Sword & Scales

SUMMER 2018

One woman's fight to open courthouse doors for all

The 14th Amendment 150 years later

Celebrating 45 years of defending liberty

PACIFIC LEGAL FOUNDATION

To read more about the work that PLF is doing, visit *pacificlegal.org*.

PACIFIC LEGAL FOUNDATION

People. Regardless of the constitutional issue, over our more than four decades fighting back against governments galore, there's a common thread: We represent people.

We often talk about lofty ideals and philosophical principles. And there's little doubt that these are important—after all, they support the work we do in every way. But, fundamentally, for all our high-minded resoluteness, at the end of the day, we're lawyers who represent people struggling against government overreach.

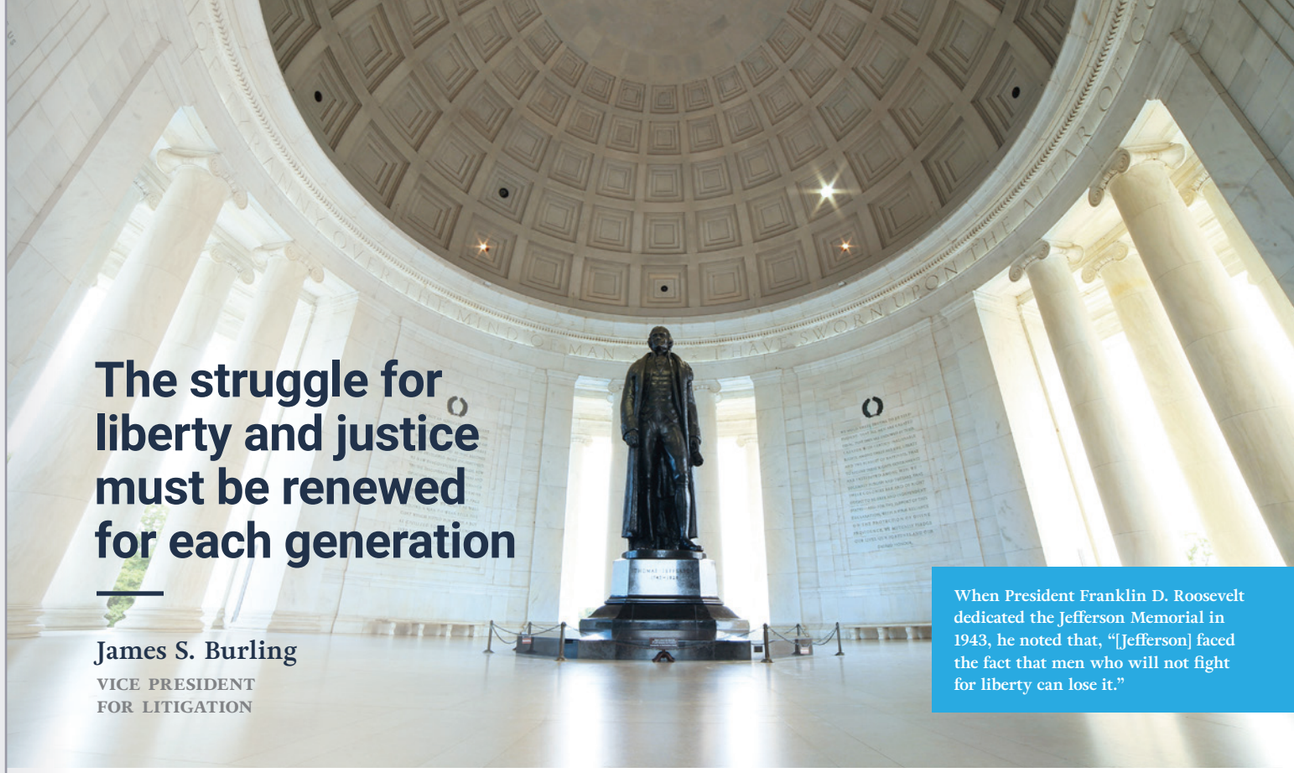
People who want to speak about matters that are important to them. People who want to work without unreasonable government barriers to their occupation. People who want to educate their children the way they know best. People who want to use their property as long as it doesn't harm someone else.

Our liberty is personal to us—it comes not from faded parchment or because we broke from England to uphold the ideas of the Enlightenment. Liberty exists by virtue of our very humanity. We are free because we are born free.

PLF has long been known for our work on property rights. Yet, truth be told, property has no rights—it's the people who own property that possess them.

At the end of the day, everything we do is designed to vindicate the most simple of premises—that individuals have freedom that should be equally applied before the law. Personal and individual liberty matters. And it's why PLF exists.

Steven D. Anderson
PRESIDENT & CEO



The struggle for liberty and justice must be renewed for each generation

When President Franklin D. Roosevelt dedicated the Jefferson Memorial in 1943, he noted that, "[Jefferson] faced the fact that men who will not fight for liberty can lose it."

James S. Burling
VICE PRESIDENT FOR LITIGATION

THE STRUGGLE FOR LIBERTY is old, yet it must be continually renewed—because the struggle is never-ending. As the world moves slowly, fitfully, and yet inexorably toward a state of increased liberty, we must always recall Ronald Reagan's words: "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction."

Different generations have had to employ different means of creating and defending liberty. Great philosophers like John Locke provided the intellectual ammunition to the warriors for liberty in the 17th century. The Revolutionary generation set down stirring principles and a constitutional framework. The generation that followed the Civil War extended those principles to even more Americans, especially through the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution.

In pursuing our work to protect liberty and limit government, PLF relies on the Fourteenth Amendment every day. When we protect Chef Geoff's right to truthfully promote his happy hour specials (see page 11), we're vindicating the Fourteenth Amendment's Due Process guarantee of free speech without absurd government restrictions. Ditto when we defend in the Supreme Court Minnesota voters' freedom to wear harmless political apparel to the polling place.

We rely on the Fourteenth Amendment's guarantee of legal equality when we challenge Hartford, Connecticut's, policy forbidding "too many" minority children from enrolling in the city's best magnet schools. This includes LaShawn Robinson, one of eight Hartford parents who are fighting for their children to receive the best education (see *Sword&Scales* Spring 2018).

All of our nation's history and its struggles for freedom can be distilled in a single phone call—the type of call PLF receives day in and day out: "All we ever wanted to do was start our own moving company, but we can't do that because other moving companies don't want competition," or, heartbreakingly: "My child cannot go to a great nearby school because he is black."

These are small stories of individuals. But these are huge stories of our national identity because they embody what liberty means to more than 325 million Americans alive today.

Instead of acquiescing to the tendency of liberty to shrink from government power, we use the courts and the independent judiciary to rein in the excesses of government and the regulatory state. We sue for the farmer. We sue for the trucker. And we sue for the child trying to go to school. The struggle continues. We stand in awe of the sacrifices of those who preceded us, and we sue on their behalf, on behalf of 325 million others, and on behalf of those who will follow. ♦

PROPERTY RIGHTS

Property rights aren't 'second-class rights'

Pennsylvania case aims to prove it

Christina M. Martin
ATTORNEY

PLF CLIENT ROSE KNICK never expected to make constitutional history. If she had her way, she would live quietly, raising horses and other livestock on her 90-acre farm in rural Pennsylvania.

But when the local government decided to open up her private property to the public and threaten her with fines if she resisted, Rose took a stand. This fall, the Supreme Court will hear her case and decide whether it should overturn a decades-old case that has robbed countless property owners of their constitutional rights by barring their access to federal courts.

Rose's story began in April 2013, a few months after her local town, Scott Township, passed a bizarre law defining cemeteries to include merely suspected gravesites on private property and imposing duties on private property owners whose land allegedly contains a private cemetery.

Under the authority of the new law, a town official entered Rose's farm without permission, found some stones on it, and decided those stones were gravestones. The official then declared Rose's property a "cemetery" and cited her for violating the law. According to the township, Rose had to open her private property to the general public or face significant fines of $600 per day.

When the township refused to leave her alone, Rose filed a lawsuit, asking the state court to protect her property rights. The Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution requires government to pay you when it takes your property for a public use. The Fifth Amendment originally only protected individuals from the excesses of the federal government. But thanks to the Fourteenth Amendment, Americans enjoy the same protection when local and state governments take property without paying for it.

But as Rose soon discovered, the Supreme Court undercut the Fifth Amendment's protection more than 30 years ago by making it difficult—and often impossible—for property owners to enforce their constitutional property rights in court.

Although Rose was right to assert that the local government violated her property rights, a labyrinth of unfair procedures denied her relief. She filed her claim first in state court, but the state court refused to hear her claim until the town actively prosecuted her.

So she then went to federal court to enforce her rights. But the federal court said it would not hear her claim either. The Third U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals acknowledged that the

Rose hikes on her property where city officials say rock piles mark a long-forgotten cemetery, though no evidence has been presented to back up their claims.

township's law raised serious constitutional problems, but the court held that Rose could only bring her claim in state court—the same state court that already refused to hear her claim.

Without a court willing to hear Rose's property rights lawsuit, her constitutional protections are meaningless. Sadly, Rose Knick is not alone—many constitutional property rights claims have never had their day in court, because of a 1985 Supreme Court case, *Williamson County Regional Planning Commission v. Hamilton Bank*.

That case held that property owners must bring Fifth Amendment claims for just compensation in state court, to give the state an opportunity to compensate the property owner. That case ignored the usual rule that *any* constitutional claim may be brought in federal court. Since *Williamson County*, other courts have erected roadblocks to cases involving other constitutional protections, like equal protection and due process, when property rights are involved. In other words, courts wrongly treat property rights like they are inferior to other constitutional rights.

PLF petitioned the Supreme Court on behalf of Rose, explaining the pervasive injustice arising from *Williamson County*, and asked the Court to reconsider it. The Court has repeatedly turned down the same request in the past. But in March, our persistence paid off: the Supreme Court agreed to hear this case and decide whether to overturn a decision that has robbed property owners of their constitutional rights.

Federal courts need to stop treating property rights as "second-class" rights and allow property owners to defend their constitutional rights in federal court—just like every other constitutional guarantee. We are optimistic that Rose's firm stand for the Constitution, PLF's persistence, expertise, and skill will pay off. The Supreme Court will finally open the federal courthouse doors to property rights claims once and for all. Together, we can make constitutional history and set a new precedent that defends everyone's property rights. ♦

The *Williamson County* Quagmire

Most citizens have a right to seek the protection of a federal court when a local government infringes on federal constitutional rights. Due to a 1985 Supreme Court decision, property owners cannot defend their rights in federal court. In *Williamson County v. Hamilton Bank*, the Court ruled that plaintiffs must have their cases heard in state courts before they could go to federal court.

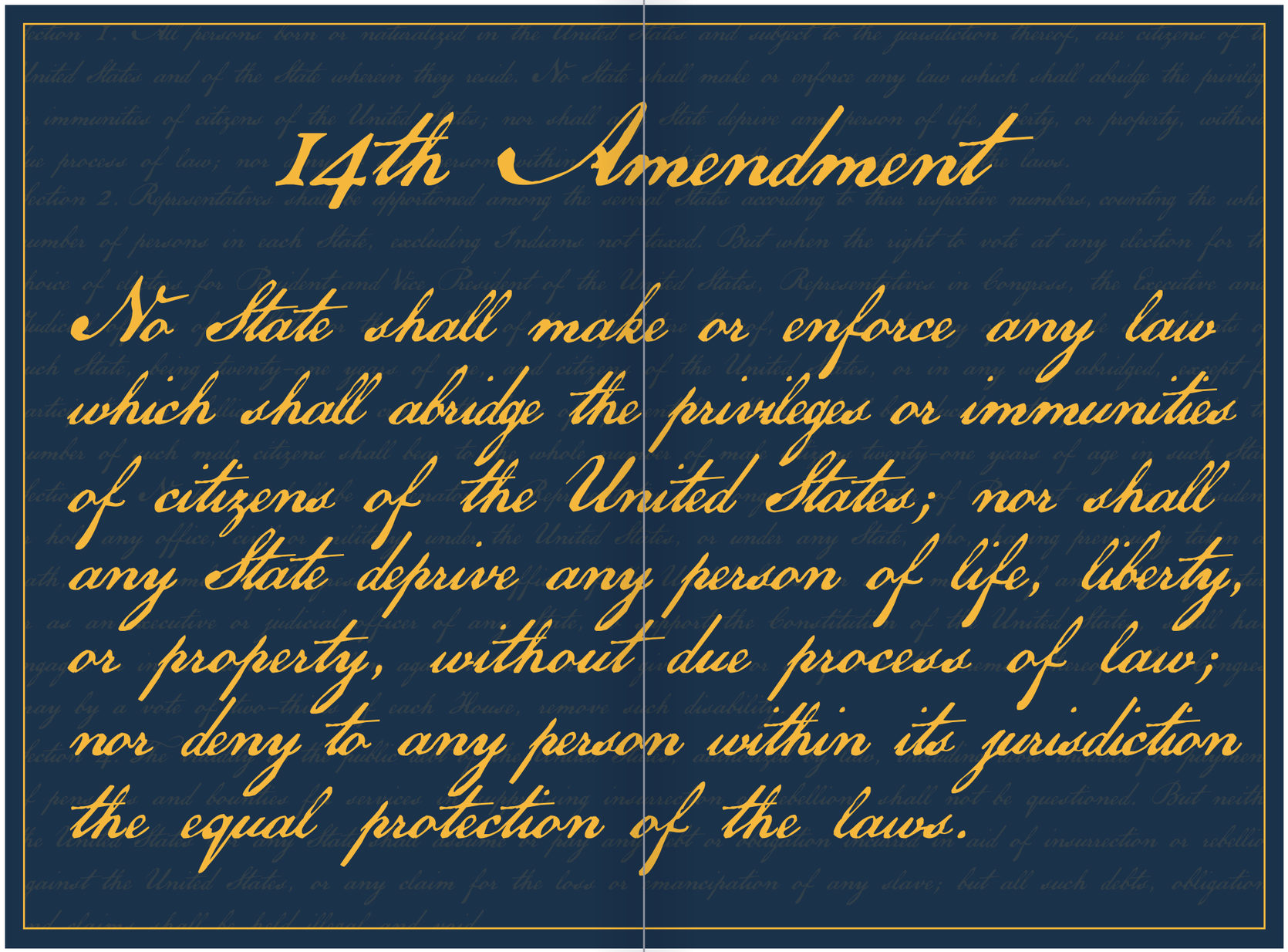
Things only got worse for property owners in 2005, when the Court ruled in *San Remo Hotel v. City and County of San Francisco* that plaintiffs cannot litigate their cases in federal courts after they exhaust their options in state courts.

Together, *Williamson County* and *San Remo Hotel* relegate Americans' property rights to second-class status. For more than two decades, PLF has fought to overturn the *Williamson County* precedent. Now, the Supreme Court is poised to resolve this legal travesty.

For the love of liberty

Marking 150 years of the Fourteenth Amendment

Jonathan Wood
ATTORNEY



THIS YEAR, WE CELEBRATE the 150th anniversary of the Fourteenth Amendment's adoption. That amendment fulfilled the Declaration of Independence's promise of inalienable individual rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness and government dedicated to the protection of those rights. It did so by guaranteeing our rights against the states, not just the federal government.

The Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments, which are together referred to as the nation's "second founding," completed work left undone by the drafters of the original 1789 Constitution. Although the first generation of Founders undeniably revered liberty, equality, and justice, the Constitution they drafted was a compromise with their time.

For instance, James Madison carefully kept any reference to slavery out of the document itself, but the Constitution permitted that most evil of institutions to continue despite the nation's dedication to liberty. It took a shade more than four score and seven years for the Thirteenth Amendment to correct that bitter paradox by flatly banning slavery.

Likewise, the original Constitution had left half-fulfilled the Founders' vision of limited government surrounded by an ocean of individual liberty. The Constitution guaranteed individual rights against the federal government, but left the states free to censor speech, establish official religions, protect monopolies, and generally do whatever they wanted to their citizens. The Fourteenth Amendment fixed that imbalance, fundamentally changing the relationship between the people and their governments, including the states.

The Fourteenth Amendment's text is broad and unequivocal. It declares, "No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

This is a complete theory of government distilled into a single sentence. It begins by declaring a broad category of rights that are completely off-limits to state regulation. It acknowledges a state may regulate in other areas, but must give people due process of law when it does—which requires more than just formal procedures but also that a law advance a legitimate government interest in a reasonable way. The Fourteenth Amendment closes by declaring the complete legal equality of everyone; no longer could the government pick and choose among its citizens to confer special benefits or impose unique burdens.

Of course, these rights would be mere parchment barriers, to borrow Madison's phrase, without people brave enough to stand up for them and courts committed to enforcing them. PLF is lucky that it has so many liberty-loving clients willing to take on overreaching government, despite the toll that years of litigation can take. They are our heroes, without whom none of our work would be possible.

Unfortunately, courts have proven to be more timid. Some rights they valiantly defend; others they largely abandon. But the Constitution will not be ignored and we will continue to press for more judicial scrutiny of big government.

Later this year, we'll take that fight all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, where we are currently challenging the refusal of federal courts to protect property owners from abuse at the hands of state and local government (see next page). Rose Knick had her property unconstitutionally taken from her without compensation when her Pennsylvania township declared her land an old, forgotten burial ground open to the public. She then had her rights violated again when a federal court refused to hear her case. Federal courts cannot close the door to Americans defending their constitutional rights.

We owe a great debt to the people who gave us the Fourteenth Amendment and to the civil rights icons, like Martin Luther King, Jr., who fought for decades to convert its lofty words into reality. We repay that debt by continuing their work to form a more perfect union committed to the ideals of liberty, equality, and justice for all. ♦

The defense of liberty requires an engaged judiciary

Larry Salzman
SENIOR ATTORNEY

From 1860 until 1935, the Supreme Court met in the Old Senate Chamber in the U.S. Capitol Building. Several landmark opinions relating to the Fourteenth Amendment were issued during this period.

PRIOR TO THE FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT, the Bill of Rights checked only the abuses of individual rights by the federal government, and even after the Civil War there were few federal restraints on state powers. Individuals could look only to state courts and their constitutions to check abuses by state legislatures.

The Fourteenth Amendment changed the basic relationship between citizens of the United States and their state governments, empowering Congress and federal courts to protect all Americans' individual rights against state laws that might violate them.

It is, in fact, perhaps second in importance only to the Declaration of Independence in advancing America's commitment to freedom.

But the Fourteenth Amendment's power depends on the judiciary accepting responsibility as a co-equal branch of government, fully engaged in its duty to enforce constitutional limits on the other branches. Courts have at times abandoned that ideal, establishing bad precedent with tragic results.

For instance, the very first U.S. Supreme Court case to interpret the meaning of the Fourteenth Amendment involved economic liberty, and it did not go well. The question in The *Slaughter-House Cases* (1873) was whether Louisiana could give a private company a monopoly on slaughtering animals in New Orleans, or whether the Privileges or Immunities Clause of the recently enacted amendment protected the right of all butchers to earn a living free of anti-competitive regulation.

In a 5-4 decision, the majority upheld the law. Despite its plain language and a purpose palpable to the post-war nation, the Court shockingly denied that the amendment changed "the whole theory of the relations of the State and Federal governments." As a result, the federal judiciary retreated from the protection of most civil rights.

The federal courts would later decide to protect some economic liberties and property rights, such as the right to make contracts, under the other clauses of the amendment. But those efforts lacked consistent principles, with devastating results. The consequence was a long, disastrous period in which judges stepped aside to allow state-sponsored discrimination, including "Jim Crow" racial segregation.

Many decades later, the Supreme Court—responding to the moral urgency of the civil rights movement—began to remedy the evils of segregation and other forms of racial discrimination by enforcing the Fourteenth Amendment. However, other vital civil rights, especially economic and property rights, were disregarded. Legislatures relentlessly pushed for more power over the economy throughout the 20th century, and judges let it happen.

In *Lochner v. New York* (1905), for instance, the Supreme Court correctly struck down a law regulating the working hours of bakers as a violation of the rights of the employees and employers to contract. But Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes dissented, claiming that it was not the place of a judge to upset "the right of a majority to embody their opinions in law"—that "the word 'liberty' in the Fourteenth Amendment is perverted when it is held to prevent the natural outcome of a dominant opinion."

It would be hard to imagine a statement more wrong or hostile to the purposes of the Fourteenth Amendment. The Constitution did not establish majority rule; it created a system of protections for liberty against the will of the majority. The Fourteenth Amendment extended that protection, guarding a vast range of individual rights against infringement by state laws. Yet the Supreme Court adopted Holmes' view during the New Deal and it persists as the dominant view today, at least with respect to property rights, economic liberties, and the rise of the regulatory state.

It is long past time for judges to reassert their constitutional role and we are optimistic that process is underway.

Since PLF began its work more than 45 years ago, there has been a growing awareness among lawyers, academics, and even judges that abandoning judicial protection for property rights and economic liberties was a grievous mistake. We see this acknowledged most dramatically in our courtroom victories, which inspire us to press on. PLF is committed to bringing about a future in which courts enforce every part of the Fourteenth Amendment and provide meaningful judicial review in all cases. ♦

Watershed Moments

for the Fourteenth Amendment

***Slaughter-House Cases* (1873)**
For the first time, the Supreme Court addresses the meaning of the Fourteenth Amendment. The Court rejects protection for economic liberty under the amendment's Privileges or Immunities Clause.

***Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896)**
The Court notoriously decides that state-sponsored racial segregation does not violate the Fourteenth Amendment's guarantee that every person receive "equal protection of the laws."

***Lochner v. New York* (1905)**
The Court provides strong protection for economic rights, holding that a regulation that abridges the freedom of contract violates the Fourteenth Amendment's prohibition on deprivations of liberty without "due process."

***United States v. Carolene Products* (1938)**
This New Deal-era case establishes the modern standards of judicial review in constitutional cases that persist today. From here on, some civil rights receive meaningful protection but all economic regulations are "presumed constitutional" and are rarely stuck down.

***Brown v. Board of Education* (1954)**
The Court overturns *Plessy v. Ferguson*, beginning an era of meaningful federal judicial protection against state-sponsored discrimination.

PROPERTY RIGHTS

Popping the liberal bubble

Seattle's unconstitutional constraints on landlords

Ethan W. Blevins
ATTORNEY

PLF CLIENT KELLY LYLES, a Seattle artist, epitomizes many of the values of her city—vibrant, quirky, creative. She used to cruise around in "Leopard Bernstein," her leopard-print sedan festooned with plastic figures of safari animals. Her house is like an alternate dimension where the artwork adorning every surface seems to be observing you, rather than the other way around. Kelly is quintessential Seattle.

But Kelly and others in the city she encapsulates have become the victims of overzealous rulers. Kelly is a small-time landlord who pays most of her living expenses from income she receives from a single rental home in West Seattle. And the Seattle City Council doesn't like landlords.

Kelly openly wept when city officials passed a "first-in-time" rule prohibiting landlords from choosing their own tenants. Under this rule, a landlord had to rent to whomever walked in the door first with an adequate application. Kelly was terrified that she couldn't decide who would live on her property for years to come.

Then it got worse: the city passed another law that prohibited landlords from looking into a rental applicant's criminal history. Suddenly, Kelly's safety—and her livelihood—were to be staked on a roll of a die.

PLF represents Kelly and other landlords to challenge these excesses. In March, a judge held that the "first-in-time" rule violated four constitutional guarantees. And in May, we sued the city over its ban on criminal background checks.

> Until city leaders grant Kelly and others the dignity, trust, and respect they deserve, as guaranteed by the federal and state constitutions, PLF will keep popping their bubble.

But PLF hasn't stopped there. In recent years, the Seattle City Council has unleashed a flurry of "progressive" experiments in city ordinances, including the first-in-time rule, the ban on criminal background checks, snooping in garbage cans to find food scraps, a city income tax, dubious campaign finance reforms, and even a ban on harmless rent-bidding websites. Each of these autocratic dalliances generated a common response: a PLF lawsuit representing Seattle citizens who simply want to live unmolested by an avowedly socialist city council. And to fight Seattle is to keep its progressive regulations from replication around the country.

PLF's persistence and effectiveness have not gone unnoticed. A *Seattle Times* columnist took note of PLF's work, and since these cases fall under my purview, he even went so far as to call me "the sharpest pin around to the council's liberal bubble."

The Seattle City Council's "liberal bubble" blinds it to people like Kelly, who represent the core of the city they purport to rule. Until city leaders grant Kelly and others the dignity, trust, and respect they deserve, as guaranteed by the federal and state constitutions, PLF will keep popping their bubble. ♦

"I just want to serve my customers and run my business."

Chef Geoff Tracy

PERSONAL LIBERTIES

Raising a glass to freedom of speech

Virginia happy hour advertising case

Anastasia P. Boden & Thomas Berry
ATTORNEYS

CHEF GEOFF TRACY is an entrepreneur, cookbook author, and owner of three successful restaurants in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area. In two of those restaurants—those located in Maryland and Washington, DC—Chef Geoff can freely tell customers about his various happy hour promotions. But at his Virginia location, such truthful advertising is illegal.

Under the state's arcane alcohol regulations, telling prospective customers about discount prices on alcohol is banned, as is using any moniker other than the generic "happy hour" or "drink specials." This ban extends to all communications outside his restaurant, meaning Chef Geoff can't advertise through direct mail campaigns, signs outside his restaurants, his restaurants' website and Facebook pages, or even his personal Twitter account to tell Virginians that he offers five-dollar drafts on "Sunday Funday" or half-priced bottles of wine on "Wine Down Wednesday."

This kind of censorship is flatly unconstitutional. The First Amendment's guarantee of freedom of speech is one of the fundamental rights the Fourteenth Amendment incorporates against state governments. And this right includes not just the right to engage in political speech, but also to broadcast truthful messages about one's business offerings. After all, if the government can curtail your right to advertise, it can effectively choke off your right to earn a living. The right to speak about one's own business is fundamental to a free and functional market as well as personal liberty.

Our lawsuit is already gaining national attention. In addition to coverage in *The Washington Post* and other Virginia media, *The Wall Street Journal* editorial board agreed that "the First Amendment makes no exception for speech about vices. On the virtues of his argument, Mr. Tracy deserves to prevail in court." The Supreme Court struck down a similar law in Rhode Island, and we are confident that Virginia's outmoded law will meet a similar fate. ♦

45 years of defending liberty

Report from PLF's 2018 anniversary dinner

Kathy Hoekstra
DEVELOPMENT COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

SQUEEZING 45 YEARS of "defending liberty and justice for all" into one evening is not an easy task.

But PLF's anniversary dinner captured it all, and then some, at a gala event held March 3, 2018, at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum.

While the venue was not new to some of our longtime staff, trustees, and regular dinner guests, our program most certainly was. We welcomed many new staff, clients, and allies to honor where we've been, appreciate where we are, and anticipate where we will go to achieve one common cause: vindicating the principles of individual liberty for all Americans.

Air Force One perched overhead created a breathtaking ambiance as we dined beneath the aircraft that transported our nation's 40th president around the world.

Even more endearing was to hear PLF's Master of Ceremonies, Michael Reagan, describe his experiences onboard the plane. Our keynote speaker, Kimberley Strassel, even shared with us her Air Force One moment as a journalist—learning, to her surprise, that you don't need to sit down and buckle up for takeoff!

Michael Reagan masterfully threaded together the evening, alternating charming stories about his dad with reminders of his father's belief in the importance of individual liberty and recognition of the Big Government threats that inspired PLF's creation 45 years ago.

Honoring where we've been

Former PLF President and current Trustee Bob Best paid homage to our 45 years of history by recounting PLF's early days. Starting a pro-liberty public interest law firm was a radical idea in the 1970s, especially amid the creeping, increasingly pervasive idea that bigger government is better, at the expense of individual liberty.

Appreciating where we are

No one is better poised to describe today's PLF than our clients.

Guided by PLF attorneys Anastasia Boden and Mark Miller, one client after another described outrageous bureaucratic overreach that drew audible gasps from the audience. Their emotionally told stories left no doubt PLF is on the right side of liberty:

- **SUE JEFFERS'** energetic recap of the *Minnesota Voters Alliance v. Mansky* oral argument in the Supreme Court.
- **EDWARD POITEVENT'S** disgust at the federal land grab—over an absent frog.
- **DAVID GARRETT'S** shock when the City of New Orleans tore down his townhouse without warning—then sent him the bill.
- **ADAM MUELLER'S** frustration over butter bureaucrats banning his product in Wisconsin.
- **MARK ELSTER'S** outrage at being forced to fund Seattle voters' free speech through election vouchers.

We're grateful so many of our clients were willing to relate their harrowing stories of government abuse.

Anticipating where we will go

While an organization should rightly honor its history, it must always remain forward-looking. PLF President and CEO Steven Anderson sparked the evening's transition from present to future. His stirring speech predicted the impact we expect PLF will have by our 50th anniversary.

One of PLF's greatest aims as the nation's premier public interest legal firm is, as Steven discussed, our commitment to defeating the regulatory state.

In her keynote address, Kimberly Strassel, columnist and editorial board member at *The Wall Street Journal*, eloquently praised PLF's bold new vision to roll back the unconstitutional regulatory state.

It was a wonderful night for advancing liberty. And the energy from our celebratory evening is only accelerating. We are building a talented and dynamic force for freedom. We are becoming a stronger and more powerful PLF. ♦

New PLF initiative highlights importance of the separation of powers

Todd F. Gaziano
DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR
THE SEPARATION OF POWERS

THE LAST EDITION of *Sword&Scales* highlighted both the threat the regulatory state poses to individual liberty and PLF's stepped-up efforts to end that threat. On April 17, PLF announced our latest significant commitment to achieve our goal: the launch of our Center for the Separation of Powers, which will accelerate the end of unconstitutional legal doctrines that undermine individual liberty.

The center will lead the nation in developing and promoting solutions to end the unconstitutional regulatory state—through strategic litigation, legislation, and executive action—and restore the lawful constitutional order. In doing so, the center will also contribute to the proper understanding of the separation of powers.

Why focus on the separation of powers? Quite simply, it is the indispensable protection for our substantive freedoms. Justice Antonin Scalia summarized its critical role near the beginning of his now prophetic dissent in *Morrison v. Olson* (1988): "The Framers … viewed the principle of the separation of powers as the absolutely central guarantee of just government. In [Federalist 47], Madison wrote that '[n]o political truth is certainly of greater intrinsic value, or is stamped with the authority of more enlightened patrons of liberty.' Without a secure structure of separated powers, our Bill of Rights would be worthless, as are the bills of rights of many nations of the world."

We announced the center's launch at the Federalist Society's Sixth Annual Executive Branch Review Conference in Washington, DC. More than 450 lawyers, experts, government officials, and journalists gathered to debate regulatory affairs, particularly deregulatory efforts. At the opening plenary session, I spoke about our innovative cases and other ideas to restore the structural protections for liberty in the Constitution, which set the tone for the rest of the day's discussions.

The new center has already developed two innovative litigation campaigns that PLF launched earlier this year. Yet PLF's task is one of eternal vigilance that will require many short- and long-term strategies on many fronts to enforce the separation of powers and better protect our liberties.

As part of that effort, the center will organize action-oriented conferences to help develop and promote our strategies and those of others working toward the same goals. The center will also expand PLF's publications and submissions to outside journals by our litigators, center staff, and nationally renowned scholars.

It's an incredibly exciting time to be a part of PLF as our plans to restore liberty expand. ♦

Reflection from the inside

Doug Kruse
SENIOR DIRECTOR
OF DEVELOPMENT

WHEN I ASK donors what inspires them to support PLF, they often give the same response: "I support PLF because you actually get results."

That's the very same reason I am so proud to work for PLF. Waking up every day to do the important work of defending liberty and beating back big government is truly a privilege—especially because I get to see the real, tangible results of our work.

For starters, there are the growing numbers in the win column—exponentially it seems. Four of our nine Supreme Court victories came during just the past six years. And we have three more cases there in 2018 alone!

While our unmatched record of success is reason enough to go to work in the morning, I'm driven by so much more.

Andy Cilek, for instance.

Eight years ago, Andy walked out of a Minnesota voting booth with his free speech rights in tatters—because of an unconstitutional law, and a t-shirt.

In February, he walked out of the U.S. Supreme Court with hopes of vindicating those rights—because of PLF, and the freedom fighters who support our work.

"It's great as an American, as an average citizen, to go all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court," Andy said afterward.

It is no exaggeration to say that without the steadfast commitment of our donors, Andy likely would never have said these words. Nor would the countless everyday Americans PLF has defended over the years get a shot at vindicating their individual liberties in courtrooms across the nation.

We've had a great year so far. We're excited about the possibilities to add to our Supreme Court win column. And I am so grateful for—and inspired by—the generosity of our donors. ♦

I FOUGHT THE LAW AND I WON WITH PLF.

Kelly Lyles. Trial Court Winner.

SEE PAGE 10