

IMPACT REPORT

2025

**Fighting Back /  
Fighting *Forward*:**  
Addressing New Threats  
to Civil Rights



LAWYERS' COMMITTEE FOR  
**CIVIL RIGHTS**  
U N D E R L A W



“As a matter of morality and as a matter of law—it is not illegal to invest in Black people....in Brown people...and women.”

— DAMON HEWITT, PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
LAWYERS' COMMITTEE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

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#### THE LAWYERS' COMMITTEE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS UNDER LAW

is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization, formed in 1963 at the request of President John F. Kennedy to mobilize the nation's leading lawyers as agents for change in the Civil Rights Movement.

Today, the Lawyers' Committee uses legal advocacy to achieve racial justice, fighting inside and outside the courts to ensure that Black people and other people of color have the voice, opportunity, and power to make the promises of our democracy real.

## A Message from the President and Executive Director

The past year brought extraordinary challenges and escalating threats to civil rights and racial justice. In 2025, the White House issued executive orders not only to suppress dissent but also to punish it. Lawmakers waged war on truth, banning books in classrooms and falsely branding diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) as illegal. The private bar and the federal judiciary became targets simply for advocating for equal rights and upholding the rule of law. And too many corporations and institutions buckled under pressure, rolling back programs that upheld diversity and inclusion as the standard. The backlash against racial justice was not subtle, and it was not theoretical. It was strategic, coordinated, and unrelenting.

But so were we in our response.

The Lawyers' Committee secured court victories, mobilized resources, and advanced legislative policy to protect the communities we serve. We mounted successful challenges to anti-DEI executive orders that threatened funding for critical services and chilled initiatives to expand opportunities. We fought against discriminatory redistricting maps that curtailed fair and representative access to the ballot. In Congress, we championed groundbreaking legislation to safeguard communities of color against digital discrimination driven by artificial intelligence.

Despite the hurdles, our team made remarkable strides to advance our critical work of ensuring that Black people and other people of color have the **voice, opportunity, and power** to make the promises of our democracy real.

Our work continues, and there is still much to do.

The threats ahead are real. We already know 2026 will bring high-stakes elections across our nation, escalating attacks on our constitutional freedoms, and new challenges to our rights to live freely and unencumbered. But the Lawyers' Committee was made for this moment, and we are ready to meet it, in 2026 and beyond. At the start of 2025, we resolved to not only fight back, but also fight *forward*. And we've done just that. We're developing pathbreaking litigation and strategically advancing our policy goals—picking the right fights to make the maximum impact. Through it all, we are keeping sight of the consequential moment we are in.

Thank you for showing up, for believing in the fight, and for your commitment to our work. Your support makes it possible for us to carry forward with resolve and fortitude.

With gratitude,

**DAMON T. HEWITT**

President and Executive Director

# BUILDING AND PROTECTING

# ELECTORAL POWER

**The year 2025 brought** relentless assaults on the political power of Black voters and other voters of color, even as we marked the 60th anniversary of the transformative Voting Rights Act of 1965.

**The Lawyers' Committee is fighting fiercely against these growing threats to voting rights and democracy, whether they come from a weaponized Department of Justice, state legislatures, or private actors** who seek to silence the voices and weaken the power of Black and Brown communities. As the risks multiply in 2026, we are answering the urgent call to protect our most foundational rights and defend our democracy—just as we did in 1963, when President John F. Kennedy called on our founding members to confront inequality and injustice with courage and resolve.



## Confronting Threats to Voting Rights in the Courts

The Lawyers' Committee is leading the way in the courts, where **we opened new fronts in our battles against racial gerrymandering** and other anti-democratic maneuvers designed to disenfranchise people of color.

In Texas, we went to trial not once, but twice in 2025 to expose the unmistakably racial motivations underlying Texas' new congressional maps. In a forceful ruling, two members of a three-judge panel agreed with us, supporting our stand that states should not be able to disguise unconstitutional racial gerrymandering

### JOHN R. LEWIS VOTING RIGHTS ADVANCEMENT ACT

There are many fronts in the fight for voting rights and for the inclusive multiracial democracy that we deserve. In the halls of Congress, our policy arm is advocating for passage of the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. Federal legislation will restore and strengthen federal protections against voter suppression, so we can finally realize a future where voting rights are fully protected and where open access to the ballot is the norm for all Americans.

behind a veil of partisanship and recognizing the Trump administration's role in fomenting and encouraging the discrimination.

The lower court's ruling in Texas was a hard-won victory in our defense of voting rights and fight to hold power accountable. But just two weeks later, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a stay in our case, allowing Texas to conduct the 2026 midterm elections using discriminatory maps. This profoundly unjust decision was a heavy blow for voting rights. **But we are not backing down.**

Our case in Texas will continue. So does our litigation challenging Mississippi's redistricting scheme. After a lengthy trial, the court ruled in our favor, finding that the state's plan unlawfully diluted the voting strength of Black voters in violation of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act. The Court ordered the state to draw a new legislative map to give Black voters a chance for more representation in the state legislature. In the November 2025 elections, **our fight for fair maps delivered significant impact for Mississippi voters** as they elected three new Black state representatives, breaking a stronghold of one-party super majority rule.

But that progress is now at risk. The State of Mississippi belatedly petitioned the U.S. Supreme Court, seeking to overturn this historic win under the theory that we and our clients lacked a private right of action to bring the lawsuit under Section 2. That issue is still pending in the Supreme Court as of this writing.

The Mississippi case is only one of the key voting rights matters we are watching. The Supreme Court will also soon deliver a decision in *Louisiana v. Callais*, which threatens to limit lower courts' ability to order race-conscious remedies to cure racial discrimination. Negative rulings in these cases would hollow out Section 2, leaving Black voters with the false promise of a statute that confers rights in theory but offers no access to justice in fact.

**This year could see a deluge of threats to voting rights, threats to roll back decades of progress for people of color, threats to erode the very foundations of our democratic system.** Even as we litigate these cases in the Supreme Court, we continue to fight threats to voters and election processes in multiple lower courts. In addition to our work to preserve the protections and promise of the Voting Rights Act, we have challenged burdens on voter registration that disenfranchise people of color in Louisiana and purges of voter rolls that would disproportionately remove eligible Black and Brown voters in Georgia and Virginia. We have also intervened in litigation to stop the Department of Justice from forcing states to grant access to state voter rolls. Inappropriate access to private, sensitive information in state voter databases could be used to undermine the public's faith in a fair, nonpartisan election system.

Whatever the outcome in these cases, **the Lawyers' Committee will continue to meet these challenges with bold and decisive action.** We will leave no stone unturned and will deploy every available tool to ensure for people of color an equal voice and place in our democracy.

## Mobilizing the Election Protection Coalition

The Lawyers' Committee also protects voters through **our longstanding leadership role in the Election Protection Coalition**, which unites over 300 national and state-level groups under one shared mission: to ensure that all voters have equal access to the ballot box and have their votes count.

# ELECTION PROTECTION



Our year-round work builds a protective barrier around voters from historically marginalized and disenfranchised communities. **We build response plans based upon multiple scenarios of voter oppression, intimidation, and disinformation, and swiftly respond to threats in real time to be sure that no voter's voice is silenced at any step of the election process.**

At the center of this effort is the **866-OUR-VOTE hotline—a nationwide, nonpartisan voter help line connecting voters to trained attorney volunteers.**

**The 2025 election cycle marked the busiest odd-number election year that the Election Protection Hotline has ever had**, with attorney volunteers contributing nearly **7,000** pro bono hours.

Our volunteers fielded reports of voter intimidation, misinformation, and electioneering; mail-in voting issues; voter identification and registration problems; polling place access barriers; and other obstacles to casting a ballot. The demand was extraordinary—and our team delivered.

As we head into the high-stakes 2026 midterm elections, **we are investing, planning, and mobilizing for a critical year for the Election Protection Coalition** and its essential work to safeguard the right to vote. It is more important than ever that our Coalition show up as trusted nonpartisan messengers, forge relationships with election officials, and do the hard work needed to keep voters safe, encouraged, and informed. ●

# DEFENDING THE RULE OF LAW AND

# DEMANDING ACCOUNTABILITY

In 2026, we face growing threats to the rule of law from both private and public actors, aided and abetted by a Department of Justice drained of civil rights expertise and weaponized to attack perceived political enemies.

In the face of these threats, the Lawyers' Committee is filling the void left by DOJ and also going beyond, protecting Black communities from often-violent hate from state actors and private citizens alike.

- At a time when accountability can seem elusive, we are demanding it in **Smith v. Trump**—the case we filed against President Trump, the Proud Boys, and others on behalf of U.S. Capitol Police Officers who bravely defended the Capitol against violent insurrection on January 6, 2021. In trying to block certification of the 2020 election results and erase the votes of millions of Americans, the J6 perpetrators—most of whom have been pardoned—attacked not just the Capitol but democracy itself. This ongoing case is one of the last opportunities to deliver accountability and prove that no one is above the law, especially when trying to subvert valid election results and deny the will of the people.
- We are mobilizing to fill the void after DOJ abandoned investigations and consent decrees designed to protect communities from police misconduct—especially the Black and Brown communities that experience the greatest civil rights harms from abusive and biased policing. In November, we stepped in to assist with summary judgment in a **landmark police-misconduct case** representing residents of Lexington, Mississippi—a city first spotlighted by a (now-stagnant) DOJ investigation

- that found systemic discrimination against Black people and a culture of impunity within the police department.
- Through our **James Byrd Jr. Center to Stop Hate**, we are stepping up our litigation and advocacy to combat anti-Black hatred, white supremacy, and the threat of organized extremism. In early 2025, we won a court order giving our client Metropolitan AME church control of the Proud Boys trademark to enforce a \$2.8 million judgment following a violent act of hate against this historic Black church. And in January 2026, the judge issued a bench warrant for Proud Boys leader Enrique Tarrío's arrest after more than a year of him refusing to comply with court orders issued in the case. We will keep pressing pathbreaking court cases to hold perpetrators of white supremacy accountable, discrediting their ideology, destabilizing their infrastructure, and weakening their capacity to organize extremist hate ideology across the country. And we'll expand our footprint through outreach and public education, to better expose and confront hate wherever it surfaces. ●

## DEFENDING THE LEGAL PROFESSION AND PROTECTING PRO BONO ADVOCACY

Right out of the gate, the Trump White House unleashed a series of unprecedented Executive Orders that aimed to punish law firms for representing clients or taking positions with which this administration disagrees. These orders sought to silence critics, target opponents, and chill law firms from pro bono work on behalf of the most vulnerable. They escalated the administration's campaign against organizations and practices that support diversity, equity, and inclusion. And they struck at the heart of the Lawyers' Committee's long tradition of partnering with the private bar. **We took action**, filing amicus briefs to support those targeted firms that sued the White House, including Perkins Coie, Susman Godfrey, Wilmer Hale, and Jenner & Block. **In each case, courts delivered important wins for the rule of law** by blocking the orders as unconstitutional.

# ADVANCING DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

**On day one, the Trump** administration launched a concerted campaign to roll back civil rights and equity for Black people and communities of color across the country. The administration's attack on what it falsely calls "illegal DEI" takes many forms, including executive orders, agency guidance and regulations, threats to federal funding, and erasure and censorship of Black histories and perspectives in schools, workplaces, and cultural institutions. In the courts, in the regulatory realm, and in the community, **the Lawyers' Committee is countering these federal attacks with careful strategy and steady resolve.**

A student with Chicago Women in Trades interviews with a recruiter at a job fair the organization held at their headquarters in August 2025. Credit: John Konstantaras for AP Images/Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights

## Defending Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Courts

The opening salvo in the White House’s campaign against DEI was a series of vague and sweeping Executive Orders—including edicts designed to chill and intimidate recipients of federal funds by calling for termination of all “equity-related” federal grants and contracts.

**Our response was swift.** In February 2025, we filed a lawsuit to protect the First Amendment and due process rights of our client, Chicago Women in Trades (CWIT). With a decades-long track record of impact, CWIT relies in part on federal funds from the Department of Labor to carry out its vital mission of helping women build careers in the high-wage skilled trades that have historically excluded women—especially women of color. Serving a participant base comprised of 70% Black and Latina women, equity is central to CWIT’s mission. And, as we explained in our lawsuit, equity is not illegal.

Our actions got results. In April 2025, a federal district court issued a preliminary injunction preventing the

Department of Labor from terminating one of CWIT’s critical grants and a nationwide injunction preventing the agency from requiring any of its grantees or contractors to certify that they do not engage in or promote DEI. We continue to actively litigate that case and to fight for our courageous client.

We also represent Freedom Network USA, the country’s largest survivor- and advocate-led coalition working to end human trafficking that heavily relies on funding from the Department of Justice (DOJ). When the White House’s illegal anti-DEI orders threatened to silence our clients’ voices and disrupt funding for their critical, lifesaving services to trafficking survivors, **we sued the administration again.** We are asking for a preliminary injunction to block DOJ’s enforcement of the order and protect the rights and voices of our clients and trafficking survivors nationwide. **The stakes are high and the impact is broad**—Freedom Network’s 50+ organizational members are working across 29 states to expand access to justice and healing for thousands of trafficking survivors, who are disproportionately members of Black, Brown, immigrant, and LGBTQIA+ communities.

## Supporting Nonprofits to Advance Racial Justice

As threats to diversity, equity, and inclusion practices grew, so did the Lawyers’ Committee’s special initiative to defend against attacks on civil rights laws and equity efforts through legal and policy advocacy, and public education and outreach: the **Protecting and Advancing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (PADEI) Initiative.** Under the leadership of a new national director who joined the Lawyers’ Committee in May 2025, PADEI **expanded our legal work to support mission-based nonprofit organizations as they navigate a shifting landscape.**

The PADEI Initiative helps nonprofit organizations evaluate their racial equity and diversity, equity, and

inclusion programs to proactively ensure that they comply with federal civil rights laws and are legally defensible—while still achieving their goals of advancing racial justice.

Amid a backdrop of misinformation and uncertainty, the Lawyers’ Committee stands as an important and trusted source of expert guidance. Through this work, we support institutions under pressure and shape the national conversation around racial equity and diversity, equity, and inclusion.

We assisted nearly **100 non-profit organizations** in 2025—and requests for PADEI’s pro bono assistance **grew by 25 percent** from the year before. We expect that demand will continue to rise in 2026 as nonprofits stay in the crosshairs of the administration’s campaign against diversity, equity, and inclusion. ●

“You were instrumental in helping us navigate the changing legal landscape. I feel more confident about our forward trajectory and will keep you informed of future legal needs around diversity, equity, and the law.”

— CLIENT SERVED BY LAWYERS’ COMMITTEE’S PADEI INITIATIVE



Executive Director of Chicago Women in Trades (CWIT) Jayne Vellinga and Lawyers’ Committee Senior Counsel Sabrina Talukder at CWIT office; a CWIT instructor demonstrates welding skills to students; boots of one of Chicago Women in Trades founders have been transformed. Credit: John Konstantaras for AP Images/Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights.

“Each organization that refuses to obey makes it that much easier for others to do the same and, if every institution that believes that diversity, equity and inclusion are our strengths not our weaknesses, stands together..we will all win!”

— JAYNE VELLINGA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHICAGO WOMEN IN TRADES

## BUILDING THE JUST AND INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS OUR STUDENTS DESERVE

In 2025, educational institutions were ground zero for relentless attacks on diversity, equity, and inclusion. Through executive orders, guidance, and coercive threats from weaponized federal civil rights agencies, the Trump administration pulled every lever it could in its anti-DEI campaign—with the transparent aim of intimidating PK-12 schools, colleges, and universities into abandoning lawful practices that support diverse, equitable, and inclusive environments for their students.

To combat this agenda, the Lawyers’ Committee has developed resources and put accurate information directly into the hands of students, parents, and advocates fighting for more just and equitable schools. Scan this QR code to see resources from our Educational Opportunities team. And check back often for updates as we add tools to help students and families understand their rights and advocate for an education that serves them, values them, and reflects them and their histories.



# ADVANCING CIVIL RIGHTS IN THE DIGITAL AGE

## Digitally-driven discrimination shows

up in so many aspects of our lives: discriminatory algorithms that impact healthcare, education, and employment; disinformation and online hate, amplified by digital platforms; and unequal access to the digital goods and services that are increasingly needed to access basic necessities. Justice in the digital age also means guarding against commercial and government surveillance in an age where artificial intelligence powers mass collection of data and allows it to be weaponized against communities of color.

Across our programs, and anchored by our Digital Justice Initiative, the Lawyers' Committee is a leading force to ensure that innovation strengthens, not undermines, civil rights. Our work is guided by the principle that everyone is entitled to the equal enjoyment of the internet's economic, cultural, and civic opportunities without fear of discrimination.

## Fighting for Digital Justice in the Courts

We are using the power of litigation to protect the people most harmed by digital discrimination, and we are not afraid to take on the most powerful of players. **We're suing tech giant Meta** over biased algorithms that drive advertising on its social media platforms. Our lawsuit highlights how Meta's advertising reinforces systemic race discrimination—disproportionately steering ads for often-predatory for-profit colleges and universities to Black people while disproportionately steering ads for public nonprofit colleges and universities to white users. The court has denied Meta's motion to dismiss our case, clearing the way for discovery in this important challenge to modern-day redlining.

And we are in court to close the digital divide—mindful that the late Congressman John Lewis characterized access to the internet as **“the civil rights issue of the 21st century.”** Without meaningful internet access, people across the country—disproportionately people of color—are unable to access vital resources, including healthcare, education, employment opportunities, and social services. The Digital Equity Act Competitive Grant Program aimed to bridge that divide. When the administration decided the program was a “woke handout” and unilaterally terminated it, we filed a legal challenge on behalf of our client, the National Digital Inclusion Alliance. In 2026, we'll continue to litigate against this egregious overreach, with the goal of preserving funding under this critical, Congressionally-mandated program.

## Championing New Rights for the Challenges of Today and Tomorrow

Artificial intelligence is transforming access to opportunity—shaping decisions about housing, lending, healthcare, jobs, education, and even interactions with law enforcement. But without strong protections, AI can deepen existing inequities and automate discrimination against Black communities and other communities of color. That's why the Lawyers' Committee has been a leading champion of the AI Civil Rights Act.

In December 2025, our President and Executive Director Damon Hewitt joined Senator Ed Markey and Representatives Yvette Clarke, Pramila Jayapal, and Summer Lee at a press conference to announce simultaneous reintroduction of the AI Civil Rights Act in both chambers of Congress.

**The AI Civil Rights Act creates a strong, future-ready civil rights framework that protects people from discriminatory technologies while enabling responsible innovation.**

Key protections in the Act include:

- Guardrails against AI-driven discrimination in housing, employment, education, healthcare, credit, criminal legal system, and other key areas.
- Independent audits for high-impact AI systems, before and after they're deployed.
- Transparency about when AI is used and how decisions are made.
- Enforcement power for individuals and state regulators and the FTC.
- Civil rights protections that evolve as technology evolves.

We will continue to lead the push for adoption of legislation that creates **real transparency, strong safeguards, and accountability so technology serves justice, not bias.** ●



President and Executive Director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Damon Hewitt, joined Senator Ed Markey; Representatives Yvette Clarke, Pramila Jayapal, Summer Lee, and Ayanna Pressley; and Leadership Conference President and CEO Maya Wiley at a press conference announcing the reintroduction of the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Civil Rights Act in Congress. December 2, 2025 — Washington, DC. | Credit: Joy Asico-Smith for Associated Press | AP Content Services for Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.

# BUILDING OUR CAPACITY. INVESTING FOR OUR FUTURE.

Over the last year, the Lawyers' Committee made deep investments in our greatest resource: our people. We recruited top talent from the nonprofit, government, and private sectors to join our extraordinary staff—including a host of senior leaders bringing vision, innovation, and rich expertise. Some of the most talented civil rights advocates in the country joined our ranks in 2025, fortifying a powerful team well-equipped to meet this critical moment.

Joining our leadership team as **Deputy Executive Director** was **Shaylyn Cochran**, a veteran civil rights attorney and policy expert who oversees our litigation, policy, advocacy, and campaign units. Shaylyn previously served as a senior leader at DOJ and represented clients in civil rights cases as a partner at Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll.

We were also thrilled to welcome **Chief Operating Officer Monica Woods**, who brings extensive executive experience from the public and nonprofit sectors, including stints at the National Archives and the Leadership Conference for Civil and Human Rights. And in January 2026, we were joined by new **Chief Development Officer Salena Jegede**, whose 20-year career in fundraising and management includes leadership roles at Spelman College and the Sierra Club.

We named dynamic new leaders for our legal team: **Voting Rights Project Director Robert Weiner**, who has served senior roles in the White House and DOJ, and as a partner at Arnold & Porter; **Digital Justice Initiative Director Leah Frazier**, a longtime veteran of the Federal Trade Commission; **Criminal Justice Project Director Len Kamdang**, a former public defender and senior litigator at Everytown Law; and **Educational Opportunities Project Director Michael Pillera**, who joined us after 10 years protecting students at the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights. **Maya Raghu** was named our inaugural **national director of the Protecting and Advancing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiative**, after senior roles at the EEOC, the U.S. Department of Labor, and the National Women's Law Center. And **Shaheena Simons** joined us as **senior advisor for Strategy & Programs**, after an 18-year tenure as a career attorney and senior executive in DOJ's Civil Rights Division.

We are making foundational investments in our staffing capacity, infrastructure, and programmatic footprint. Over the past year, we have laid out a roadmap to grow our expertise, realize operational efficiencies, and amplify our organizational profile and influence. This includes:

## BOLSTERING LEGAL CAPACITY

In addition to building our leadership ranks, we brought on seasoned lawyers with deep civil rights expertise, including several from the Department of Justice and other federal agencies. We also added paralegal support across all legal teams.

## DEPLOYING SYSTEM MODERNIZATION

We're modernizing systems across the organization to gain efficiencies, elevate performance, and strengthen resilience. Through initial system and software deployments, we modernized operations and re-engineered labor-intensive workflows to automate applications. These improvements span our business departments, solutions and workstreams, creating operational efficiencies, strengthening our in-house capacity to build a more resilient infrastructure, and optimizing organizational performance.

## EXPANDING AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT

To support our expanding programmatic reach and impact, we are growing our pipeline of motivated supporters ready to deepen their engagement. **Active users on our main website grew 44% last year**, with visitors staying longer and engaging more. We are now shaping dialogue and influence in key legal and advocacy networks thanks to strong growth in our social media presence. Our total reach now exceeds **111,000 followers** across Twitter/X, Facebook, Instagram, Bluesky, Threads, and LinkedIn (where we added 5,000 followers in 2025). Our *Justice in Action* newsletter, launched in spring of 2025, has more than 8,000 subscribers, with strong readership among legal professionals. And we're reaching more supporters than ever, adding 19,000 new advocates to our email list and 35,000 total new supporters added in 2025, growing our pipeline for grassroots and small-dollar fundraising. As we extend our reach, we're encouraged by an overall increase in funding compared to 2024 across our diverse revenue streams from our steadfast partners. ●

# HOW TO SUPPORT

Democracy requires active participation. Stand with the Lawyers' Committee to defend civil rights and advance racial justice. Your support strengthens our ability to continue the work ahead.

To contribute online, please scan this QR code or visit [bit.ly/Give2LCCRUL](https://bit.ly/Give2LCCRUL). For more ways to support, please visit [www.lawyerscommittee.org](https://www.lawyerscommittee.org).



For more than 60 years, the Lawyers' Committee has mobilized the power of the private bar in service of justice and equality, representing the very best of the legal profession. Our Board of Directors embodies that solidarity and is key to our work to build upon this extraordinary legacy.

## IN 2025

Over 70 law firms worked with us on Pro Bono matters

## OVER THE PAST DECADE

Over 1 million pro bono hours leveraged

## OVER THE PAST TWO DECADES

Over \$1 billion in pro bono services



“Partners like the Lawyers’ Committee help ensure that Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s support is going where it is needed most. You also inspire us to raise our voice and take action, even at the most difficult moments.”

— REV. DR. STARKY WILSON, BOARD CHAIR OF THE ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION, ACCEPTING THE 2025 HIGGINBOTHAM LEADERSHIP AWARD



“The year was 1963. At a dangerous time in history, when white supremacist groups and elected leaders were terrorizing the Black community, when strongmen sought to openly defy the rule of law, and when the country seemed so far from its promise of equal justice under law — a group of lawyers, in their personal and professional capacities, joined together and said, no more. Not on our watch. Friends, we are in such a time again.”

— MICHAEL SWARTZ, CO-CHAIR, LAWYERS’ COMMITTEE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, PROVIDING REMARKS AT THE 2025 HIGGINBOTHAM LEADERSHIP AWARDS GALA



# MAKING THE PROMISES OF DEMOCRACY REAL



LAWYERS' COMMITTEE FOR  
CIVIL RIGHTS  
U N D E R L A W