

FIGHT BACK ... AND

WIN

PACIFIC LEGAL FOUNDATION 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Founded in 1973, Pacific Legal Foundation is a national public interest law firm that defends Americans against government overreach and abuse.

We litigate nationwide to secure all Americans' inalienable rights to live responsibly and productively in their pursuit of happiness. PLF combines strategic and principled litigation, communications, outreach, policy, scholarship, and research to achieve landmark victories enforcing the Constitution's guarantee of individual liberty.

We sue the government when it violates Americans' constitutional rights—and we win.

Each year we represent hundreds of everyday Americans—homeowners and business owners, farmers and ranchers, doctors and teachers, entrepreneurs and retirees, miners and fishermen, and many more—free of charge, as they seek to improve their lives but are stymied by government.

We give our clients their day in court to vindicate their rights and set lasting precedents that protect liberty for generations to come.



PACIFIC LEGAL
FOUNDATION

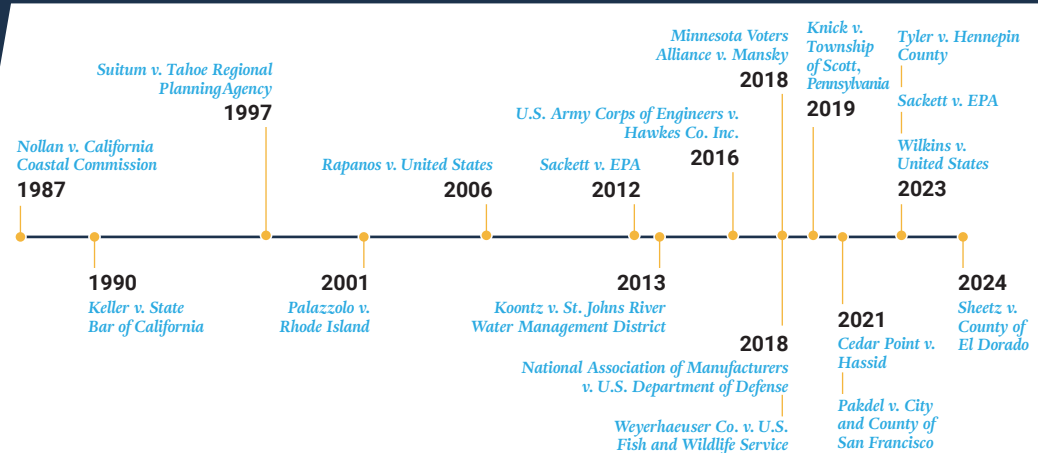


Unmatched Supreme Court Success

Pacific Legal Foundation is a repeat player at the Supreme Court of the United States with a record unmatched by any other likeminded litigation group.

Over our 51 years, we've litigated 20 cases before the U.S. Supreme Court and won 18. The justices were unanimous in more than half of these wins, while the majority happened within the last ten years.

18
victories
and
counting



Each year, the Supreme Court receives roughly 8,000 petitions, of which it only grants around 65, or less than 1%. For the justices to take up even one case in one term is monumental. In October 2022-2023, they accepted three PLF cases, all of which were landmark wins and proof positive of our expertise, experience, and outsized impact in advancing liberty throughout the country.

He sued the government—and won with PLF.

George Sheetz is a California retiree with a small parcel of land in El Dorado County. When he applied for a permit to build a manufactured home on his property, the county stuck him with a \$23,420 “traffic impact fee.”

The fee had nothing to do with the actual impact of George’s project, just the timing. The county was in the middle of a 20-year, \$800 million road improvement plan, paid for with impact fees slapped on building permit applicants like George.

But the government isn’t allowed to abuse the permitting process to extort land or money from property owners. The U.S. Supreme Court said so—twice, in two previous PLF victories.

George is tough. Over his career, he worked his way up from \$5-an-hour laborer to head of his own engineering contracting company. He’s not the type to quietly go along with something he knows is wrong.

So, George fought back all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. In 2024, joined by Pacific Legal Foundation at no cost, he secured a 9-0 victory.



2024 Review by the numbers

278

Total Cases
in 44 States

206

Direct
Representation

72

Friend-of-the-Court
(Amicus) Briefs

26

Legislative Wins

15

Appellate Court Wins at
Federal and State Courts

1

New U.S. Supreme
Court Victory

138

Staff

63

Attorneys

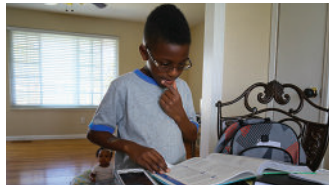
Staff
Located in

25

States

Our North Star: Individual Liberty

At PLF, we believe in individual liberty: when people are free to live peacefully and productively, without interference by government, they improve themselves, their families, and their communities.



We defend individual rights on **three key battlefields** where liberty is most in jeopardy, and where we see the best opportunities for victory:

Restoring the Separation of Powers

Reining in the unconstitutional “fourth branch” of modern government: the vast, unaccountable regulatory state.

The runaway regulatory state is one of the greatest threats to freedom today as unelected bureaucrats illegally wield lawmaker, executive, and judicial powers against hard-working Americans. We’ve responded, leading a national effort to restore the government to its proper constitutional structure.

Active Case Count: **49**

32% of Budget

JAMIE LEACH on her fight against bullying bureaucrats and no-win, in-house tribunals:

“That’s what’s destroying us—the [government] system itself that creates its own rules, its own jury, its own judges, its own punishment. It’s just ‘Our way or the highway.’”



Advancing Equality & Opportunity for All

Ensuring the right to equal treatment under the law as an individual, rather than as a representative of an arbitrary identity group.

PLF’s equality and opportunity cases aim to embody the Constitution’s equal protection guarantee by dismantling unlawful barriers to opportunity, and freeing individuals to rise based on their choices, character, and ability.

Active Case Count: **53**

33% of Budget

JOSH DIEMERT on challenging Seattle’s illegal, race-based diversity training:

“It is unfair and illegal for the government to impose hostile, unequal workplace conditions based on an employee’s race.”

Protecting Private Property Rights

Preserving the right to acquire and reasonably use property without government interference.

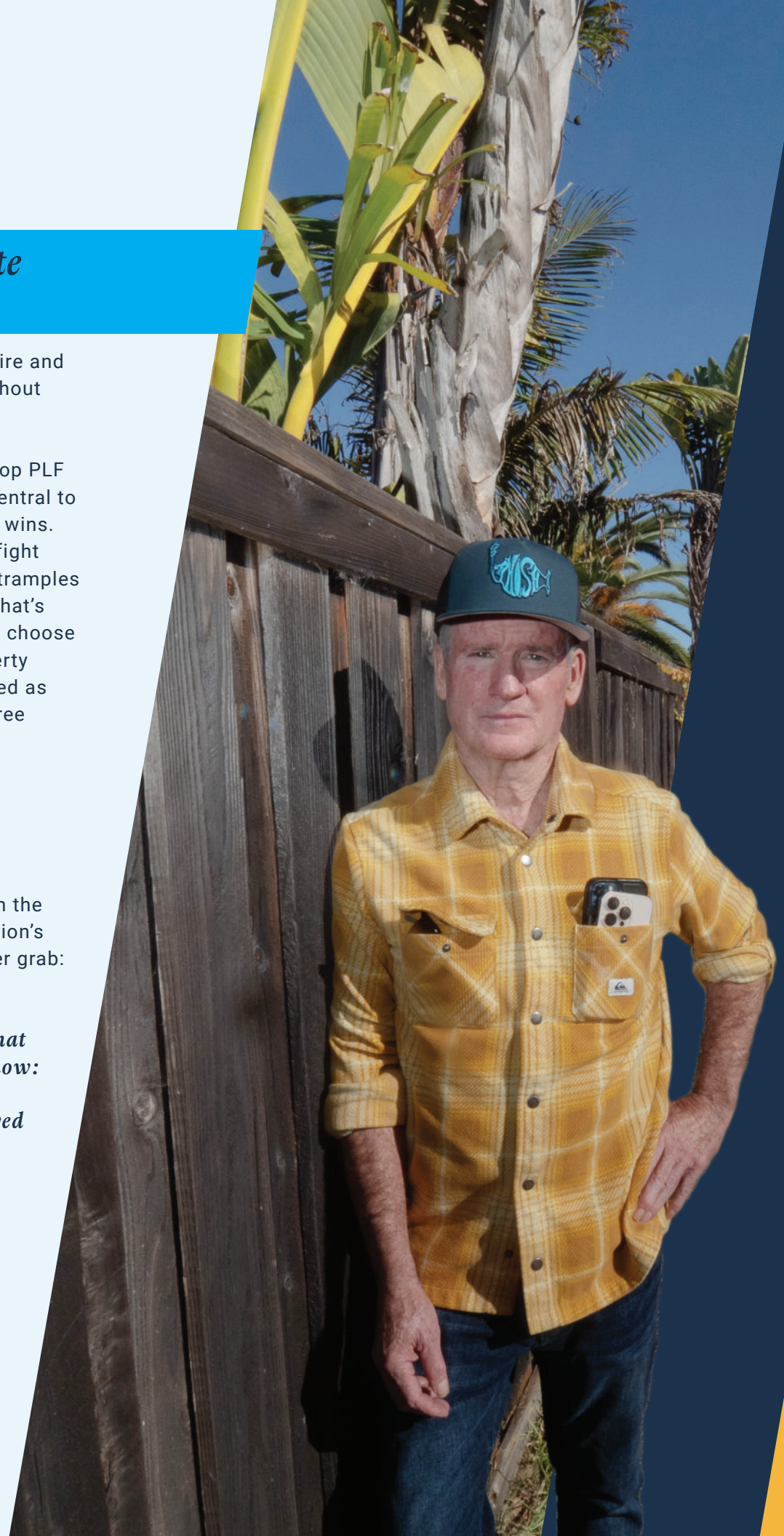
Property rights has been a top PLF priority since day one and central to 16 of our 18 Supreme Court wins. We empower Americans to fight back when the government tramples their right to own and use what's theirs. At the same time, we choose cases that will ensure property rights are as legally protected as other basic rights such as free speech and due process.

Active Case Count: **54**

35% of Budget

TIM SHEA on his battle with the California Coastal Commission's illegal permit veto and power grab:

"There's not a lot of new construction because of what we're encountering right now: the California Coastal Commission getting involved where it shouldn't."



Fortifying Courtroom Victories

Staffed by top talent and infused with relentlessness, PLF deploys the following complementary capabilities to preserve and advance what we achieve through litigation.

STRATEGIC RESEARCH

Our in-house research team conducts original research to provide our attorneys with data to back up their arguments, refute the government's claims, show judges the scope and impact of the issues of a specific case, and provide legislators with the ammunition they need to pass a bill.

CONSTITUTIONAL SCHOLARSHIP

Our constitutional scholarship team incubates and promotes legal theories among elite legal audiences to prepare the ground for courts and policymakers to adopt PLF's legal vision.

COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

Our communication and outreach teams use a variety of platforms—including social media, print and digital media, TV and radio programs, documentary films, podcasts, and web-based and in-person events—to highlight the real people and stories behind our cases and the issues at stake in those cases.

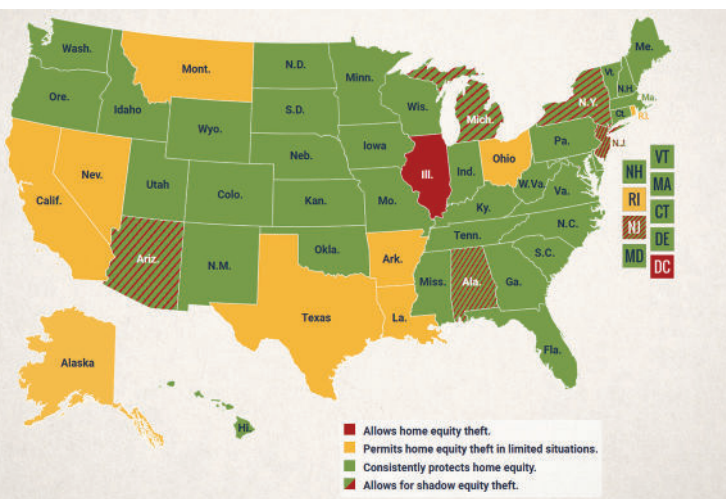
LEGAL POLICY

Our legal policy team promotes policies and develops model bills aimed at entrenching our litigation victories through changes in state and federal law.

Case Study - Ending Home Equity Theft

In 2023, PLF won a unanimous Supreme Court victory in *Tyler v. Hennepin County*. The decision declared home equity theft unconstitutional, vindicating the rights of 94-year-old Geraldine Tyler, who lost her Minneapolis condo and all the equity in it over a \$2,300 tax debt. The county seized her home, sold it, and kept all the proceeds—not just what she owed. The Court used the Fifth Amendment's Takings Clause to declare that government cannot take more than it is owed from property owners.

Our fight to end home equity theft began in 2015 when PLF attorney Christina Martin discovered the nefarious practice struck an elderly Washington, D.C. homeowner. At the time, some form of home equity theft was legal in 23 states. We followed with litigation, bolstered by legal policy, strategic research, and communications. Today, home equity theft is fully allowed in just one state, Illinois, while five states employ what we call "shadow equity theft," whereby the government makes it hard for homeowners to claim their rightful equity with tight time-limits and complicated procedures. We will not stop, however, until the practice is completely extinguished in every corner of the country.



ONWARD

Our goal is not just to win in court but to achieve enduring legal change.

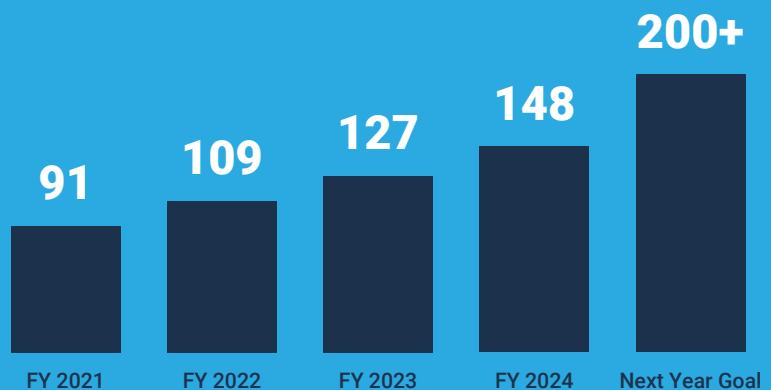
When PLF wins, liberty wins. Every victory that restores our clients' rights creates a durable precedent that protects everyone else, both now and in future years.

We stand at a pivotal moment for American liberty. We believe the judiciary today is more likely to rule in our favor on critical constitutional issues than any point in our lifetimes. At all court levels, judges and Justices have shown an increasing proclivity to protect the freedoms that are the birthright of every American.

By pressing our three key issue areas in today's courts, we can secure enduring legal change in favor of liberty.

PLF is acting to meet this generational opportunity with a bold, deliberate expansion strategy.

As Thomas Jefferson warned, *"The natural progress of things is for liberty to yield and government to gain ground."* At PLF, we are committed instead to building a future in which government yields, and liberty prevails.



ACTIVE DIRECT REPRESENTATION CASES

Thank you

PLF defends those who cannot fight for themselves against government overreach and abuse, and we strive to win, every time. But we couldn't achieve a single victory without your partnership. Thank you for standing with us on the battlefield to defend liberty and justice for all Americans.

Fundraising and Financial Health:

- FY 2025 Annual Budget: \$33,583,562.
This is a **35% increase** in the last 3 years.
- PLF had over **6,100 donors** in FY2024 with an average gift size of **over \$3,000**.
- Net Assets: **\$105,384,957**
- Reserves: **\$91,324,375**

4-Star Rating from Charity Navigator

This highest possible rating indicates that a charity exceeds or meets best practices and industry standards across almost all areas including impact and financial accountability.



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