

—
ANNUAL
REPORT
2022



25 YEARS ON THE FRONTLINES



FIGHTING & WINNING TOGETHER

FIRST LIBERTY INSTITUTE

Last Line of Defense, Greatest Hope for Victory

First Liberty Institute is the largest legal organization in the nation exclusively dedicated to defending religious freedom for all Americans. Whether religious or not, every American has a fundamental right to follow their conscience and live according to their beliefs.

Our nation's Founders established religious freedom as the First Freedom nearly two and a half centuries ago... and together as one team, we intend to keep it that way.

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MESSAGE FROM
THE PRESIDENT & CEO

Thank you for joining First Liberty in the fight for religious freedom in America.

This is our organization's first annual report, and we're excited to share with you the incredible achievements of the past year. At the same time, we also take a look back through our organization's history—and how far we've come since it was founded in 1997.

In 2022, First Liberty continued leading the charge, litigating the most important cases and securing landmark victories to restore and protect the God-given rights of Americans of all faiths.

This has been an incredible year filled with triumphs for religious liberty. We litigated two cases at the U.S. Supreme Court, handled over 850 legal matters and delivered victories for people of faith and houses of worship across the country.

The impact of our cases and wins is being felt nationwide. Through our Supreme Court victories, we restored Coach Joe Kennedy's freedom to pray by himself on the football field and helped set a precedent protecting the rights of public employees across the country. We also protected religious schools in Maine from discrimination, restoring the right of parents to choose the best education for their children.

Thanks to God's grace and the success we're having, I strongly believe Americans are about to have more religious freedom than they've had in their lifetimes.

I'm confident we can continue winning the fight to

uphold faith and freedom, especially for such a time as this when religious hostility and cancel culture are running rampant across America.

This year has proven that enemies of freedom are relentless, ready to undermine and attack our constitutional foundations at every opportunity. And this battle will only intensify.

But there are special opportunities ahead. And the unparalleled rate of victory we've had this year gives us more reasons to be optimistic. If we can keep working together, there's tremendous hope for the future of our country.

Thanks for continuing to invest in First Liberty and for joining the fight on the frontlines to defend our most sacred and foundational freedom.

I am grateful for everyone who's come alongside First Liberty in this historic year. Instead of being daunted by this religious freedom crisis, more Americans rallied around us with courage, resilience and tenacity.

All our success during this year reveals something very special: When we work as one team, in one fight, with one purpose, through God's grace, we can accomplish great things.

For liberty,

Kelly

Kelly Shackelford, Esq.
President, CEO and Chief Counsel





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FREEDOM STARTS HERE *America's Best Lawyers Defending Your First Freedom*

First Liberty Institute has been on the frontlines of the fight for religious freedom since 1997.

First Liberty's vision is to see religious liberty fully protected in law, respected and flourishing in America. Our mission is to advance religious liberty across several key pillars in America: in schools, houses of worship and faith-based organizations, the military and throughout the marketplace and public arena.

2022 marks First Liberty's silver anniversary, one of the most important and impactful years in our history. We had the unprecedented opportunity to fight two major cases at the U.S. Supreme Court.

This is the culmination of years—indeed decades—of hard work, dedication, prayer, perseverance and resilience. Most law firms, attorneys and legal organizations can only dream of one day arguing a case before the nation's highest court. We were blessed to not only litigate two Supreme Court cases—but to win both in just a single year. The precedent set by these cases will bring transformational change to religious liberty law in America for decades to come. These Supreme Court victories will guard the God-given, constitutional rights of the next generation.

Beyond the Supreme Court, we also had a major impact for religious liberty across the country. We defended hundreds of religious Americans who faced harassment, attacks and discrimination because of their religious beliefs. Among a multitude of victories, this year we successfully fought for:

- High school seniors who no longer face censorship because their graduation speeches contained religious references
- A decorated Army chaplain whose career is saved after he was threatened with punishment for living out his beliefs
- An African American church who can keep its property after city officials threatened to take it away
- Houses of worship that are free to safely hold services and no longer face discriminatory pandemic restrictions
- A Jewish congregation who can finally meet inside a private home and not fear punishment by zoning laws
- A Hispanic church that can now open a religious school without harassment from school board officials
- Religious employers who can operate according to their beliefs without the threat of unconstitutional vaccine mandates
- A military veteran's organization who maintains a POW/MIA remembrance display with a Bible of a WWII hero

These important achievements—and many others that we will share with you throughout this report—are a testament to the growth and transformation of this organization over the past 25 years. The incredible success we've had in 2022 reminds us how far we've come since our inception, when there were just a few staff employees working on a handful of cases. By God's grace—and thanks to the support of millions of Americans nationwide—we remain the greatest hope for victory. For our entire history, we remain the only nonprofit legal organization in the country that maintains a win rate of over 90% across all legal matters.

When we look back at this year, and the more than two decades of First Liberty's existence, we're more encouraged than ever before about the future of religious freedom in our country. The opportunities for impacting religious liberty in America are unlike anything we've seen in decades. Together, we're witnessing history in the making and there's no better time to join First Liberty in the most important fight of our lifetime: the fight for religious freedom.

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FIGHTING AND WINNING TOGETHER.

God will always find people to do His will. I am fortunate that God lets me and others participate in His will at First Liberty. I joined the organization 20 years ago and brought my own computer from home because we didn't have the resources to buy me one. Kelly's plan for conducting legal research was to send me to sneak into the law library at Southern Methodist University.

I will now admit that I did not know anything about constitutional law when I accepted the call to join First Liberty. I had to have my bar review outline on my desk when I started. Kelly would rattle off case names, theories and ideas. I would nod along as if I knew what he was talking about and then go home and research on the internet whatever he was talking about. It was a scrappy time, but a happy one.

But we had big plans. We wanted to take down two cases that for decades caused so much religious hostility, *Lemon v. Kurtzman* and *Employment Division v. Smith*. I am not sure I ever believed we were going to get to where we are today as a movement—*Lemon* finished off and *Smith* on life support.

I certainly did not expect First Liberty to be the tip of the spear. The old building we were in when I started needed the termites to hold hands to keep it standing. But now, after having been to 49 of the 50 states pursuing religious freedom, driving through blizzards, driving on old logging roads in Oregon, climbing a mountain in Montana with our Chief Legal Officer Jeff Mateer to save an old statue of Jesus, and all the other many adventures, all I can say is that it has been a blessing to have been a part of the adventure and to carry on that adventure into the future.



Hiram Sasser
Executive General Counsel

I joined First Liberty less than one year ago. But though I'm relatively new, I can honestly say that I'm blessed to be a part of an outstanding organization pursuing one of the most critical missions in our country.

In just the past year, I've seen our team work together to achieve amazing things. To think that in the course of the past year we litigated not one, but two cases at the U.S. Supreme Court is beyond anything we could have imagined. Some organizations and attorneys only dream of reaching the nation's highest court to argue a case. The change and the impact that's happening in our country because of First Liberty is truly incredible.

Winning legal cases is such an important part of the work that we do. But it's not the only part of this battle for our First Freedom. Victories in the courtroom are essential—but what's also equally important is being able to win the hearts and minds of Americans. And First Liberty is fulfilling that mission boldly. We're reaching hundreds of thousands of people with the message of religious liberty, educating them and equipping them with information about the vital role this freedom plays in our society.

Each week, we reach more than half a million Americans through our online and digital campaigns. From updates on our cases to commentary on current events, people across our country are learning how religious liberty is one of the cornerstones of our country. This outreach is also amplified by our continued presence in national and local media. The bottom line is, not a week goes by that someone in America doesn't hear about First Liberty and the work we're doing. To know that I'm part of a team that works so hard to help Americans better understand their freedoms and rights is something I am truly proud of.



Megan Moses
Digital Marketing Coordinator





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FIRST IN THE FIGHT

It's my privilege and honor to lead First Liberty's incredible legal team. This past year we were hugely successful in our mission to advance religious liberty—in America's schools, houses of worship and faith-based organizations, the military, and throughout the marketplace and public arena. Let me share with you about our success from this past year.

We handled a record number of legal requests, over double the number of requests from the prior year. This surge is not surprising in light of the increased threats to religious freedom for people of faith occurring throughout our nation. Our team met this challenge head on and helped thousands of Americans.

Our victories included two historic wins at the U.S. Supreme Court. In one of the most important religious liberty victories in our generation, *Kennedy v. Bremerton School District*, the Court upheld the right of public high school football coach Joe Kennedy to pray at the 50-yard line after games. In doing so, the Court specifically struck down a 50-year-old precedent that had misguided government officials in evaluating claimed establishments of religion. This significant victory will not only return Coach Kennedy to the football field but pave the way for greater religious freedom for all public school teachers, coaches and government employees nationwide.

We also obtained an important Supreme Court victory in *Carson v. Makin*. The Court struck down a Maine law that banned families from a generally available student-aid program if they chose to send their children to religious schools. Now parents are free to send their children to the school of their choice even if it's a religious school. This case represents a major win for school choice, parents,

students and religious schools.

We also secured a number of preliminary wins for U.S. Navy SEALs and Air Force service members facing punishment for requesting religious accommodations to vaccine mandates. We continue to fight these pivotal cases in federal courts so that our men and women in uniform can serve in accordance with their faith.

We won well over a dozen impactful victories. We successfully preserved a veteran group's Bible display at a VA Medical Center. We protected a college professor who objected to using a student's preferred pronouns that contradicted the student's biological birth. We restored the rights of houses of worship to be a force for good in their communities, including those of an immigrant Irish pastor in remote Walthill, Nebraska, who can once again minister to his community and help revitalize his downtown. We reversed a city's decision to shut down an inner-city church's homeless ministry. We reversed the IRS's denial of tax-exempt status to a faith-based nonprofit. We restored the rights of a Jewish prisoner to receive kosher meals. We put an end to a city's unequal treatment of churches in assessing water fees. We overturned a decision by a city's school committee denying a church the ability to start a religious school. And we successfully defended rights of faith-based organizations, who objected to the federal COVID vaccine mandate for employers with more than 100 employees.

All of these—and many more—legal successes are helping to advance religious freedom across America. While we celebrate these victories, giving God the glory, we know more battles are ahead and our mission is far from over.

Soli Deo Gloria,



Jeff Mateer
Executive Vice President & Chief Legal Officer

LEGAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

5 U.S. Supreme Court Cases	2 Wins at the U.S. Supreme Court	25 U.S. Federal Court Cases	15 State Courts & Administrative Cases
898 Legal Matters Handled	27% Growth in Number of Legal Matters Handled	6 New Attorneys Added to Legal Staff	12 Amicus Briefs Filed

MAJOR VICTORIES AT THE U.S. SUPREME COURT

KENNEDY V. BREMERTON



First Liberty defended Coach Joe Kennedy at the U.S. Supreme Court. Led by our volunteer attorney and former U.S. Solicitor General, Paul Clement, we secured a victory that restored Coach Kennedy's right to pray on the 50-yard line after games. Thanks to this victory, Coach was able to return to the job he loved. It also set a precedent protecting public school employees nationwide.

CARSON V. MAKIN



The Institute for Justice and First Liberty represented several families at the U.S. Supreme Court, challenging the state of Maine for banning them from participating in a student-aid program if they choose to send their children to religious schools. The Court ruled in our favor. This was a major win for parents and families nationwide as they choose the best schools for their children, and restored rights for religious schools.



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FIRST IN THE FIGHT



11

MORE REASONS.
MORE PEOPLE.
MORE OFTEN.

2 million
visits to *FirstLiberty.org*

55 million
social media impressions

2 million
social media engagements

1 million
video views

520,000
email subscribers

208,000
social media followers

f t in @

32,000
media mentions

674
print, radio and television interviews

More reasons, more people, more often. These are our goals when communicating to prospective and long-time loyal supporters. Give our donors more reasons to support us, acquire more donors through our different marketing channels and get them to consider giving more frequently.

With a recent shift in how we approach achieving these goals, our main focus started with storytelling. How do we best convey what our latest legal case is about? We put our clients front and center. We make them more relatable to our audience.

For our Coach Kennedy case, we focused on his incredible and inspiring story. Beyond being the coach who was “fired for praying,” we sought to tell different parts of his journey, who he is and what makes him the man he is today. That included his military service and the challenges he faced growing up. Most can remember back to when they had a positive and influential coach growing up, a coach that may have changed their lives forever. We try and provide an easy answer...should a coach be fired for taking a knee in quiet, personal prayer after football games? The answer is, no! Can senior citizens have a bible study in the privacy of their own home? Say YES to senior bible studies!

Over the past few years, we have focused on improving our digital efforts. While our web traffic has increased by 96% from the previous year, our digital revenue has grown by over 60%. Additionally, our revenue from recurring gifts has increased by 124%.

Hot off the press...our content is in high demand! We have a fruitful partnership with *The Christian Post*, which reached out to us asking for permission to feature our stories on its editorial page. To date they've shared more than a dozen of our original pieces. This has given us an expanded reach, allowing us to deliver our content to 300,000 more people. That's in addition to our ever-growing

audience. In the past year, our total reach through our FLI Insider newsletter has surpassed 500,000.

Our marketing team was also recognized with the 2022 Internet Advertising Competition Award for Best Nonprofit Newsletter Campaign. This is the second time we've received this award and a huge testament to the quality of content we are producing.

This past year, we launched our Supreme Coup campaign, the first and only national campaign designed specifically to educate and energize Americans regarding court reform. No other nonprofit organization in the country besides First Liberty Institute engaged in such a concerted and deliberate effort. This interactive campaign was wholly produced by First Liberty's in-house marketing team, consisting of less than 10 people overall. From building the main microsite, to sharable social content, to creating and aggregating articles, every element of Supreme Coup was designed, crafted and polished by our own creative team.

Our Supreme Coup campaign received two awards: 2022 Internet Advertising Competition for Best Nonprofit Integrated Ad Campaign and 2022 APEX Award of Excellence for Campaign, Programs & Plans in Public Service.

With the goal of educating audiences of the dangers of court-packing, through collaboration with social media influencers, media partnerships, national podcast sponsorships and email outreach, we acquired over 400,000 new potential supporters of First Liberty.

Talk about more reasons, more people, more often!



Bryan Dempsey
Senior Director of Marketing



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CULTIVATING
LIFELONG
RELATIONSHIPS

Cultivating relationships that last a lifetime.

That is the mission of First Liberty's Ministry Relations team.

Whether interacting with clients, supporters or fellow staff members, the embodiment of Christ-centered relationships speaks to the character of First Liberty. The Ministry Relations department maintains the essence of those principles as it explores, cultivates and develops relationships with new and existing supporters and support opportunities.

Ministry relations reflects the belief that success comes as a byproduct of nurturing and caring for these relationships. We believe that this philosophy is key to God honoring our efforts, as we motivate individuals and organizations to join our fight, in the pursuit of religious liberty and freedom for all Americans and people of faith.

The Ministry Relations team consists of essentially two components—our development team and the events team.

The development team represents the face of First Liberty to current and potential supporters.

These individuals are making the calls, sending notes and emails and arranging one on one visits throughout the country. Development officers are knowledgeable about First Liberty, masters of the subject matter and possess an innate ability to

properly convey our message, while deepening long lasting relationships with supporters.

The events team facilitates all of the details and planning of the impactful events we do throughout the country in a variety of venues. This year we held more than 18 major events, from San Diego, CA to Orlando, FL. Not to mention numerous smaller "coffee" type gatherings all over the country.

These events have been major contributing factors in our overall growth and success.

As the development team cultivates new territories and meets new followers across the country, the events team supports those efforts by organizing regional events allowing us to share our story more effectively to larger groups and audiences.

We've seen incredible growth particularly over the last seven years as we continue to expand and grow across the country. We've seen double digit growth each year. This is a byproduct of following God's direction along with a united team effort from all departments at First Liberty.

The strategy of initiating genuine one-on-one connections and then cultivating those relationships into lifelong partnerships is our model and one that God has honored and blessed over the years.



Steve Purdum
Chief Development Officer



27,161

Connections with First Liberty Supporters

55

Events around the Country

71%

Increase in New Supporters

\$4 Million

in Donations Through Events



First Liberty Live brings you today's essential stories of religious freedom straight from the frontlines. Every week, we engage in remarkably insightful conversations with First Liberty experts, clients and key national leaders.

Our guests have included people you know, such as Sen. Ted Cruz, Shannon Bream, Mike Pompeo, Glenn Beck, Sam Brownback, Albert Mohler, Tony Perkins, Star Parker, Pat Boone, Dinesh D'Souza and Kayleigh McEnany. They each bring their own unique perspective, but all share a common interest with us in defending religious freedom for all Americans.

We created First Liberty Live in response to a serious problem: One by one, voices like ours are being silenced by woke social media outlets. That's why we built a state-of-the-art, proprietary online home at FirstLibertyLive.com. You can catch the latest episode as we stream it out live each Thursday. It's also beautifully designed for browsing and binge-watching our growing library. Watch what you want, when you want.

The web site is coupled with a smartly designed app for your phone or tablet. Wherever you happen to be, it makes it easy to find and watch episodes that pique your interest. We also make the audio from each First Liberty Live episode available on every major podcast platform. So, you can listen in the car, on a walk or at the gym.

Our home base is our elegant set here at the First Liberty headquarters. We leverage advances in technology to stream and record video interviews in a surprisingly cost-effective way. We also regularly take you on the road with us, as we engage in conversations in Seattle, Sacramento, Vail, Houston or on the steps of the Supreme Court.

In just two years, First Liberty Live has become a robust, effective communications channel for First Liberty Institute. And we designed it all to be shielded from cancelation, so we can reliably connect with you on your schedule, in the way that works best for you.

Stuart Shepard



Stuart Shepard
First Liberty Live Host & Multimedia Director



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TODAY'S ESSENTIAL STORIES. STRAIGHT FROM THE FRONTLINES.

154,000 visits to FirstLibertyLive.com

657,360 total impressions

16,000 hours of watch time

281,000 total video views

126 videos produced and published



[LEARN MORE]



The Center for Religion Culture and Democracy is First Liberty's burgeoning think-tank initiative. It is designed to impact the future of religious liberty beyond the courtroom. It brings together elite academic leaders who are shaping cultural debate and thought leadership. The CRCD supports the creation and promotion of high quality scholarship at the intersection of religion, culture and democracy.

Education has always been a critical part of the First Liberty mission, but in October 2020 FLI made the strategic decision to systematize and formalize our commitment to advocacy for religious freedom on every front: in the courts and in the culture.

That is when we launched the Center for Religion, Culture & Democracy (or CRCD for short) to bring our educational and cultural advocacy under one umbrella.

The CRCD contributes to our broad mission in two crucial ways: first, the CRCD seeks to provide educational opportunities on the essential role that religion plays in cultivating freedom and promoting democracy. Religion is not, therefore, merely a part of a healthy society—it is an indispensable, foundational component, which is why religious freedom is so crucial.

Second, the CRCD encourages religious people to take advantage of the freedoms that they enjoy by building and participating in civic institutions, seeking to solve pressing social problems, and contributing to the uniquely civilization-affirming work of faith communities.

To do this work, the CRCD sponsors regular educational programs, publishes an academic journal, supports the research of leading scholars and has launched an annual index measuring and ranking religious liberty protections across all 50 states. The CRCD has assembled a team consisting of some of the field's foremost scholars to work alongside and in tandem with FLI's expert legal team to combat threats to freedom and to present a positive vision for a society that values religious people and institutions.



Trey Dimsdale
Center for Religion, Culture & Democracy Executive Director

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CENTER FOR RELIGION, CULTURE & DEMOCRACY
Impacting the Future of Religious Freedom Beyond the Courtroom



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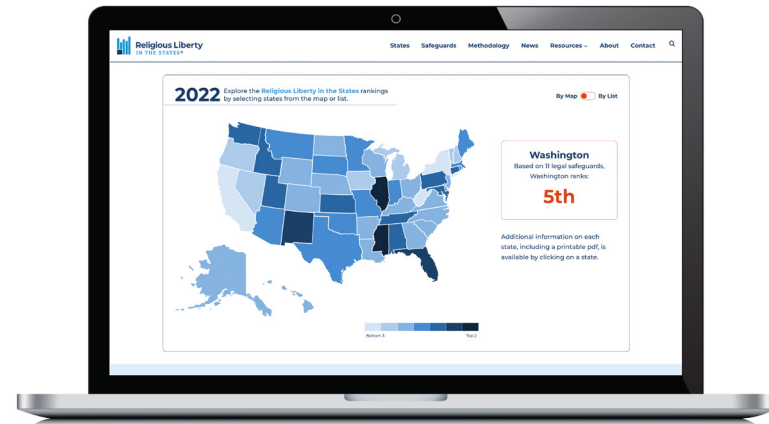


RELIGIOUS LIBERTY IN THE STATES INDEX

A Domestic Measure of Statutory Safeguards for the Free Exercise of Religion



[LEARN MORE]



In 2022, First Liberty’s Center for Religion, Culture and Democracy (CRCD) launched Religious Liberty in the States (RLS), **the first-ever nationwide empirical index of domestic religious liberty.**

The RLS index is one of our organization’s most important educational efforts. We expect this yearly index will make a significant and unique contribution to the research and academic fields. It will bear fruit and impact the national conversation on religious freedom for years to come.

This is a long-anticipated project and a milestone in First Liberty’s history, and we are thankful to everyone whose hard work made RLS possible. The RLS index brings together some of First Liberty’s and the CRCD’s brightest minds, including Jordan Ballor, Ph.D., the CRCD’s Director of Research, and esteemed economist Dr. Sarah M. Estelle, the Director of the RLS Project, who tenaciously and tirelessly worked to deliver an important tool that is accessible and transparent.

Our goal is that the RLS index will be enthusiastically endorsed across the political spectrum, by those of any or no faith, in academia and beyond.



WHAT IS THE RLS INDEX?

RLS is a statistical index and data catalog that measures and ranks religious liberty protections for each of the 50 states. RLS focuses on legal safeguards of religious exercise in state law, both in statute and constitutions. Our researchers and experts examined laws across all 50 states that impact religious liberty.

It is distinct from other religious freedom reports because of the rigorous methodology used. The RLS index identifies 29 distinct items across 11 different safeguards where states have acted to legally protect religious expression and activity. Once aggregated, these 11 distinct areas produce one RLS index score per state, suitable for ranking states and, in time, tracking changes.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

This index is a critical initiative that will help millions of Americans better understand their legal rights, especially where they live. While the First Amendment broadly protects every person’s right to the free exercise of religion at the national level, RLS captures and communicates how many safeguards each state has in place for religious exercise. This index will aid citizens as they compare how states are doing relative to one another and how each one measures up to the potential safeguards it could provide. Every state has room for improvement, and this report will help identify where states can improve.

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NEXT GEN LEADERS

Impacting the Future of Religious Freedom Beyond the Courtroom

First Liberty is leading the charge to develop a new generation of bold and passionate religious freedom advocates. Through various leadership programs, we're equipping undergraduate and graduate students with the resources, tools and training to defend religious liberty wherever their future endeavors take them.

79
Graduates of the D.C. Fellowship

15
Graduates of the Shaftesbury Fellowship



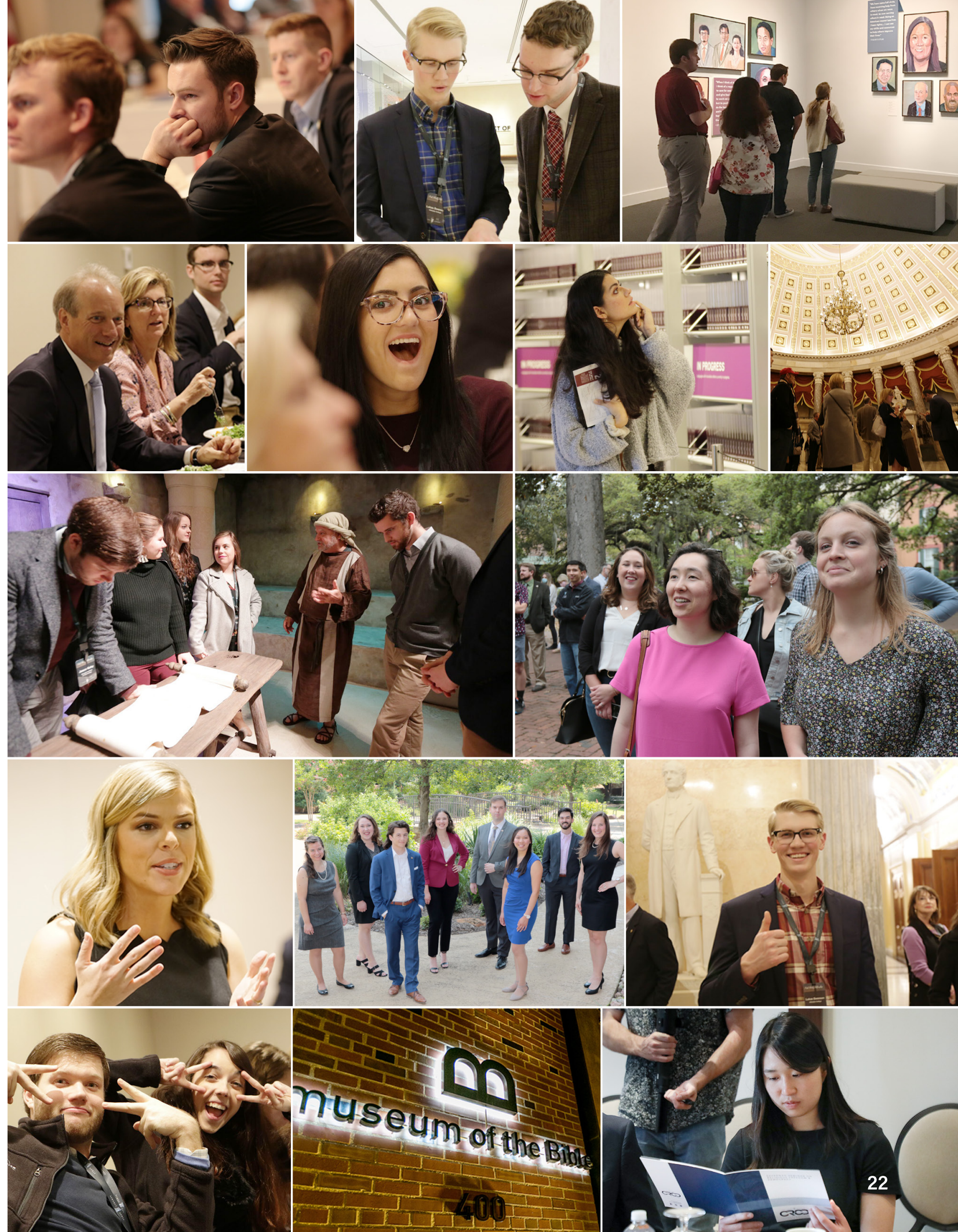
[LEARN MORE]

Now in its fifth year, the First Liberty's DC Fellowship provides high achieving young leaders with the opportunity to hear, meet and network with the best and brightest minds advancing a classically liberal worldview today. This is a one-of-a-kind experience for undergraduate students, who spend a week in our nation's capital deepening their understanding of the foundational concepts America is built on—and how they bring those concepts back and make an impact in their communities.



[LEARN MORE]

The Shaftesbury Fellowship provides an opportunity for prospective graduate students to develop their understanding and grow their expertise in a variety of academic fields including theology, philosophy, politics, law, economics and history. This summer-long fellowship program is for upper level undergraduate students and recent graduates. Fellows work one-on-one with an established scholar, complete a rigorous research project, attend weekly seminars and participate in intensive colloquia.



First Liberty won a major victory at the U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of our client Coach Joe Kennedy. Seven years ago, a school district in Washington fired him for praying on the 50-yard line after football games. We represented and fought for Coach Joe through an arduous legal battle—a case that went up and down the courts several times. Now, we’re celebrating a historic win!

The Court issued a landmark 6-3 decision upholding his right to take a knee in quiet, solitary prayer. But this wasn’t only a victory for one coach in Washington state. It has a nationwide impact on public-school teachers, employees and coaches, who are now free to live out their faith in public. This win overturned a prior ruling that harmed religious freedom for decades and set a major precedent for moving forward. Thanks to this win, you and millions of Americans have more religious liberty in more than 50 years.

Many people know Coach Kennedy as the “kneeling football coach.” But there’s so much more to his story. Behind the big smile and gregarious personality is a journey of resilience, courage and perseverance.

After a difficult childhood that included moving in and out of foster homes, Coach Kennedy sought discipline and stability. This led him to serve his country in the armed forces for 20 years, most of that time in the U.S. Marine Corps. His service included two deployments during Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

While overseas, he witnessed what the absence of religious freedom looked like. This experience gave him a greater appreciation for the freedoms we enjoy here in America. It also gave him a first-hand perspective of why we cannot take our constitutional rights for granted.

As a Marine, Coach Kennedy took an oath to protect the Constitution. But fighting on the battlefield was only one part—indeed, only the beginning—of his duty and service to his country. Not long after leaving the service, he’d once again be called to defend the Constitution. Although this time, he wouldn’t be wearing a military uniform.

Many people often ask: Why did Coach Kennedy kneel to pray in the first place?

In 2008, Coach Kennedy returned home from military service and got connected with the local football team. But it was not something he sought out. One day, while out for a run, someone driving by asked him if he had any experience coaching. He told that person about his military service and that he thought he could use what he’d learned in the service to be a coach.

When he became a football coach at Bremerton High School in Washington state, Coach made a personal commitment to God. After every football game—win or lose—he would take a knee to pray for his team and thank God for the opportunity to be a coach. So, at his inaugural game, Coach Kennedy knelt on the 50-yard line for a brief, personal prayer.

For seven years, Coach Kennedy prayed on the field without receiving any complaints. Shockingly—after a

compliment from a school administrator from a visiting team—the Bremerton School District prohibited him from engaging in “demonstrative religious activity.” They told him any religious expression would have to be done where nobody could see him.

Coach Kennedy was not going to renounce his commitment simply because government officials told him to stop praying. He was not going to back down simply because opposition came his way.

As a combat veteran, Coach Kennedy knows firsthand the sacrifices one must make to protect the liberties we cherish—especially the right to freely live out one’s faith. Not praying on his own after games would mean breaking his commitment to God and forfeiting the liberties he defended.

He had to live up to what he’d learned as a U.S. Marine: *semper fidelis*—always faithful. So, he continued to pray, and in 2015, the school district fired him.

Despite the consequences, he knew, deep down, staying true to his faith was the right thing to do.

Coach Kennedy braved nearly seven years of litigation. His case went up and down and back up again through the federal courts. Despite numerous setbacks, his courage and tenacity eventually brought him to the highest court in the land. And now, we’re celebrating a victory for Coach and a victory for religious freedom.

Looking back on Coach Kennedy’s journey, it’s clear the many adversities he faced in life—from his tough childhood to his military service—prepared him to take a stand for his constitutional rights, as well as for the rights of all Americans.

We applaud and commemorate Coach Kennedy for his heroic perseverance, both on the frontlines of war and on the legal battlefield. Time after time, this Marine-turned-football-coach has led by example, showing us that we must never back down in our commitment to God and country.



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THE COMEBACK COACH

Coach Kennedy’s Supreme Court Victory Helps Protect Millions of Americans



I can’t wait to get back to the field... Win or lose, when the whistle blows and everyone shakes hands, you’ll find me at the 50-yard line on a knee in private prayer.

Joe Kennedy
High School Football Coach



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WE FIGHT FOR THEM

First in the Fight for America's Everyday Heroes



First Liberty fights on behalf of Americans from all walks of life, diverse backgrounds and beliefs. We represent the ones who boldly stand for faith and freedom, even when it comes at a heavy personal cost. We defend them because a victory for one is a victory that preserves religious freedom for all Americans.

WHO ARE OUR CLIENTS?

They're America's everyday heroes. They're courageous people of faith like:

GAIL BLAIR

An elderly blind woman who wanted to share her faith. Local officials banned her from the public park and threatened her with arrest for handing out a small tract of the Gospel of John to those who wanted one. First Liberty stepped in to stop this blatant discrimination, and she can now indefinitely walk by faith and not by sight. Gail's victory means that no American—least of all a gentle, blind woman—should be banned or censored for simply carrying on a conversation about faith in a public park.

JARVIS BAKER

Pastor of Canaan Baptist Church. City officials attempted to seize his small church's property through eminent domain. The reason? The city wanted to build a fire station—when a fire station already existed right across the street. First Liberty stepped in to stop this assault resulting in the city announcing it would not strip away the church's property. This means Pastor Jarvis Baker and his congregation are free to continue worshipping and using the property to serve their community.

RABBI RICH

Who leads Congregation Toras Chaim, a small Jewish congregation that endured a five-year legal battle with city officials over alleged violations of parking regulations...even though members of the congregation do not drive on the Sabbath. First Liberty reached a settlement to secure a victory and stop the city's harassment.

DANIELA BARCA

A 14-year-old high school freshman who wanted to form a club with other students who shared her Christian faith, but school officials refused to approve her club simply because it was religious. After First Liberty's intervention, school officials reversed their position, allowing Daniela's club to meet and give students an opportunity to encourage one another.

PAUL MALCOLMSON

Pastor of Light of the World Gospel Ministries. Pastor Paul is a former Northern Ireland police officer who traveled across the Atlantic Ocean to serve a village with a population of about 800. We represented the church in a lawsuit against local officials over denials of building and use permits. First Liberty reached a favorable settlement that will allow the church to build a multi-use facility for worship, ministry and commercial space to serve all village residents.

LACEY SMITH

A dedicated flight attendant. Alaska Airlines fired her for expressing her religious beliefs. First Liberty filed suit in federal district court against the airline, arguing that it violated federal civil rights law that prohibits religious discrimination. A win for Lacey could help ensure that religious Americans are not forced to choose between their faith and their livelihood.

DR. ERIC WALSH

A public health expert who served on President Obama's Presidential Advisory Council. Dr. Walsh, a lay minister at his church, was fired from his position as a health director because he preached about traditional marriage in a sermon. We secured a victory for him, a key step to help ensure that no American should be fired for living out their faith.

U.S. NAVY CHAPLAIN WES MODDER

Former chaplain for Navy SEAL Team Six. He nearly lost his job, pension and retirement benefits. Why? He answered questions about his church's teaching on marriage in a private counseling session. First Liberty intervened, and Chaplain Modder was exonerated.

First Liberty Institute launched Supreme Coup, a comprehensive, multi-faceted digital campaign to educate millions of Americans on court-packing.

Supreme Coup is the first and only national campaign designed specifically to inform Americans regarding court reform. **No other nonprofit organization in the country besides First Liberty Institute engaged in such a concerted and deliberate effort.**

In this major educational initiative, First Liberty created multiple resources and content about the history of court-packing in the United States, as well as in other countries. Combined with the expertise of our legal experts and attorneys, we commissioned a group of renown scholars who researched and published a robust white paper. This was a key informational component that we distributed to thousands of Americans.

We combined this quality resource with articles and op-eds published on a regular basis. This was to ensure as many people as possible could consistently be given the information and history of court-packing, as well as the reasons why this proposal is a threat to our nation. From President Franklin Roosevelt's failed attempt to pack the Supreme Court in the 1930s to modern day, our experts discussed at length how court-packing leads to the destruction of civil rights and freedoms, including religious liberty. We amplified our message and explained the dangerous consequences of court-packing, such as how it would end the legitimacy of the U.S. Supreme Court, destroy our Constitution's founding principle of separation of powers, politicize the courts and erode all public confidence in future court rulings.

Through Supreme Coup, First Liberty built and activated a grassroots coalition of diverse allies across the country. We garnered the support of national leaders and organizations, including:

- Edwin Meese, Former U.S. Attorney General
- Franklin Graham, President and CEO of Samaritan's Purse & the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association
- James Dobson
- Tony Perkins, President of Family Research Council
- David and Tim Barton of WallBuilders
- Star Parker, President of the Center for Urban Renewal and Education
- The Heritage Foundation
- American Family Association
- Promise Keepers
- Family Policy Alliance
- Americans United for Life

In addition to key organizations and partners, First Liberty secured the support of more than **500,000 Americans through a digital petition.** That's more than half a million patriots made their voices heard in opposition to court-packing and stepped up to defend the priceless heritage of America's judicial system.

Supreme Coup is one of First Liberty's most successful and engaging campaigns. Close to **4,000,000 people have visited the Supreme Coup microsite since its launch.**

Supreme Coup was also recognized with **two awards** for its exceptional quality:



**2022 Internet Advertising Competition:
Best Nonprofit Integrated Ad Campaign**



**2022 APEX Award of Excellence:
Campaign, Programs & Plans - Public Service**

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SAVING THE PRICELESS HERITAGE OF THE U.S. SUPREME COURT

Supreme Court Coup:
Educating Millions of Americans on Court-Packing



[LEARN MORE]



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NATIONAL LEADERS Summit

Advancing Religious Liberty into America's Future



In July 2022, First Liberty spearheaded and hosted the National Leaders Summit, a national conference solely focused on religious freedom and the first event of its kind in our organization's history. The purpose of this annual event is to bring together a dynamic group of leaders who will cast a vision and pave the path to save religious freedom for all Americans.

This year's summit featured an elite lineup of speakers—some of the most powerful and influential voices defending religious liberty:



DR. BEN CARSON
RENOWNED NEUROSURGEON
FORMER U.S. SECRETARY OF HOUSING
& URBAN DEVELOPMENT



DENNIS PRAGER
CONSERVATIVE TALK SHOW HOST
PRAGERU, CO-FOUNDER



CARDINAL TIMOTHY DOLAN
ARCHBISHOP OF NEW YORK



ARCHBISHOP SALVATORE CORDILEONE
ARCHBISHOP OF SAN FRANCISCO

In addition to keynote addresses, the National Leaders Summit also featured several interactive panels. Panels featured a diverse coalition of speakers, ranging from premier constitutional scholars, legal practitioners, federal judges, high-ranking military officials, cultural thought leaders, renown pastors and national faith leaders and business leaders. Our first-rate class of panelists included:



KAYLEIGH MCENANY
FORMER WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
CO-HOST OF OUTNUMBERED ON FOX NEWS



ILYA SHAPIRO
SENIOR FELLOW & DIRECTOR OF
CONSTITUTIONAL STUDIES,
MANHATTAN INSTITUTE



PAUL CLEMENT
PARTNER AT CLEMENT & MURPHY, PLLC AND
FORMER U.S. SOLICITOR GENERAL



DOUG COLLINS
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, GEORGIA

*This year's National Leaders Summit was one of the most critical endeavors and successes in First Liberty's history. In this inaugural year, the event featured more than **150 national leaders**, who facilitated a fruitful exchange of ideas. The summit brought to fruition a vision to create a gathering unlike any other in the country, one that exclusively focuses on bringing together the top minds and creating a plan to advance the future of religious freedom in America.*

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STEWARDING OUR BLESSINGS

The past couple of years have been an incredible period of growth for First Liberty Institute.

People from across America increasingly realize the importance of religious liberty to our country. And they are more motivated than ever before to join forces with our organization in this critical effort.

Thanks to the generosity of thousands of Americans, First Liberty now reaches millions of people with our message and directly assists countless others who face attacks because of their faith. The opportunities in 2021 and thus far in 2022 to expand our outreach and our informational campaigns could not happen without the faithful support of so many patriotic Americans who cherish the Constitution and want to see our freedoms protected. Consequently, the financial state of First Liberty Institute is very sound.

Our fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, showed a marked increase from the previous year in the scope and scale of our legal and educational efforts. Due to unprecedented governmental and corporate overreach into the religious lives of our citizens, we have experienced a record number of requests for legal assistance. Because of this burgeoning demand for help, we hired six additional world-class attorneys, and attendant support staff, to litigate the flood of new religious liberty cases; a few of these legal matters may well be headed to the United States Supreme Court for resolution in the coming years. As you see from the data on the next page, for our fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, we continued to show record increases in financial

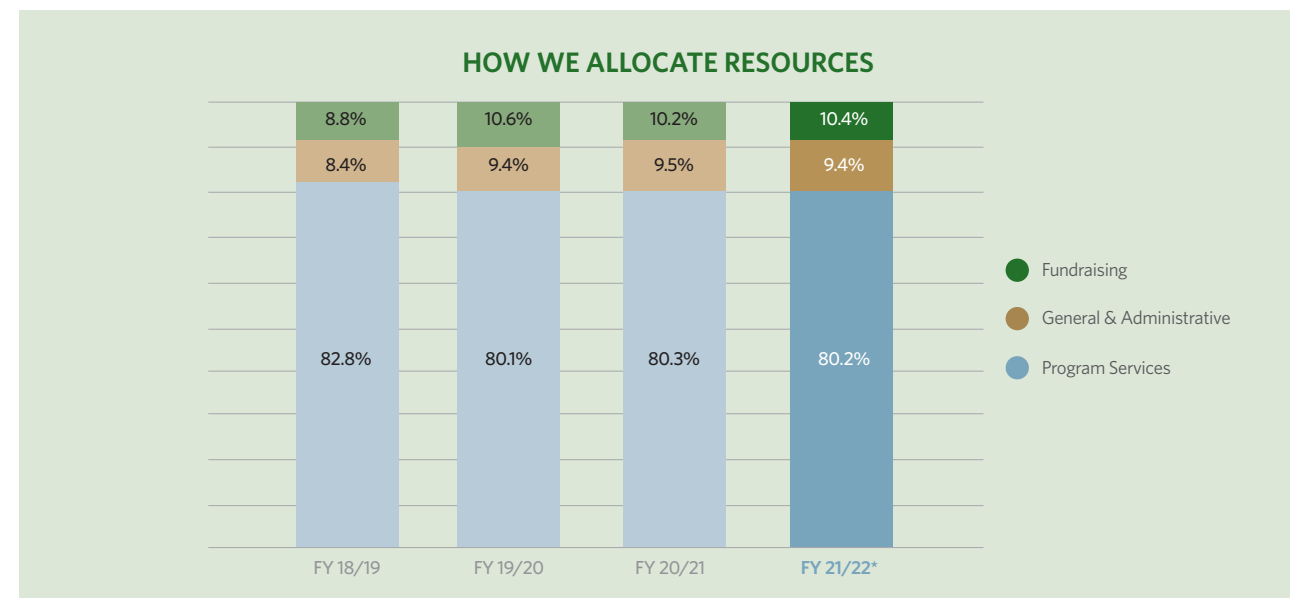
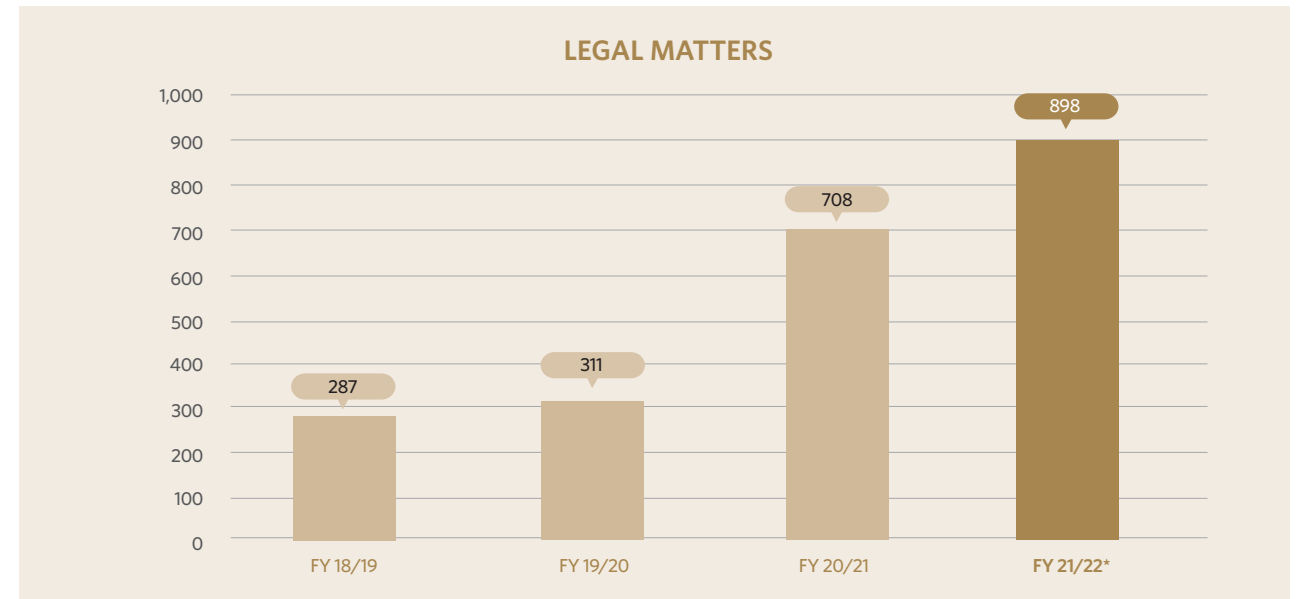
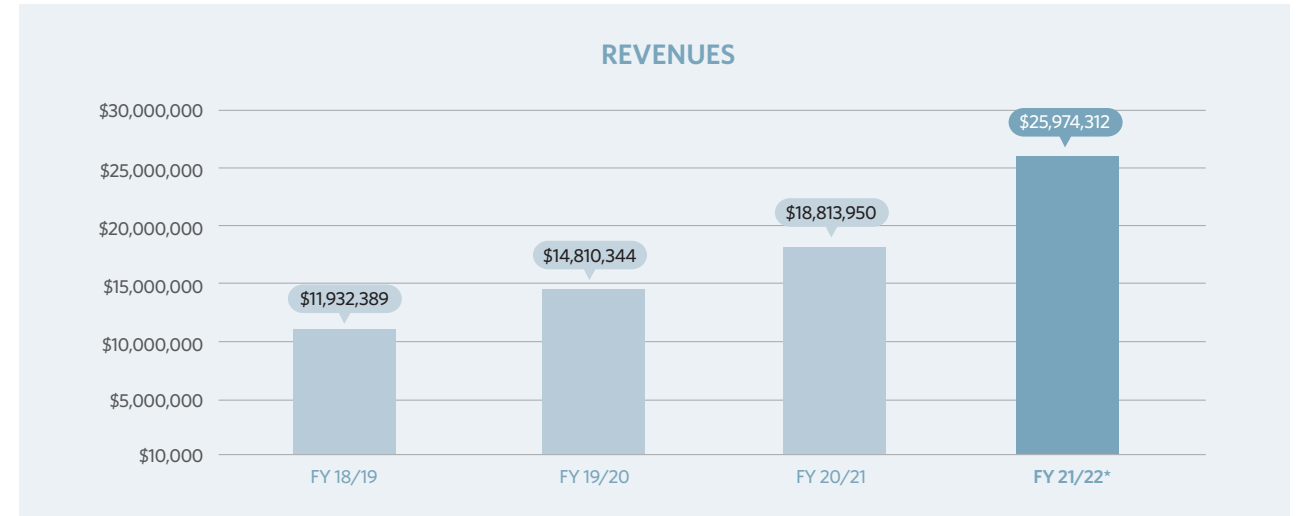
support and the demand for our services. Careful and proper financial stewardship of our resources is an integral part of our overall business strategy. Ours is a human capital-intensive enterprise, and we hire the very best people we can afford. Therefore, we strive to maintain an appropriate balance between our programmatic elements and necessary administrative and fundraising efforts. In FY2021 for example, we had a record year financially and in our legal and educational impact. In fact, 80% of our FY2021 expense budget supported our legal and educational programmatic elements. In that year, and so far this year, our balance sheet expanded nicely, and our overall sustainability posture continues to increase. I believe both will be even higher for FY2022 once our independent auditors issue their report for that year.

I'm excited about what the future holds for First Liberty. Our legal cases are shaping the law, and our educational and informative materials are before millions of our fellow citizens. Yet, there are so many more opportunities that are presenting themselves; initiatives that we thought would have been impossible in years past. This coming year, we expect to launch several new innovative programs that promise to expand our reach even further and fight the good fight to preserve our religious heritage. Stay tuned! And again, I want to thank you for your gracious support.

Gratefully,




David K. Holmes
Executive Vice President
& Chief Operating & Financial Officer



*The financial information included in this presentation is preliminary, unaudited and subject to revision upon completion of the organization's reconciliation and audit processes.



JOIN THE FIGHT.

Protecting and restoring religious liberty is the most important battle of our lifetime.

Want to be a part of this historic and growing movement?

Here's how you can join First Liberty's growing army:



GIVE TODAY

Supporting First Liberty with a gift helps us stay on the frontlines of the battle, defending religious Americans across the country free of charge.



FLI Insider

BECOME AN FLI INSIDER

Subscribe to our weekly e-newsletter that's sent straight to your inbox, complete with news, analysis and encouraging stories of the everyday American heroes we defend.



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