High Court** ↗

Law360 | May 15, 2023



**DeSantis and Florida Legislature want to control pretty much everyone** ↗

Baptist News Global | April 14, 2023



**A Legal Nonprofit Steps Up. Democracy Forward Talks to SLJ About Book Bans, with Advice on Countering Censorship** ↗

School Library Journal | June 1, 2023



**Wisconsin judge: Don't delete records from probe into 2020 Trump loss** ↗

Associated Press | June 5, 2023



**Federal judge blocks Arkansas law criminalizing librarians** ↗

Salon | July 31, 2023



**How Ohio's overhaul of K-12 schooling became a flashpoint** ↗

ABC News | October 3, 2023



**Judge Blocks Mississippi From Giving Private Schools \$10 Million in COVID Relief Funds** ↗

Mississippi Free Press | October 14, 2023



**GOP-Led Book Bans Are Spreading. Here's How the Left Is Fighting Back** ↗

The Messenger | June 26, 2023



**Student Loan Ruling Undercuts Future Emergency Relief Efforts** ↗

Bloomberg Law | June 30, 2023



**The Supreme Court case that could send the economy into a recession** ↗

Courthouse News Service | September 28, 2023



**Judge orders federal oversight of Angola, calls inmate medical care 'abhorrent,' 'cruel'** ↗

The Advocate | November 7, 2023



**CFPB To Fight For Its Fiscal Life in High Court Grudge Match** ↗

Law360 | September 29, 2023



**Abortion, guns, democracy: US rights at stake as Supreme Court term begins** ↗

The Guardian | October 2, 2023



**Ohio Republicans work to politicize our schools, destroy power of elected state school board** ↗

Ohio Capital Journal | September 26, 2023



**Meet Moms for Liberty, the extremist group that wants to decide what your children read** ↗

The American Independent | July 6, 2023



**'Criminal liability for librarians': the fight against US right-wing book bans** ↗

The Guardian | August 5, 2023



**'The fight to stop a cornerstone of Trump's 'retribution' agenda is underway** ↗

NBC News | December 21, 2023



**Trump plan to gut civil service triggers pushback by unions, Democrats** ↗

Reuters | December 22, 2023

# We are building a legal institution for these times. **Join us.**

Suppressing votes.  
Restricting women's rights.  
Denying election results.  
Censoring educators.  
Banning books.  
Spreading misinformation.  
Pushing dangerous legal doctrines.

**Far-right attacks keep coming.**

**We're fighting back.**

Unprecedented times call for unprecedented innovation and bold action. Democracy Forward is a legal institution like no other. We equip people and communities that make up the fabric of life in America—teachers, parents, workers, veterans, health care providers, small business owners, students, journalists, scientists, and so many others—with tools to take their fights for democracy to the courts and beyond. And, because of generous supporters like you, we are able to represent all of our clients free of charge.

**We take on the hardest fights against long odds.** We are not deterred by challenges. And, because the fight for people and democracy cannot be confined to one issue, we are structured to be able to address

a wide array of issues that matter to people and democracy. We do not seek to duplicate the work of others, but rather to go where we are needed and force-multiply the work and impact that so many are doing in this time. We bridge silos and build power across diverse communities and interests. We know that there is nothing more

powerful than the collective power of the people in our country.

Over the past year, we have continued to build our team and to expand our work to states and communities throughout the country, from blocking censorship laws and challenging far-right power grabs, to protecting access to medication abortion, protecting fair wages, and more. Join us through supporting our work and helping us to build a legal institution needed in these times. **Together, we can ensure that extremists do not write the final chapter of American democracy and that our best days remain ahead of us.**

*"Your team brings an incredibly rare mix of political savvy, policy expertise, and legal acumen to bear in every matter you take on and we knew right away that this was exactly what we needed to mount an outside legal defense of this policy on uncertain terrain and in an extraordinarily short timeframe."*

**MIKE PIERCE**

*Student Borrower Protection Center*



Democracy Forward staff gather for its fourth quarter staff retreat in Washington DC

# Democracy is worth the fight.

**As our work this year has shown,** we are ready to go anywhere and everywhere that people and democracy need us. We hope that no matter where you found us, you'll stay engaged with this movement to protect democracy. Whether you choose to contribute to our work, attend our events and briefings, follow us on social media, or keep up with our newsletter, your support matters. Please consider investing in Democracy Forward as we invest in the promise of democracy for all.

**SIGN UP** ↗ to receive the latest news on important cases and actions at [democracyforward.org/friends](https://democracyforward.org/friends)

For information on upcoming events and briefings, **EMAIL RACHEL HAYDEN** ↗ [info@democracyforward.org](mailto:info@democracyforward.org)

## Join our inaugural giving circle by visiting [democracyforward.org/giving-circle](https://democracyforward.org/giving-circle) ↗

<b>FRIEND</b>	\$500	Democracy Forward tote bag
<b>SUPPORTER</b>	\$1,000	Excusive invitations to events and briefings, plus previous levels
<b>SUSTAINER</b>	\$2,500	Acknowledgment on website and donor materials (if interested), plus previous levels
<b>ADVOCATE</b>	\$5,000	Invitation to private dinners and collaboration pre and post election briefing on legal strategy, plus previous levels
<b>CHAMPION</b>	\$15,000	Private dinner with up to ten guests with Democracy Forward leadership team featuring discussions of pressing issues in courts and democracy, plus previous levels





**DONATE TODAY**



**VIEW DIGITAL REPORT**

**FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

