

PACIFIC LEGAL FOUNDATION STUDENT DEBT CANCELLATION LAWSUIT TIMELINE

Aug. 24, 2022: Biden administration announces plan to cancel up to \$20,000 in student debt for borrowers.

Sept. 27, 2022: Pacific Legal Foundation (PLF) files [the first significant lawsuit](#) against the administration's move to cancel more than \$500 billion in student debt: "Congress did not authorize the executive branch to unilaterally cancel student debt," said Caleb Kruckenberg, an attorney at Pacific Legal Foundation. "It's flagrantly illegal for the executive branch to create a \$500 billion program by press release, and without statutory authority or even the basic notice-and-comment procedure for new regulations."

► [Lawsuit filed to stop Biden administration's unlawful student loan cancellation](#)

The lawsuit draws attention and support from across the political spectrum with *The Wall Street Journal* editorial board writing:

"Mr. Biden's loan forgiveness is the biggest executive usurpation of Congress in modern history. Credit to the Pacific Legal Foundation for representing Mr. Garrison and the forgotten taxpayers."

► [Hooray, a Student Loan Forgiveness Plaintiff](#)

And *The Washington Post* editorial board writing:

"We hope someone can establish standing, because the issues seem worthy of review. If there is any abuse the Constitution was designed to prevent, it would be the distribution of vast sums of public money, based on little more than executive say-so ... The country needs a competent judgment on whether that is indeed what Mr. Biden is trying to do — preferably before he has actually done it."

► [Biden's costly student loan plan could use a constitutional review](#)

Sept. 29, 2022: The Department of Education makes [drastic changes](#) to the proposed program in response to PLF's lawsuit. The judge dismisses PLF's lawsuit without prejudice and gives leave to file an amended complaint by Oct. 10.

► [Lawsuit against unlawful student debt cancellation continues](#)

Other lawsuits are filed against the Biden administration, including [Biden v. Nebraska](#) on Sept. 29 and [Department of Education v. Brown](#) on Oct. 10.

Oct. 10, 2022: PLF files an [amended complaint](#).

Oct. 21, 2022: U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana [dismisses PLF's case](#); PLF files an [emergency appeal](#) in the Seventh Circuit.

Nov. 1, 2022: PLF files an emergency application asking the Supreme Court to stop the government's student loan debt cancellation program until the constitutionality of the program has been litigated: "The administration is attempting to erase half a trillion dollars in debt without any legal basis," said Caleb Kruckenberg, attorney at Pacific Legal Foundation. "The Court ought to put the brakes on this lawless action while it's considered by the courts."

► [Pacific Legal Foundation asks Supreme Court to halt unlawful student debt cancellation](#)

Nov. 4, 2022: The Supreme Court denies PLF's application, and the case continues in the Seventh Circuit.

Dec. 1, 2022: The Supreme Court grants cert in *Biden v. Nebraska* after the Eighth Circuit enjoined the program.

Dec. 5, 2022: PLF files its [opening brief](#) in the Seventh Circuit; the case is ongoing.

Dec. 12, 2022: The Supreme Court grants cert in *Dept. of Education v. Brown* after a district court [declared the program illegal and vacated it](#).

Feb. 3, 2023: PLF files an amicus brief in *Biden v. Nebraska* and *Dept. of Education v. Brown* on behalf of former legislators who helped craft the HEROES Act.

► [press release title and link TK]

Feb. 28, 2023: The Supreme Court will hear arguments in *Biden v. Nebraska* and *Dept. of Education v. Brown*.