To protect our democracy, we must ensure that governments and institutions are responsive to the needs, hopes and futures of all. By increasing voter turnout, challenging voter suppression measures and ensuring representational diversity, the Southern Poverty Law Center is working to ensure all Americans have their voices heard through their inalienable right to vote and participate in democracy.
In 2022, the SPLC...

Filed an emergency lawsuit with allies less than 48 hours before Election Day. The case fought to ensure that nearly 1,000 voters in Cobb County, Georgia, had enough time to cast absentee ballots in the 2022 midterm elections.

Launched “Our Future, Our Vote,” a public education campaign helping millions of voters navigate changing election laws in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana and Mississippi.

Sued the Alabama Judicial Resources Allocation Commission after it transferred a judgeship from the diverse Jefferson County to the majority-white Madison County. In the process, the commission blocked the appointment of a Black woman.

Hosted Georgia’s first election crisis convening, during which 40 bi-partisan, pro-democracy organizations outlined possible crisis scenarios around the 2022 midterm elections.

Filed a lawsuit with partners challenging Georgia’s newly drawn 6th, 13th and 14th congressional districts for violating the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution; the districts grouped Black communities together in what the SPLC alleges is an attempt to diminish their voting power.

Celebrated the first graduates of the SPLC’s Advocacy Institute, a 9-week training program to build hands-on policy and advocacy skills for its participants. Originating in Mississippi, the Institute invests in the future of activism through helping cultivate the movement leaders of tomorrow that create positive change in their community.

7 new legal cases filed to protect voting rights.

$4.6M+ in SPLC “Vote Your Voice” grants distributed to 39 grassroots organizations fighting voter suppression.
To have a functional multiracial democracy, we must root out hate and extremism from our communities. The SPLC is working to relegate white supremacy out of the mainstream, weaken its impact on American democracy and prevent violent harm inflicted on communities who are targeted because of their race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation or gender identity.

1,221 hate and extremist groups exposed in the SPLC’s annual “The Year in Hate” publication.

66 teachers from grades K-5 and 6-12 presented their work to a national audience after attending the SPLC’s new professional learning cohorts on how to use our Teaching Hard History (THH) framework, a product of the SPLC’s Learning for Justice project.

THH enriches lessons on American enslavement, builds students’ civic engagement and critical thinking and deepens their mindsets around inclusion and empathy.
In 2022, the SPLC...

- Filed an amicus brief supporting a lawsuit that challenges Florida’s anti-truth education bill, the “Stop WOKE Act.”
- Provided research into the architects behind the Jan. 6 attack—the planners, perpetrators and those who financed and inspired the violent action—which was included as part of the House Jan. 6 Select Committee’s official record.
- Testified before the House Committee on Homeland Security’s “Countering Violent Extremism, Terrorism, and Antisemitic Threats in New Jersey” field hearing in October, emphasizing the dangers of antisemitism.
- Extended influence internationally through information-sharing with the United Nations, resulting in a recommendation from the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.
- Filed a lawsuit with allies against Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and Florida’s transportation secretary. The SPLC challenges the constitutionality of Section 185 of Florida’s 2022 General Appropriations Act (HB 5001), which calls for the “transport of unauthorized aliens from this state.” The lawsuit was prompted by the malicious use of taxpayer dollars meant for COVID-19 relief to fly asylum-seeking migrants—without notifying local authorities or humanitarian groups—to other states.

- 7,195 educators virtually trained on anti-racism in the classroom during the 2021-2022 school year.
- 20 briefings given to U.S. Congress and the White House by the SPLC’s Intelligence Project (IP). IP uses their expert research and analysis on hate and antigovernment extremism to expose white supremacy.
VOICES OF IMPACT

Read what our allies, partners, clients and friends have to say about the SPLC and the work you help support.

“It’s absolutely wonderful being free, and I am enjoying my freedom. It’s hard to imagine that a group of people decided to take a chance and fight for me. I am forever grateful.”

Manuel Duran
Journalist, Granted asylum after being detained by ICE
“We are so honored and so thankful for the ‘Vote Your Voice’ grant because it has enabled us to be able to go into these 55 [Mississippi] counties and really have partners and field staff and canvassers on the ground...”

Brenda Hyde
Deputy Director of Southern Echo, Grantee of the 2022 “Vote Your Voice” initiative

“When I made it [to the SPLC’s Advocacy Institute] and when I got to meet people that have the same passion for helping people in their community that I have, I was overwhelmed. Now... we can raise our activism to a whole other level.”

Rasheed Davis
Advocacy Institute Graduate
Poverty and race are deeply intertwined and have resulted in laws that exploit Black and Brown communities. The SPLC is using litigation, education and policy to challenge these entrenched systems, ensure equitable access to public services and advocate for the right to housing, education, health care and economic opportunity.

10 cases actively litigated in 2022 to fight systemic poverty.

900+ class action lawsuit members represented by the SPLC reached a preliminary settlement with the Georgia Department of Labor to improve the speed with which it processes unemployment claims.

Eradicating Poverty
In 2022, the SPLC...

- Reached a preliminary settlement for a lawsuit against the Georgia Department of Labor, compelling the department to improve its system of processing unemployment claims. The SPLC initially filed the lawsuit in response to the GDOL’s extreme processing delays during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Reached a class action settlement agreement with the North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Driver’s license holders in North Carolina must be notified by the state DMV if they have or will lose their license due to nonpayment of fees and fines. The settlement ensures North Carolinians are not punished for living in poverty by having their mode of transportation—to work, to care for children, to attend health and social service appointments—taken from them without getting a chance to fix the problem beforehand.

- Defended the rights of families with transgender children to seek safe, gender-affirming medical care in Alabama.

- Continued aiding people living and working in Jackson, Mississippi, navigating a water crisis—a “long-standing environmental justice concern in historically marginalized communities,” according to the Environmental Protection Agency administrator.

- Filed an administrative complaint on behalf of the NAACP against the Federal Emergency Management Administration and the Department of Health and Human Services in Mississippi for failing to equitably distribute the COVID-19 vaccine among Black communities.

- 150K+ driver’s license holders in North Carolina must be notified by the state DMV if they have or will lose their license due to nonpayment of fees and fines.

- 725 cases of clean water, 76 water filters and 213 water test kits distributed in Jackson, Mississippi, during the ongoing water crisis.
Our judicial systems are rooted in white supremacy, which has led to discriminatory laws, policies and practices that have harmed Black and Brown communities for generations. The SPLC’s work to transform the education system, criminal legal system and immigrant detention system and its efforts to replace these systems with anti-racist, equitable, humane and life-affirming alternatives seeks to reduce the incarcerated and detained population in the Deep South.

Reducing Incarceration

2,500+ immigrants and refugees represented or provided legal advice and counsel.

5 clients of the SPLC received early release from incarceration.
In 2022, the SPLC...

Fought against the Louisiana governor’s transfer of children in state custody to Angola State Penitentiary, the largest maximum-security adult prison in the United States. This is an ongoing fight.

Successfully represented a Georgia student who was expelled without sufficient notice to the child’s parents, leading to the State Board of Education reversing its decision. This outcome reaffirmed the important precedent protecting the due process rights of all Georgia students.

Collaborated with parent groups in Gwinnett County, Georgia, to successfully rewrite and reform draconian disciplinary standards for public school students.

Investigated the first full accounting of each seizure action taken by every Alabama law enforcement agency in FY 2020 after years of pushing for greater accountability on civil asset forfeiture actions.

Secured the preliminary approval of a settlement for detained workers who faced racial profiling, excessive force and false arrest by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in Tennessee.

915+ pro bono hours worked to provide immigrants and refugees free legal aid through our Southeast Immigrant Freedom Initiative (SIFI).

16 years taken out of corrections through the early release of SPLC clients from incarceration.
What We Do

Legal Action
Using the courts to dismantle white supremacy and defend constitutional protections for Black and Brown communities.

Intelligence Project
Monitoring hate groups and other extremists throughout the United States and exposing their activities to the public, the media and law enforcement.

Learning for Justice
Providing teachers, students and community leaders free resources that help break down divisions and promote democratic values centered on justice.

Civil Rights Memorial Center
Honoring the martyrs of the civil rights movement and inspiring the next generation of activists to continue the fight for equity.

Community Partnerships
Building relationships with local organizations and individuals to support grassroots activism and increase our impact.

Illustrations by Rose Wong
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