

WE PROTECT AMERICA'S FOUNDING PRINCIPLES

First Liberty Institute is the nation's largest nonprofit law firm exclusively dedicated to defending religious liberty in America. Our nation was founded on the belief that there's a power higher than government, which is why the right to freely exercise your faith is the first right protected in the Bill of Rights. If the government decides that our rights come from government instead of from God, then freedom of religion would vanish—and our other rights would fall like dominoes. By defending religious liberty, we're fighting for what matters most.

WE WIN CASES THAT CHANGE AMERICA

We've defended thousands of clients and overturned harmful legal precedents that restricted people of faith for decades. Our win rate is over 90%. And our record at the Supreme Court is nine wins and zero losses. Our wins have created a huge opportunity to change America and provide more freedom than we've experienced in generations.

WE'RE SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPAND YOUR FREEDOMS

Thanks to our precedential wins, we have the opportunity to shape the future of religious liberty for decades to come. But despite our wins in the courts, there are powerful opponents who aren't giving up. They keep attacking religious freedom from all sides; against houses of worship, schools, within the military, and throughout the marketplace, and public arena. We're fighting back in all those areas to protect the free exercise of your faith.

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MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT, CEO & CHIEF COUNSEL

Unprecedented.

That's the only way to describe 2025.

With God's grace and the faithful support of thousands of Americans, First Liberty reached heights that we thought wouldn't happen in our lifetime.

This year marked an inflection point. I was honored to be given a once-in-a-generation opportunity to serve on President Trump's Religious Liberty Commission, the first of its kind in American history. First Liberty is the only nonprofit legal organization represented on that federal commission.

In anticipation of America's 250th anniversary, we spearheaded a massive initiative to celebrate, educate, and restore religious liberty as the beating heart of our national identity.

First Liberty partnered with the White House for its America Prays project, and with the U.S. Department of Education to launch the America 250 Civics Education Coalition, with a mission to promote a shared understanding of the history, values, and ideals that make America exceptional.

What an extraordinary honor to work alongside top leaders in writing the next chapter for religious freedom in America!

When First Liberty was established just over 25 years ago, we dreamt of an opportunity to argue a single U.S. Supreme Court case. And when First Liberty expanded to a national firm in 2012, we thought that winning one Supreme Court case would make a lasting impact in our country.

Fast forward to 2025, and we've had a total of nine wins and zero losses at the Supreme Court! The victories we secured in just the last five years have set precedents that created a ripple effect unlike anything we've seen in 50 years.

The Supreme Court heard our 10th case in 2025,

providing another opportunity to protect the civil rights of all Americans for decades to come. This year also brought record growth across our organization. We had our biggest financial year to date, with thousands of supporters becoming more invested and committed to our mission.

This gave us increased capacity to take on more cases and litigate more effectively at the highest level. In addition to our impact at the Supreme Court, we won numerous federal appellate court cases that also set major precedent.

We also launched multiple, national-level initiatives and strategic campaigns aimed at educating and activating citizens, impacting the culture, assisting legislators, and providing the U.S. Senate with analysis on hundreds of judicial nominees using our proprietary, Al-powered judicial database - the largest and only one of its kind in the nation.

Even with unprecedented achievements and success, the fight for religious freedom is far from over. Every advancement is being met with opposition, and the attacks on our First Freedom aren't stopping anytime soon.

We're winning. But we're not done yet. We're in the midst of a historic reawakening of religious liberty. And it's up to us to be faithful and continue fighting for the freedom that started it all in our country: religious freedom.

For liberty,

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Kelly Shackelford, Esq. *President, CEO & Chief Counsel*





THE GREATEST OPPORTUNITY IN OUR LIFETIME

As our intrepid leader Kelly Shackelford often reminds our team, First Liberty finds itself amid an unprecedented time for the advancement of religious liberty.

Kelly's appointment to President Trump's Religious Liberty Commission offers us an historically unique opportunity to impact religious freedom in America for generations. We continue to win unparalleled court victories at every level of the judiciary furthering the religious liberty of all Americans, resulting in more religious freedom today than at any other time in our lives.

Our influence on judicial selection is increasing steadily as we employ innovative data research methods to help find the best judges who will protect religious freedom for decades to come. The impact of our trailblazing educational efforts is growing exponentially with outreaches to students, scholars, and religious leaders through First Liberty's Center for Religion, Culture & Democracy.

Our groundbreaking Restoring Faith in America and Religious Liberty in the States initiatives are impacting communities throughout the nation, bringing more religious freedom to all Americans. Internally, we are maintaining a culture of winning with humility and integrity while harnessing innovation to extend the resources that God continues to generously provide in increasing numbers.

This unprecedented time at First Liberty reminds me of the situation described by the Apostle Paul in the final chapter of his first letter to the church at Corinth. Paul explains that while he desires to visit the Corinthians, he feels compelled to remain in Ephesus "because a door of great opportunity stands wide open for me, but there are many opponents."

That's where we find ourselves today: "A wide door for effective work has opened" for us — the greatest opportunity in our lifetime — to advance religious liberty, to win in the courts and the culture. We must simply walk through that door and seize the opportunities that are being presented to us. But, as Paul reminded the Corinthians, we too recognize there are many opponents who seek to derail our efforts. These opponents exist at the highest levels of government, business, and society. They are well-funded and ruthless in opposing our efforts.

With God's grace and guidance, together we can stand against our opponents and take advantage of this great opportunity to advance religious liberty for us and future generations of all Americans.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Jeff Mateer, Esq.

Executive Vice President, Chief Operating & Legal Officer











LEGAL VICTORIES WITH UNPRECEDENTED **IMPACT**

This year, First Liberty scored incredible wins for our clients from coast to coast. We know that God opened each of these doors of opportunity, and we are blessed with a first-class legal team that worked hard to not only protect our clients but also to set precedent to protect your future.

We are thrilled to have another case at the U.S. Supreme Court this year. In December, we argued for Gabe Olivier, who was denied his day in court after police arrested him for sharing the Gospel with people on the sidewalks of Brandon, Mississippi.

Again this year, we won multiple cases at the federal courts of appeals that impact the lives of hundreds of thousands of Americans. In one case, Atlantic City, New Jersey denied a religious accommodation to Alex Smith, who wanted to wear a beard at work as part of his religious faith. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit not only ruled that Alex could continue to pursue his case of religious discrimination against the city but also ordered the trial court to grant him a religious accommodation.

We also worked fervently to protect the ability of churches across the nation to meet in and serve their communities. Churches in Ohio, Colorado, Arizona, and elsewhere were told by local leaders that they couldn't serve the poor with food ministries or provide shelter for people in the cold of winter. We won court victories and settlements that allow these ministries to continue their servant-hearted work.

It seems almost unbelievable that we had to engage in a battle like this, but we prevailed in a case that protects the right of the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention and all houses of worship to associate with people who share their beliefs.

Of course, we also continue to fight and win against woke corporations and rogue military commanders, and we prevailed in numerous battles against the former Biden administration.

Several of our clients and attorneys testified at President Trump's Religious Liberty Commission, including Shea Encinas, who was introduced by President Trump and told his story of being compelled by his school to violate his faith.

As we look ahead to 2026, we've asked the Supreme Court to take two more of our cases, and we expect several more as the year unfolds. Pray with us that God would open the right doors for us next year, as He has done this year, so that we can have another unprecedented year.

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David Hacker, Esq. Vice President of Legal Services & Senior Counsel

18% Increase

TOTAL LEGAL MATTERS

21% Increase

COURT-FILED CASES

5 More Than 2024

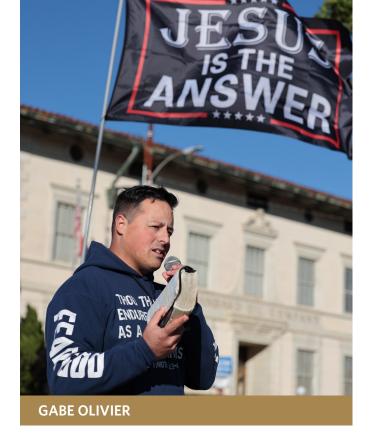
U.S. SUPREME **COURT CASES FILED** 14% Increase

FEDERAL APPEALS & DISTRICT COURT **CASES**

12% Increase

STATE APPELLATE & TRIAL COURTS CASES 14 More Than 2024

TOTAL AMICUS BRIEFS FILED



EVANGELIST'S CASE GOES TO THE U.S. SUPREME COURT

On December 3, the U.S. Supreme Court heard our case involving Mississippi evangelist Gabriel Olivier.

Gabe's legal battle began when the City of Brandon, Mississippi—under a local ordinance—arrested him for sharing his faith in a public park. He paid a fine. Then he sued, claiming the city violated his constitutional rights by enforcing the ordinance.

But the court dismissed the case under a confusing legal precedent. It stopped Gabe from having the opportunity to have his day in court.

The specific question before the Supreme Court is whether he can bring that challenge. It affects Americans' right to plead their cases in court when their liberties are violated. And that includes their religious freedom.

Gabe is also fighting for something more. At its core, this is about protecting a sacred right in the Constitution: talking about your faith in public.

Gabe's journey to the nation's high court wasn't easy. For years, he faced ridicule, harassment, and

discrimination for sharing his faith with others and for standing up for his constitutional rights.

Despite much adversity, Gabe continued to show courage. He stayed the course. But why remain faithful through this difficult and long legal battle?

Because for Gabe, this is very personal. It's about protecting the very freedoms and legal rights that completely changed his life.

Gabe is a preacher at a church and an evangelist who's been serving for the past decade. Sharing his faith, however, is not limited to just a message on Sunday or hosting Bible studies with the congregation. His desire to reach others with the message of salvation is woven into every aspect of his life, and he feels a profound conviction to share his faith in public.

Gabe actually became a Christian thanks to conversation with a street preacher—and it might not have happened if there had been no protections for religious expression in public.

Because of that exchange, Gabe feels called to extend that same message of hope to others. For him, being an evangelist is his divinely-inspired calling.

Gabe's story is one of bravery, perseverance, and faithfulness. It takes valor to forge a path of freedom so that your children, grandchildren, and generations to come won't have to face the same adversity.

"I've been able to benefit from other people and other cases that established my rights and freedoms," Gabe says. "And I want to be able to do that for those coming after me."

Gabe's case is a historic opportunity to replace more than 30 years of bad precedent with a new precedent that could bolster the civil rights and religious freedom of all Americans, ensuring every person in our country has strong legal protections when sharing their beliefs in the public square.

And it all goes back to the resilience of an everyday American hero, a man whose passion for sharing God's Word inspired him to live out what Scripture says in Isaiah: "Here I am, send me."

Armed with courage, Gabe fights so that those who may have been wrongfully accused can get their day in court. He fights so that 50 years from now, there is no question that your rights will be protected.







REAL PEOPLE. REAL STAKES. FOREVER IMPACT.

From local school boards to state courts, we're securing victories in communities that impact the lives of everyday Americans. Because of what we do, people of all faiths can live freely.



Company Can Make Religious Dog Tags for Service Members

Securing a major victory for Shields of Strength is redemption for a Christian company that was told it couldn't make replica dog tags with Bible verses. After years of fighting in federal court, we reached a settlement that allows Sheilds of Strength to once again manufacture the popular dog tags that bring inspiration to thousands of troops.

First Responder Receives Workplace Accommodation

Winning in federal appeals court for Alex Smith, a first responder, pastor, and chaplain means that Alex has a right to receive a religious accommodation at work to wear a short beard. The ruling upheld religious freedom in the workplace and also created an important precedent protecting all religious employees.





Nurse Practitioner Settles Religious Discrimination Lawsuit

Reaching a settlement with CVS Health Corporation and MinuteClinic in a federal court case means Gunna Kristofersdottir, a nurse practitioner in Florida was granted her religious accommodation from prescribing contraceptive drugs. After more than a year of litigation, the resolution means the start of a new chapter in life for Gunna.



Achieving a favorable agreement with the City of Castle Rock means The Rock Church is free to help people in need. The church uses two RVs to give people a temporary place to stay while they get back on their feet. The church can continue using its building and property to provide emergency shelter.





Churches Free to Endorse Political Candidates

First Liberty successfully defended two churches, Grace Church St. Louis and New Way Church, after the IRS announced investigations into alleged political involvement. Following First Liberty's demand letters, the IRS announced that churches and religious organizations can endorse political candidates and still maintain their tax-exempt status. The IRS closed the investigations in both cases.



Appeals Court Affirms Churches' Right to Choose Their Leaders

A federal appeals court ruled in favor of the North American Mission Board, affirming that churches—not government—are the ones who choose their leaders. This was a broad win for houses of worship across America, strengthening church independence and reaffirming that government may not interfere in the internal affairs of religious groups.

New Jersey Churches Receive Can Renovate Historic Buildings

A win for Mendham Methodist Church and Zion Lutheran Church Long Valley allowed it to receive public funds and renovate the historic architecture of their buildings. A federal district ruled that houses of worship cannot be excluded from public funding programs, like preservation grants, simply because of their religious character.



Chaplains Free to Preach Without Censorship

The VA tried to edit the content of Chaplain Rusty Trubey's sermons, and threatened to punish him for preaching from Romans. After First Liberty stepped in, VA Secretary Doug Collins rescinded an unconstitutional speech code, ensuring that all chaplains have the freedom to preach according to their conscience and without censorship.

Students Sing Religious Songs at School Talent Show

With First Liberty's help, two students in Michigan were able to sing songs by Christian artists Brandon Lake and Colton Dixon for their school talent show. The school wouldn't allow them to perform the songs. We stepped in, and the school reversed its decision.





California Mom Invited to Pray at City Council Meeting

Tarin Swain is a devout Christian mom who wanted to pray during a city council meeting for her children and local schools. But the Mayor of Ventura interrupted that prayer and ordered her to stop. After First Liberty got involved, the city changed course and invited Tarin to offer her prayer at a future meeting.

2025 First Liberty Annual Report



MARISOL CASTRO

COURAGE. BRAVERY. CONVICTION.

In the fight for religious freedom, not every hero wears a cape. Behind each First Liberty case and every lawsuit, there is a person of faith who felt a conviction to say, "I will take a stand." They're the everyday American heroes who are clothed with courage and are fighting for what matters most.

Courage. Bravery. Conviction. These define the story of Marisol Arroyo-Castro, a Connecticut schoolteacher whose 30-year career is on the verge of being destroyed. Why? Because she displayed a small crucifix at her schoolroom desk.

Our landmark U.S. Supreme Court victory for Coach Joe Kennedy made it clear that teachers, coaches, and public-school employees have a right to express their faith at school. That certainly includes Marisol's right to hang a small cross—a silent source of strength and encouragement.

But the New Britain School District opted to punish Marisol. They ordered her to remove the crucifix. After many tears and prayers, Ms. Castro felt that taking it down would be in violation of her religious beliefs. So, she put it back on the wall, where she'd kept it for many years.

Instead of respecting her religious beliefs and her constitutional rights, school district officials called her into their office, put her crucifix in a box, and escorted her out of the building.

"They walked me out of the school like I'm a criminal," says Marisol.

After three decades of service, she was taken away from the place where God had called her to be: the classroom. They suspended Ms. Castro, threatened to fire her, and reassigned her to a non-teaching role.

For Ms. Castro, being a teacher is more than a job. It's a calling. She's passionate, dedicated, and highly qualified. She earned a master's degree in education with a minor in child psychology and has mentored student teachers for years.

Does it make any sense to punish a qualified teacher simply because of her faith? Certainly not. Especially when the Supreme Court has said it's legal and constitutional for teachers to live out their faith.

In a world that often rewards silence and punishes conviction, Marisol's bravery stands out. She says that she's not going to be bullied into putting her faith in a box.

"I'm not going to take it down," she said. "And I'm not going to give in."

Ms. Castro isn't backing down. And neither is First Liberty. We're fighting with Marisol in federal court to hold the school district accountable for its unconstitutional and illegal actions.

Our nation's laws are clear. Marisol—and every teacher in America—has a right to engage in personal expressions of their faith, even where students can see, without threat of being fired.



SHEA & JENNY ENCINAS

FIGHTING FOR PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN

School districts across America have increasingly tried to force radical transgender ideology into their curricula. Many parents are being kept in the dark about transgender materials or being told they can't opt their kids out. Make no mistake. This is among the most important legal and cultural battles happening in our nation today.

A federal district court ruled that the Encinitas Union School District in California must provide notice and opt-outs to parents and students from materials that promote radical gender ideology in mentoring programs.

First Liberty represents two families whose sons were forced to affirm "My Shadow is Pink," a book about a boy who sees his "innermost you" as the color pink and decides to wear a dress to school. In the book, the character's father himself decides to change his beliefs, wears a dress, and says, "your shadow is you

and pink it will be, so stand up with your shadow and vell. THIS IS ME!"

The school also forced the fifth graders to teach the concept of gender transition to kindergarteners in a buddy-mentorship program by asking them to choose what color "represents" them, and then tracing their shadows in that color of chalk.

Parents had no idea about the activity before it happened. The parents asked the school for future notice and the opportunity to opt their children out. But the school district denied their requests.

In May, a federal district court in California granted a crucial victory for religious freedom and parental rights. The district court held that "compelling individuals to mouth support for views they find objectionable violates the First Amendment." That ruling ensures that children in the Encinitas Union School District won't be forced to read or affirm materials in violation of their faith in mentoring programs.

The legal battle, however, is far from over. There's still a lot of work ahead to secure a complete victory that gives students and families more robust religious liberty protections.

A win in this case wouldn't just reaffirm that parents have a right to opt-out; a win would, also ensure children themselves can say "No!" and never be forced to teach topics that go against their deeply-held beliefs.

At its core, this case is about making sure that families can protect the hearts, minds, and souls of kids from radical ideologies that cause great harm.

And it wouldn't just impact our clients or families in California. It would affect millions of parents, students, and religious families across America.



RON DESANTIS FLORIDA GOVERNOR

FIRST LIBERTY HAS THE SECRET SAUCE

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said First Liberty keeps winning at the Supreme Court because:

"You guys have found the secret sauce."

Religious liberty is all we do. And when you only do one thing, you get better and better. For nearly 30 years, we've been perfecting the recipe to defend religious liberty at the Supreme Court, in the lower courts, and throughout the culture. It has a pinch of this and that, but there are seven main ingredients:

1. GOD'S FAVOR

People see our wins in the headlines, but they don't see how much time we - and our faithful supporters - spend praying about our cases. We ask for God's favor to protect the God-given rights of our clients. Every victory is for God's glory, not our own. If we were to stop praying, or stop giving God the glory, or stop focusing on religious freedom, we would stop winning.

2. WE STAY TRUE TO OUR CORE VALUES

Every First Liberty employee can tell you our core values, because we talk about them, walk them out, and live by them: Winning, Humility, Integrity, Innovation. These values are at the core of everything we do. We love to win, and we work hard to keep winning, but we stay humble by giving God the glory since we're just tools in His hand. We maintain integrity because we answer to God, not just our board of directors. And by staying innovative, we find more ways to keep winning. It's a positive cycle that keeps us going in the right direction.

3. WE HAVE FIVE PRACTICE GROUPS THAT FOCUS ON SPECIFIC AREAS OF LAW

There are religious liberty laws and precedents specifically regarding education, the military, the workplace, the public arena, plus houses of worship, and faith-based institutions. We have attorneys who focus in each area, so they know the laws inside and out.

4. OUR VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY MODEL

We work alongside attorneys from the top firms in America. They volunteer thousands of hours to help on religious freedom cases because that's their passion. They bring their extensive legal expertise to serve our clients at no cost, extending our resources and making our budgets go much further.

5. WE KNOW HOW MUCH THE LAWS HAVE CHANGED—BECAUSE WE'RE THE ONES CHANGING THEM

When an attorney doesn't stay on top of the laws regarding religious liberty, they tend to think that old precedents are still in effect. Those obsolete rulings are still in the dusty lawbooks on most office shelves. But our recent victories at the Supreme Court have overturned harmful precedents! We'll keep targeting other bad precedents in cases moving forward.

6. WE EXTEND OUR WINNING EFFORTS BEYOND THE COURTROOM

We have established initiatives that are shaping the culture and court of public opinion. First Liberty's Center for Religion, Culture & Democracy trains the next generation of thought leaders. Our Judicial Legacy Project identifies the best judges for the best rulings. Restoring Faith in America educates and empowers people of faith to become "FaithBlazers" in their own community. First Liberty Live! shares insights from our attorneys and other legal experts. And our F3 initiative engages young professionals to ensure our future is vibrant.

7. WE'RE FIGHTING FOR WHAT MATTERS MOST

Religious freedom is listed first in the Bill of Rights. Why? Because it's the right that matters most. It's the right that protects all the others! If the government decides there's no power higher than itself, the other rights start falling like dominoes.

God gave us the skills we have for a reason, and we're putting them to the highest and best use. For every person who works at First Liberty, this is not just a job—it's a calling.







A DEFINING MOMENT IN OUR HISTORY

In 2025, First Liberty reached a history-defining milestone with the appointment of Kelly Shackelford to the Presidential Religious Liberty Commission.

During a White House ceremony celebrating the National Day of Prayer, President Donald Trump signed an executive order creating the Commission, the first of its kind in American history.

Represented by Kelly, First Liberty is the only religious liberty organization on the Commission. With more than three decades of legal expertise and one of the nation's foremost authorities on religious liberty, Kelly delivers real-world constitutional insight and strategic guidance.

"I am incredibly honored to be selected to join such a prestigious group of leaders on the Commission in President Trump's effort to protect religious liberty in our nation," Kelly said. "Administrations come and go, but opportunities like this come around once in a generation."

Chaired by Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, with Dr. Ben Carson serving as vice chair, the Commission includes pastors, legal scholars, public officials, and faith leaders. The Commission is tasked with assessing the current state of religious freedom and offering recommendations to preserve and strengthen it for future generations.

In commemoration of America's 250th birthday, the Commission will submit a comprehensive report to the President by July 4, 2026. That report will detail the current state of religious liberty and offer policy recommendations and actionable strategies to reaffirm and protect religious freedom as the cornerstone of American life.

With a 30-year legacy of advancing religious liberty for all Americans, First Liberty is contributing institutional support and strategic counsel throughout the Commission's work.

Committed to constitutional originalism and

backed by landmark legal victories - including nine wins at the U.S. Supreme Court - First Liberty brings a uniquely-qualified perspective. That perspective will be invaluable in shaping the Commission's final report with real-world insights, tested legal strategies, and a principled defense of our founding freedoms.

Through multiple public hearings, the Commission is compiling information and testimony from people of faith facing attacks on their constitutional rights. This is an opportunity to document the legal battles and stories of First Liberty clients, as well as many other Americans facing religious discrimination.

The timing of the Commission is no coincidence. It marks an unprecedented step toward reaffirming one of our nation's most sacred and foundational rights: the freedom to live out our faith. It sends a powerful reminder that America's most enduring freedoms - especially the freedom to believe - are not granted by the government. They come from God, in whom we trust.

"My goal on the Commission is not just to recommend changes that will last for one President, but changes that will be long-lasting, even permanent, in protecting and advancing religious freedom for all Americans," Kelly added.

As the nation looks toward its 250th birthday, the stage is set not only for a celebration, but for a renewed commitment to the values that made her great in the first place. The Commission could define religious freedom in America for the next 50 years—and possibly beyond.







STORIES OF COURAGE

How has First Liberty provided key strategic support to the Religious Liberty Commission?

Our team played a major role in directing and setting the agenda for all three hearings held in 2025. Attorneys Jeremy Dys and Keisha Russell testified as expert witnesses, providing perspective and insight into the legal challenges facing religious liberty in schools and education.

Many of our clients also testified. Each had an opportunity to share their story, their legal battles, and how they were impacted by religious discrimination and attacks on their constitutional rights. This year alone, the Commission heard from:



COACH JOE KENNEDY

His victory at the U.S. Supreme Court set a historic precedent protecting religious expression for public employees. He was fired for praying on the 50-yard line and shared how this legal battle took a toll on his family—all because he exercised the very rights he fought for as a U.S. Marine.



MARISOL ARROYO-CASTRO

After more than 30 years of exemplary service, the school district is threatening to fire Marisol because she didn't remove a small crucifix from her workspace. She testified about the discrimination she's facing, and how school officials refuse to allow her back into the classroom.



SHEA ENCINAS

As a fifth-grader, he was forced to participate in an activity with his kindergarten buddy involving the book, *My Shadow is Pink*, conflicting with his and his family's religious beliefs.



JENNY ENCINAS

Jenny told of her experience of being denied an opt-out and harassed because of her faith after her son, Shea, was forced to participate in that gender ideology activity.



HANNAH ALLEN

As a middle school student in Honey Grove, Texas, she was told that she and her friends could not pray in the lunchroom and would have to "move behind a curtain or meet alone outside."



VALERIE CLEVERINGA

She described how she and her brother were told they couldn't perform Christian songs at the elementary school talent show last year because the songs were "too religious."

Our clients' testimonies made a huge impact. Commissioners and key national leaders — including President Donald Trump, U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi, and HUD Sec. Scott Turner — were able to hear about First Liberty's cases, legal victories and the courage shown by our clients to stand up for their rights.





FAITH & FREEDOM. 250 YEARS STRONG.



To celebrate America's 250-year anniversary, we launched an exciting new campaign.

Called "Faith & Freedom. 250 Years Strong," our patriotic messaging appears on social media, news outlets, selected podcasts, and even on merch like caps and shirts. To explain First Liberty's key role in defending 250 years of religious liberty, the campaign reaches our target audience with three main components: "Educate. Commemorate. Celebrate."

The various touchpoints explain why the work we do at First Liberty is so essential to ensuring America's foundational values are protected in the future.

Our Founding Fathers launched a country on bold new ideas. Instead of a king, there are three branches of government. Instead of being told what to believe, there is religious freedom.

America's 250th birthday is definitely a time to celebrate. It's a time to look back and to look ahead. The same freedoms that made America strong will also keep us strong.

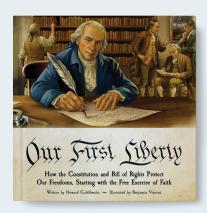


The right to freely and publicly express your faith is the right that protects all the others. Without it, our other rights could fall like dominoes.

Because religious liberty is the right that matters the most, it's also the right that gets attacked the most. If religious liberty isn't protected in the future, America as we know it may not have a future.

The best way to protect the future of religious liberty is by defending the past. First Liberty fights tirelessly to uphold the history and tradition of America's magnificent Constitution.

We should remember that America's founding documents were written not with a computer, but with a quill pen. And our Constitution has lasted longer than any other nation's on earth. The brilliant Founding Fathers understood that religious freedom gives a nation stability. America has survived not because our Founders wrote with a quill pen, but they penned the Declaration, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights, and the amendments with timeless wisdom.



To teach important milestones in American history, we've produced a third book in our popular series. Since every case handled by First Liberty hinges on the First Amendment, the newest book tells the story of how James Madison and his team wrote America's Constitution, and subsequently, the Bill of Rights.

It's called **Our First Liberty**: How the Constitution and Bill of Rights Protect Our Freedoms, Starting with the Free Exercise of Faith. It concludes by stressing how the right to publicly exercise your faith is the very first right protected in the Constitution. And because it's listed first, freedom of religion is "our first liberty."



FIRST LIBERTY PARTNERS WITH U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

First Liberty joined the U.S. Department of Education, the America First Policy Institute, and 40+ other organizations to launch the **America 250 Civics Education Coalition**.

This landmark initiative was launched on Constitution Day, a special day commemorating the document's signing on Sept. 17, 1787.

As America prepares for its 250th anniversary in July 2026, the Coalition will work to advance a shared understanding of the history, values, and ideals that make our country exceptional.

Guided by the motto "Know America. Love America," the Coalition's mission is to renew patriotism, strengthen civic literacy, and inspire Americans of all ages to cherish religious liberty and all our founding principles.

"The key to our country's future is citizens educated to know their freedoms," Kelly said. "Those who do not know their freedoms will have them taken away. Many have no idea that religious freedom is our 'First Freedom;' if you lose that, you will lose all of your freedoms."

"A country cannot survive if its values are forgotten by its people," U.S. Secretary of Education Linda McMahon said. "More than ever, we need to restore the vitality of the American spirit, and this coalition will take bold steps to educate, inspire, and mobilize youth toward active and informed citizenship."

The beauty of the American experience and its founding lie precisely in its foresight. The principles the Founders outlined are timeless and transcendent. That is why, 250 years later, these values continue to guide America to safety, liberty, and prosperity. It's why, despite our imperfections, America continues to be a beacon of hope—a country where people of all faiths and beliefs can peacefully live together.

That's what the Civics Coalition is all about. It's about celebrating America and making sure the freedoms that generations have fought and died for don't slip away.

With oversight from Sec. McMahon and the DoE, the Coalition will spearhead initiatives to engage students, educators, and communities nationwide.

The Coalition will unveil a robust programming agenda over the months leading up to Independence Day 2026, which is expected to include a Fundamental Liberties College Speaker Series, student competitions, teacher summits, a 50-state speaking tour on college campuses, and "The Trail to Independence Tour," a K-12-focused guide to how each state joined the nation.

Alongside a diverse group of organizations across the country, First Liberty is helping lead a movement that will ensure the next generation understands, loves, and carries forward America's founding principles with confidence and pride.





Indrea Justus

Andrea Justus

Restoring Faith in America Community Coordinator

RESTORING FAITH IN AMERICA

2025 has been an exciting year of firsts for the Restoring Faith in America initiative.

As you may know, Restoring Faith in America was started as a result of the numerous pivotal wins that our legal team has won at the Supreme Court. In Coach Kennedy's case, the overturning of the subjective "Lemon Test" opened the door for First Liberty to start helping people restore acknowledgement of faith in their communities.

The task of educating Americans on their rights to public expressions of faith in the public square is no small task, though. So in 2025, Restoring Faith in America focused on several key ways of informing, inspiring and motivating citizens to action.

We developed an annual education and challenge campaign that gives clear, practical ways that people can be living out their faith in the public square. We defined seven categories of action that can be taken by individuals and spread them out over the year. Through email and social media campaigns we ask citizens to sign up to become a "FaithBlazer" and report back with pictures and stories the impact they are having in their communities.

Since January, we have recruited over 500 FaithBlazers across the country. They are sharing stories of installing In God We Trust signs in their communities, participating in See You at the Pole events, and placing nativities and menorahs in the public square during the holidays. We also host quarterly action calls to bring together the FaithBlazers to share their stories, hear from our attorneys, and encourage one another.

A key to amplifying our message and spurring grassroots activists to action is creating strategic partnerships with key, like-minded organizations that have already built strong grassroots networks. In 2025, we partnered with organizations like Patriot Academy, Family Policy Alliance, Christians Engaged, Wallbuilders, Million Voices, Patriot Mobile the National Association of Christian Lawmakers, and others. These relationships have allowed us to have a much broader impact in a short amount of time and mobilize many more people to action than we ever could have done on our own.

In addition to our FaithBlazer challenges, we worked with our strategic partners to take action in states where there were already laws on the books or were being passed as it relates to putting up religious displays in the public square. Through those projects, we have been able to put up historical document displays in counties across the state of Georgia, over 2,000 National Motto posters in West Virginia, and Ten Commandments posters in over 6,000 schools in Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas.

We met and worked with many state legislators across the country to review bill language, testify in hearings, and encourage additional religious liberty legislation in future sessions. Our goal is to make sure conservative legislators across the country, who value and promote religious freedom, are supported through the process of getting bills passed that promote religious expressions of faith and our country's history and traditions. We also want them to know we will be there once their bills have passed to ensure they get implemented.

We are excited by how God has moved in such a short amount of time, and are eager to see the impact RFIA will have in 2026 as we continue to grow our efforts across the country.













A WINNING CULTURE

This year, First Liberty reached a historic milestone: 100 employees. What a testament to God's faithfulness and the far-reaching impact of our organization in all corners of the country!

First Liberty's story as the nation's largest religious liberty nonprofit law firm dates back almost 30 years. It all began with Kelly Shackelford, a lawyer whose passion for God and country led him to take a leap of faith. After praying and asking God to make his calling clear, Kelly started the religious liberty law firm that would become First Liberty with a divinely-inspired mission: win cases, protect the Constitution's promise of religious freedom, and change the future of our nation.

At our offices, our organizational core values are displayed for all to see. The first is "Winning." First Liberty's culture is driven by a desire to be successful and impactful. Of course, winning is only one part of what defines us. We also instill in every employee that winning has to be done with integrity and humility and through innovation.

At First Liberty, success isn't the result of a single person. It's not something that can be done alone. It's because of God's grace, above all. And it's also the result of the work, strength, perseverance,

commitment, support, and prayers of many people staff, intercessors, courageous clients, and faithful supporters.

They say, "teamwork makes the dream work." But we're not just any team. We bring together a remarkable group of people whose education, skills, experience, and personality make them the best at what they do.

We are all united in spirit and purpose. Every person from the front desk to the IT manager or the lawyer arguing before a federal judge—shares the same passion: to see religious liberty protected in law, respected and flourishing in America.

Because culture can make or break an organization, First Liberty's leadership greatly cares about fostering organizational culture. It's why we devote the first hour of every Monday to pray for one another, give each department time to highlight their work, and celebrate their victories.

Kelly often adjourns our staff meetings with a note of encouragement: "Everyone's free to go do great things." That simple phrase captures the heart of what makes First Liberty's team so special. Whatever our individual calling or vocation, everyone at First Liberty pursues excellence and gives their best to win.



DAVID HACKER RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS CIVIL RIGHTS AWARD FROM TEXAS BAR

First Liberty's Vice President of Legal Services and Senior Counsel David Hacker received the 2025 Patrick Wiseman Award for Civil Rights.

Presented by the Civil Liberties & Civil Rights Section of the State Bar of Texas, the award recognizes a Texas attorney for his or her outstanding contributions to the civil rights and liberties of the people of the Lone Star State.

Award recipients are chosen based on their expertise and contributions to civil rights and civil liberties law. They are also selected based on their reputation for professionalism and ethics within the legal community, authorship of scholarly works and presentations, significant participation in the State Bar of Texas, the Civil Liberties & Civil Rights Section, local bar associations, and other legal organizations.

"We congratulate David on this prestigious and welldeserved accomplishment," said Jeff Mateer, First Liberty's Executive Vice President, Chief Operating & Legal Officer.

"He exemplifies the highest level of excellence in the legal profession. Throughout his career, David has shown a steadfast commitment to protecting religious freedom and the civil rights of all Americans. First Liberty is honored to have him on our team."



KEISHA RUSSELL PUBLISHES BOOK, 'UNCOMMON COURAGE'

This year, First Liberty Senior Counsel Keisha Russell published *Uncommon Courage*, a must-read at a time when Americans, and people of faith in particular, are called to show courage and boldness. The book exposes the tactics of those who are undermining America's foundations and how everyone can walk in faith as we defend our most cherished freedoms.

With more than a decade of experience as an attorney and as a teacher, Keisha offers real-world insights to drive an informed discussion of today's most important issues including religion, race, abortion, education and beyond.

As America undergoes one of its most significant legal, cultural, and religious transformations in recent history, Uncommon Courage is a riveting and compelling literary achievement.

The book is an invaluable resource for understanding the past, discerning the present, and recognizing our place in the pursuit of truth.

It invites readers to view our nation and all her complexities and conundrums through a biblical worldview while invoking us into fighting for the freedoms and principles of our nation with courage, compassion, and conviction.



EXCELLENCE AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL

Whether it's arguing a case at the highest levels of the federal court system, serving in strategic and influential positions within the administration, or being appointed as a federal judge for life, members of our legal team are being called to serve and make an impact at the highest level.



Former Attorney Confirmed to Federal Judiciary

President Donald Trump nominated and the U.S. Senate confirmed former First Liberty attorney Jordan Pratt to the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida. The U.S. Senate confirmed Judge Pratt on October 28. Judge Pratt previously served as a judge on the Florida Fifth District Court of Appeals. He was appointed to that position in 2023 by Gov. Ron DeSantis. Pratt served as Senior Counsel at First Liberty from 2021 to 2023. Among many legal matters and cases, Pratt was at the forefront of our defense of His Tabernacle Family Church. Pratt also led the effort to defend our clients who've faced unlawful religious discrimination at work, such as Valerie Kloosterman.

Attorney Kayla Toney Argues and Wins Federal Appeals Court Case

First Liberty attorney Kayla Toney argued and won our case at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit on behalf of Alex Smith, a first responder, pastor, and chaplain in Atlantic City. Alex's faith and conscience require him to wear a short beard. Our team explained that the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in the landmark case *Groff v. DeJoy*, our Faithful Carrier case, requires employers to accommodate religious beliefs unless they can show a substantial increased cost to the business. The Court held that Alex prevailed on his Title VII claim under Groff, and his claim under the Free Exercise Clause.





Attorney Stephanie Taub Argues for Fired Flight Attendants

First Liberty attorney Stephanie Taub argued before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit on behalf of our clients, Lacey Smith and Marli Brown. Alaska Airlines wrongfully terminated the two former flight attendants for voicing their concerns about the "Equality Act" and its impact on women and people of faith. Last year, a federal district court handed down an alarming ruling that deprived our clients of their chance to prove their case before a jury. We appealed the lower court decision to ensure employees don't have to face discrimination based on their religious beliefs.



Danielle Runyan Appointed to Dept. of Veterans Affairs

Danielle Runyan, former First Liberty Senior Counsel and Chair of the Military and Public Arena Practice Groups, was appointed to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. As Acting General Counsel and now Principal Deputy General Counsel for the VA, Danielle plays a central role at the federal level, protecting the rights and freedoms of our nation's veterans. She is tasked with identifying and meeting the legal needs of the VA, ensuring the just and faithful execution of the laws, regulations, and policies that VA Secretary Doug Collins has responsibility for administering. While at First Liberty, Danielle was instrumental in securing a victory for our U.S. Navy SEAL clients.



Kassie Dulin, who served as First Liberty Counsel and Senior Director of External Affairs in our D.C. office, was appointed to the White House Faith Office. Kassie took on a new role as a policy advisor and will work alongside the Faith Office leadership team appointed by the President. She is responsible for implementing and fulfilling the Faith Office's mission to empower faith-based entities, community organizations, and houses of worship, and to strengthen American families and protect religious freedom. While at First Liberty, she developed, implemented, and led strategic initiatives and focused on appellate litigation, while playing a central role in several important cases.



Camille Varone Appointed to Dept. of Justice

Camille Varone was appointed to the U.S. Department of Justice. She served as First Liberty Associate Counsel protecting houses of worship. While at First Liberty, she testified before the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and was invited as a subject matter expert for a Public Briefing on The Federal Role in Enforcing Religious Freedoms in Prison, sharing that inmates need faith in something greater than themselves and often face hurdles to vindicate their most essential [religious liberty] rights. She led our team of attorneys in the fight for Pastor Jose Castro and Gethsemani Baptist Church, who were being targeted for feeding the hungry.





BEYOND THE COURTROOM: CULTURAL IMPACT

First Liberty's Center for Religion, Culture & Democracy envisions society like a fruitful garden nourished by the roots of religious people and institutions. We need leaders who live out their religious convictions in all areas of society.

As First Liberty's "think tank," our team works to cultivate a free and flourishing country by empowering and equipping faithful leaders of today and tomorrow through scholarship, education, and programs. We had an amazing year full of learning, formation, and diligent work!

The Center for Religion, Culture & Democracy engages a wide variety of audiences, focused especially on scholars and academic leaders. We produce important original research, including the Religious Liberty in the States index, but we also dedicate resources to students who will be the next generation of faithful leaders.

Each of our three major student programs enjoyed significant successes this past year. Our D.C. Fellowship selects talented students who aspire to meaningful careers in the law and public service. Over the course of five days in our nation's capital, these students are exposed to foundational ideas at the core of our constitutional republic, the indispensable role of religion in the formation of a moral society, and the formative place culture has in determining a nation's health.

One student said that the program "encourages students to consider the fundamental questions underlying our laws, institutions, and culture." He is now a student at Harvard Law School.

J & DL

Jordan Ballor

Executive Director Center for Religion, Culture & Democracy

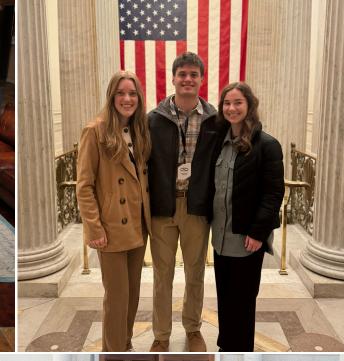
Our Savannah Seminar on Religion, Culture & Democracy is a week-long program focused on providing students the opportunity to explore a wide range of topics related to the American founding, democratic ideals, and the vital role religious ideas and institutions play in the development of a free and flourishing society. Savannah is a city rich with history and cultural institutions formed by religious conviction and demonstrating the importance of religious liberty. One of the attendees, an lvy-League graduate, said that "a few days in Savannah taught me more about the country's founding principles than years of political science classes at Columbia University." He subsequently interned for a federal judge and is pursuing a law degree. Another Savannah participant said the program "truly helped change the trajectory of my life."

Our premier student program is the summer-long Shaftesbury Fellowship. Over ten weeks, the elite cohort of fellows work through a rigorous curriculum on natural law and rights, church and state, civil society and culture, religion and national identity, and international relations. The fellowship also includes a trip to Boston for a first-hand experience of how religion shaped the cultural and political ideals of America.

As one fellow put it, "I am indebted to the Shaftesbury Fellowship for cultivating a confidence not rooted merely in self or circumstance, but in the courageous hope of a life spent fighting for religious freedom and abiding in the love of Christ." She is now pursuing a graduate degree at Yale Divinity School and aspires to a career defending religious liberty.

With students like these, committed to the principles undergirding a free and flourishing society and called by God to lead in the coming generations, there is true cause for hope. As we look forward to celebrating our great nation's 250th birthday in 2026, we believe the garden of our society will flourish once again.













RELIGIOUS LIBERTY IN THE STATES

In 2025, First Liberty's Center for Religion, Culture & Democracy had the distinct privilege of launching the Religious Liberty in the States index alongside Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis.

Each year, we publish a nationwide index of domestic religious freedom. It ranks religious liberty protections for each of the 50 states. This extensive index focuses on select legal safeguards of religious exercise in state laws and constitutions.

Innovation, a core value in First Liberty's organizational culture, is a driving force behind this vital project. The full Religious Liberty in the States index is available online at ReligiousLibertyInTheStates.com, a dynamic and interactive website. All source data and hyperlinked citations to state statutes are available online, making it accessible for legislators, activists, and interested citizens to examine in detail how well their states protect religious liberty and to find existing examples of statutes they could adopt.

In its fourth year, this innovative report continues to drive significant changes in the legal landscape, as lawmakers are introducing and passing protections in their respective states directly based this data. Florida is a great example. When we began the project in 2022, Florida protected a respectable 58% of the 11 safeguards we considered, and ranked sixth in the nation. The Sunshine State took action and strengthened its medical conscience protections, as well as protections for houses of worship from discriminatory treatment during pandemics and

other emergencies. Today, Florida protects 75% of the now 20 safeguards we consider, and ranks first.

Other states that showed considerable improvement include Idaho—whose score increased seven points from 2024 to 2025. Arizona's score increased six points, and Tennessee's increased five points. Over the life of the project thus far from 2022 to 2025, the most improved states were Montana (30 points), South Carolina (30 points), and Florida (17 points).

The Religious Liberty in the States index continues to use rigorous, thorough and highly-vetted methodology to assign scores. Each year, the index has expanded in scope, being refined to ensure its metrics are increasingly more reliable, accurate, and representative of each state's religious freedom protections.

Over the four years of this project, the number of protections covered has increased by more than 60%, from 29 in 2022 to 47 in 2025. The number of safeguards within which these items are organized has nearly doubled, from 11 in 2022 to 20 in 2025. As the dataset increases in size and continues to be tracked through time, many more trends and dynamics in the data will be discovered.

Thanks to the invaluable work of the Center for Religion, Culture & Democracy fellows, researchers, and scholars, along with First Liberty's legal experts, Religious Liberty in the States is now solidified as the national benchmark for tracking and ranking states according to their religious liberty protections.









Steve M. Purdum Chief Development Officer

THE CAUSE **ADVANCING**

This has been an extraordinary year defined by remarkable growth, bold advancement, and unprecedented impact. With the steadfast support of our partners, we have taken new ground in the mission to defend, restore, and advance religious freedom across our nation.

At every step, it is evident that God's hand has guided and blessed these efforts, multiplying their reach and influence in ways beyond what we could accomplish alone.

Expanding Our Reach

To better share our story and engage people nationwide, we expanded our Ministry Relations and Development team with dedicated new leaders. Their passion has opened doors to communities we had never reached before, fueling record-breaking growth—32% over the past year, the strongest in our history. These resources are enabling our organization to grow, innovate, and serve more effectively than ever.

Events That Inspire and Mobilize.

Our events team has been a driving force in this year's growth. They executed a **record number of** gatherings nationwide, each one crafted to inspire, mobilize, and spark action. These weren't just events.

32% INCREASE, **TOTAL GIVING**

25% INCREASE. **NEW DONOR** GIVING

77% DONOR RETENTION RATE 6,692 NEW **SUPPORTERS** 33,000 CONNECTIONS NATIONWIDE

85 **EVENTS & GATHERINGS**

They were **transformative experiences** that brought people face-to-face with First Liberty's mission. The result: new supporters stepping up, partners deepening their commitment, and our impact expanding like never before.

Growing Support and Enduring Commitment

This year, we witnessed both long-time partners and new friends stepping forward in unprecedented ways. Our existing supporters are giving at greater levels, while many more have joined our mission. Beyond this, our growing emphasis on **Legacy Giving** has struck a powerful chord. More supporters are choosing to include First Liberty in their estate planning, a profound sign of confidence and a bold commitment to ensuring that religious freedom is defended for generations to come.

Looking to the Future

As we look back on this historic year, we are filled with both gratitude and resolve. The momentum we've gained shows clearly that our message is resonating across America, aligning people's passions with our mission.

With new partners joining us and long-time supporters standing strong, First Liberty is ready to build on this success, extend our reach, and secure lasting victories in the courts for the cause of freedom.

Together, we are shaping the future of faith in America. And together, we will ensure that our religious liberty endures - not only for today, but for decades to come.

15 MILLION **VIDEO VIEWS**

14 MILLION SOCIAL MEDIA **ENGAGEMENTS 8 IMPRESSIONS**

MILLION **WEBSITE VISITS**

255,000 **FOLLOWERS**

12,000 MEDIA **MENTIONS**

NATIONAL **MARKETING AWARDS**

AMPLIFYING OUR BRAND

2025 marked another year of unprecedented growth for First Liberty's marketing, communications, and outreach efforts.

It was a record-setting year in many ways, especially evident in the increased financial support from Americans from across the country who stepped up in big ways to join us in the fight for religious liberty. 2025 marked the third year of steady growth in digital fundraising, a testament to the efficacy of our marketing campaigns and the intentional creation of engaging content that's driving thousands upon thousands of people to donate or get involved in various ways.

Our marketing and communications teams also took major steps this year to optimize our digital infrastructure to give our content better visibility and drive new, larger audiences into our channels. This included major improvements in our Search Engine Optimization, as well as establishing connections beyond our internal channels. We partnered with influencers, thought-leaders, and podcasters to multiply our reach and give our content more virality.

The strongest evidence of sustainable growth is a 17% increase in recurring donations year-overyear. This was complemented by an 11% increase in average gift amount and a 10% increase in total number of gifts.

We also had remarkable gains in social media engagement. Our social audience grew by 8% with a 110% increase in engagements and 37% increase in impressions.

Content performance is at an all-time high. Readership of our web articles is up by 12%, with email open rates as high as 40%, a number that exceeds the typical nonprofit industry standard by

These robust figures are the byproduct of an overarching strategy that doesn't merely aim to acquire new supporters, but also to nurture and develop stronger relationships with existing supporters, especially first-time donors. Digital content, articles, e-books, webpages, direct mailings, advertisements, and email communications are all deliberately crafted in a personal and relational way giving every person an opportunity to take action at whichever stage of the journey they're at with First Liberty.

We've remained diligent with this approach for several years—and the results show that the message of religious freedom is resonating across America.

With unprecedented opportunities opening for First Liberty, the number of new people joining the cause is also rising, coupled with a base of existing supporters whose commitment to the organization is growing stronger every year.

If there's one takeaway from 2025, it's that millions of Americans are getting to know First Liberty as "The Religious Liberty People" - the premier legal organization in America whose entire mission, purpose, and focus is to defend religious freedom.

2025 First Liberty Annual Report





A LEGACY FOR THE AGES

This year, we launched a significant initiative to secure our future funding needs, aligning them with the time required to resolve some of our most enduring cases.

For almost 12 years, I served as the COO/CFO at First Liberty, but recently the board asked me to focus my efforts on addressing a major challenge facing our firm. As a former Wall Street banker in New York, I understand the importance of matching a company's assets with its future liabilities.

First Liberty fights within the courts to protect religious freedom, and we have won nine Supreme Court victories in the past few years. Some of those cases, however, lasted almost a decade, and the funding needed was spent mainly in efforts before reaching the highest court.

That's where legacy planning offers a solution, and some of our donors are already making a difference. By naming us in their wills, revocable family trusts, or utilizing unneeded life insurance, they are matching future gifts to future needs, and in doing so, they help us avoid shortfalls in funding for the most critical cases, often at exactly the right time.

You may have worked for many years, saved, built a business, or perhaps inherited wealth. You've been a good steward of your blessings, and maybe you built a consequential financial legacy for your family. Most likely, you have also worked to help heirs "live out their values." Sadly, history reveals a disturbing fact: most wealth dissipates by the third generation. That is, unless serious thought is given to confronting the issue.

That is where our legacy planning initiative is assisting donors to meet this challenge head-on, even as the greatest generational wealth transfer in history is already underway.

Even if you don't need to worry about estate taxes, legacy planning provides the opportunity to make deductible gifts of property, private company interests, or other non-cash assets that satisfy a wide spectrum of donors' needs. Gifts of assets, in other words, rather than the "here-and-now" contributions of cash.

An easy way to construct a lasting legacy?

As I mentioned, a straightforward way some donors have used this year is to name First Liberty as a beneficiary in their will or revocable trust. The language used can determine the timing of a gift or even how First Liberty will specifically use the funds. For example, to protect religious liberty in the military.

Go to www.FirstLibertyLegacy.org for more information on how you can help ensure First Liberty will be adequately funded in the future—so that your heirs will have the right to openly practice their faith.

Thank you for your support throughout the past year and in the years to come.

LEG/CY GIVING

David K. Holmes Executive Vice President & Chief Legacy Officer

THE FUTURE OF FAITH AND FREEDOM: A MOVEMENT OF YOUNG PROFESSIONALS ON THE RISE

What a year it has been for F3! When we launched the Future of Faith and Freedom initiative in April 2024, our goal was to educate and equip young professionals in areas where religious freedom is suppressed. F3 communities are now thriving in some of the most challenging cultural landscapes in America, from Boston and New York City to Sacramento and San Francisco.

In 2024, we started with just ten Ambassador households in two cities, Dallas and San Diego. Only a year later, that vision has grown into a nationwide movement of over 150 Ambassador households in nearly 20 cities across the United States. We've hosted six major fundraising events and more than 30 home gatherings, reaching over 1,000 young professionals with the message of faith, freedom, and community.

And this is only the beginning.

We are tapping into a demographic that is energized, motivated, and ready to be called into the fight. Many have wanted to take a stand but lacked a clear way to do so, until now.

The explosive growth F3 has experienced reflects a deep hunger in the next generation for change. The next generation has a desire not only to understand their rights but to live them out boldly in community with others who share their values.

Young professionals in their 20s to 40s are navigating careers, marriages and families, often without meaningful spiritual or relational support.

Through F3, they're finding more than just fellowship; they're being equipped with the knowledge and courage to defend their faith and impact their communities.

Our vision is to expand F3 into every primary metropolitan market in the U.S., reaching young professionals where they live and lead: in cities like Atlanta, Austin, Chicago, Denver, Los Angeles, Miami, Portland, Raleigh, Seattle, and Washington, D.C.

When the next generation is grounded in truth, surrounded by community, and empowered to act, we believe we can reshape the culture and secure the future of faith and freedom for generations to come.





Nathan Shackelford Director of F3 & Associate General Counsel







Austin Waugh
Chief Financial Officer

UNPRECEDENTED TIMES, UNWAVERING MISSION

Throughout the past year, we have seen people across America increasingly realize the importance of being able to exercise their faith and having their religious liberties protected and respected in the laws of our nation. As an organization, First Liberty remains resolute in our calling to protect that first freedom.

From the U.S. Supreme Court announcing that it will hear another of our important cases this term, to Kelly's participation on the President's Religious Liberty Commission, to achieving our highest fiscal year revenue on record, 2025 has been spectacular, unique, and, yes, unprecedented.

Our fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, was down modestly from previous years as we weathered some of the lagging effects of inflation, political change, and other market externalities. But, as our FY24/25 audit concludes, we have realized a healthy rebound in revenues and are positioned well to address a growing number of legal matters that have now normalized from a pandemic-induced apex.

As a firm focused on litigation and education, our efforts are very human-capital intensive. With innovation being one of our core values, we strive to leverage the latest technologies and creative legal strategies to amplify our efforts across our educational programs and legal cases.

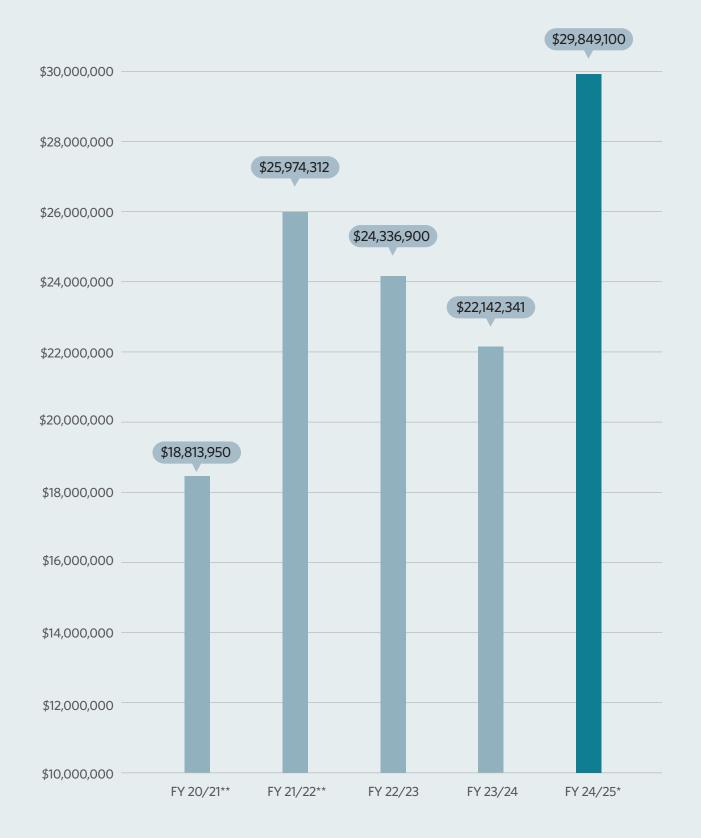
To that end, we spend nearly 80 percent of our expense budget on program-related activities that

further our mission and ensure that our clients never pay any legal costs for our services. Our ability to do this is inextricably tied to the enormous generosity of our supporters.

I am humbled to accept the proverbial baton from my colleague, friend, and mentor, Dave Holmes, who has faithfully stewarded our supporters' resources with excellence and great care over the past 12 years. His experience and strategic insights have blessed our organization tremendously and have helped chart our course for long-term success.

As we march towards our nation's 250th anniversary celebration, I am excited about what the future holds for First Liberty, and I ask you to join me in praying for God's continued favor and blessing on our mission and on these great United States of America.

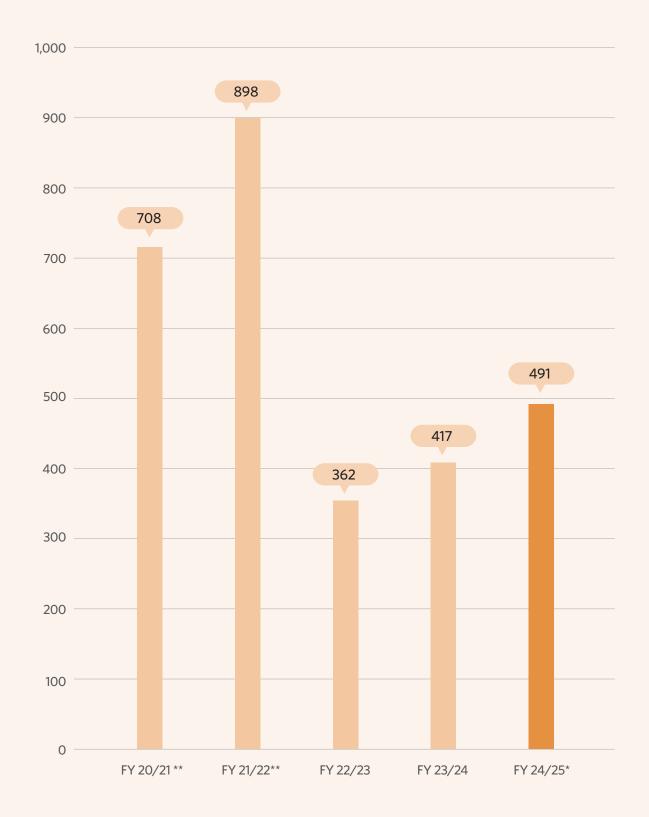
REVENUES



^{**} Spikes in revenues due to COVID-19 pandemic.



LEGAL MATTERS

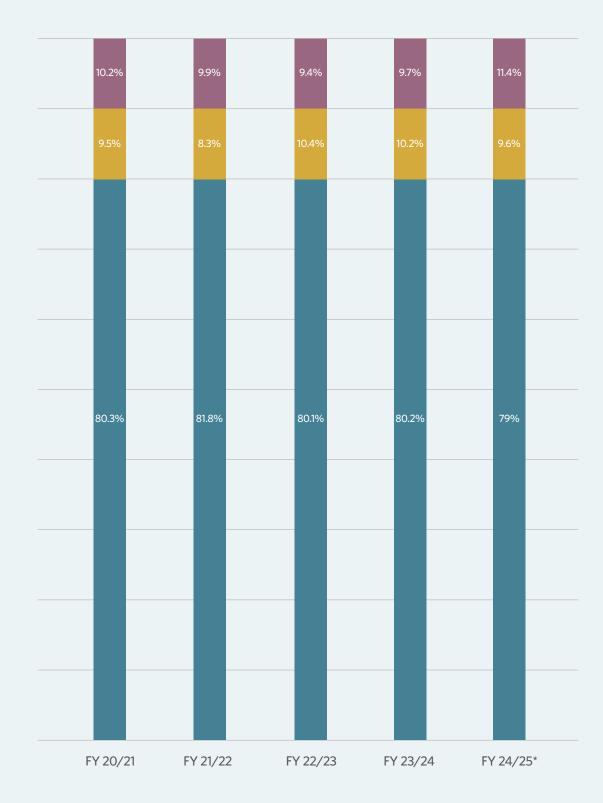


^{*}The financial information included in this presentation is preliminary, unaudited, and subject to revision upon completion of the organization's reconciliation and audit processes.

HOW WE ALLOCATE RESOURCES













^{**} Spikes in legal matters due to COVID-19 pandemic.



REMEMBERING CHARLIE KIRK: THE VOICE OF A GENERATION

This year, First Liberty mourned one of our friends: Charlie Kirk.

With the assassination of Charlie in September, America lost a patriot and one of the most influential leaders of a generation. Grounded in his Christian faith and a love for his country, Charlie was a courageous voice for the values, principles, and ideals that make America exceptional.

Charlie had a heart for our work at First Liberty, and he deeply understood why religious freedom is the foundation for all our freedoms. He left behind an incredible legacy, one that is inspiring millions of Americans young and old to stand for biblical truth, liberty, and our God-given rights.

"I will greatly miss my friend and my brother in the Lord. He was a dear friend, a hero and a legend for our nation already by age 31," said First Liberty President & CEO Kelly Shackelford. "Charlie was a champion for liberty, including our first freedom—religious liberty. What he did is amazing, maybe unequaled."

As founder of Turning Point USA, Charlie started one of the nation's most successful political movements. With a presence on more than 3,500 high school and college campuses in all 50 states, TPUSA is the largest and fastest-growing conservative youth activist organization in America.

But Charlie's calling wasn't just about getting people

involved in our political process. It was about sharing his faith with everyone he spoke to.

Charlie boldly and fearlessly put his beliefs at the center of everything he did, whether it was in his profession or his family. Many of Charlie's close friends, his pastor, and family remember him as one of the godliest men they'd ever known.

Charlie was a vivid example of what religious freedom in America is all about. And it's why his tragic passing marked a turning point for our country. What transpired in the months following his death has been called a "revival" of the Christian faith. Some have even spoken of a Third Great Awakening.

For decades, countless Americans felt they couldn't express their faith fully, fearful they'd be punished for living or voicing their beliefs. But thanks to Charlie, thousands upon thousands—if not millions—of Americans are letting go of that fear. People of faith in every corner of America feel inspired and confident about speaking and living out their faith.

Charlie may well have sparked one of the biggest cultural shifts for religious liberty in America. Because he proclaimed liberty throughout all the land, his legacy is inspiring to those who have a heart for preserving our nation's First Freedom.

Though Charlie is no longer with us physically on this Earth, his legacy will continue to echo through the lives he touched and the truth he championed.

HONORING DR. DOBSON: AMERICAN HERO, LEGEND AND FRIEND

In August, we said goodbye to a titan of the Christian faith and a towering figure who changed America. Our dear friend, Dr. James Dobson, passed away at age 89, leaving behind a monumental legacy for religious liberty, marriage, family values, and the sanctity of human life.

Dr. Dobson was highly influential in the fight for religious freedom. He helped establish several organizations whose mission is to protect and advance our First Freedom. Without his mentorship and leadership, it is likely that First Liberty and many of our friends in this battle would not exist today.

"Dr. Dobson is a legend whose legacy and life will never be forgotten," said First Liberty President & CEO Kelly Shackelford. "What he did for so many families has changed lives forever."

"I considered him a hero my whole life, and he became a close friend," Kelly added. "After I had surgery a few years ago, he called my wife and I many times to check up and pray for me."

A psychologist, New York Times best-selling author, a Radio Hall of Fame broadcaster, and advisor to five U.S. presidents, Dr. Dobson dedicated his life to strengthening marriages, guiding parents, and defending biblical values by championing the central role of family in our country.

Dr. Dobson founded Focus on the Family in 1977, creating one of the largest faith-based organizations in the world. His daily broadcasts were heard on over 4,000 radio stations across North America and translated into 27 languages in more than 160 countries.

Over the years, Dr. Dobson invited Kelly and First Liberty attorneys as guests on his nationally syndicated program many times.

During Kelly's first appearance, Dr. Dobson expressed tremendous gratitude for First Liberty's work and graciously referred to Kelly as a "hero" on the air.

"I was humbled by that kind gesture," Kelly recounted. "I'll never forget how surreal it felt to be on the program that day, and it remains one of those special moments that I'm ever grateful for."

Our interviews on *Family Talk* reached hundreds of thousands of Americans. With a vast presence across 1,500 radio outlets and over 500,000 weekly listeners, these conversations were massively impactful to not only educate, but also to inspire countless people in our country to get involved in the battle for religious freedom.

Beyond media, Dr. Dobson was also a public servant, advising multiple U.S. administrations on family policy, juvenile justice, and child welfare. He played key roles in presidential commissions and advisory boards, with appointments by Presidents Reagan, H. W. Bush, and Trump.

He will forever be remembered for the unshakable faith he proclaimed, and his impact will endure through the countless families who were inspired to build their lives on the foundation of God's Word.

Thank you, Dr. Dobson, for your dedication, leadership, and for the lasting impact that you made in our country. At First Liberty Institute, you will always be cherished and remembered.



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:



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



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