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Our vision is based on a systemic commitment to inclusion, not disenfranchisement; on a desire for transparency in election financing, not secrecy; and a demand for accountability and a respect for the rule of law.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

n 2019, Campaign Legal Center protected the rights of voters by steadfastly and vigorously addressing serious challenges to our country's democratic process—from winning voting rights battles that protected some of our most vulnerable communities, to determined efforts to dismantle partisan gerrymandering (successful in several states but ultimately not at the Supreme Court), to exposing campaign finance violations that reached the highest levels of our federal government. What fortified us throughout the year was that, more than ever, people came together to stand up for our work and for the vision of American democracy that we share.

That vision is based on a systemic commitment to inclusion, not disenfranchisement; on a desire for transparency in election financing, not secrecy; and a demand for accountability and a respect for the rule of law. The transformational work CLC has done this year would not have been possible without the continuing and growing commitment of our supporters.

In this report, you will find not only facts and figures about the work you helped make possible, but also the very human stories behind the legal cases and legislative battles. These stories are a testament to the strength of our community—our staff, our partners coast to coast and our donors. More than you can ever know, CLC relies on your passion, your vision and your commitment. Thank you for standing with us.

Trevor Potter
President





VOTING RIGHTS

In the United States, the universal right to vote is in more danger today than at any time since 1965. Voters have a right to participate in the democratic process, but for too many the barriers to entry are too high.

Over 16 million Americans encountered problems at their polling place during the 2016 election—blocking 1.2 million Americans from casting a ballot. If history is any guide, millions will continue to struggle to vote and participate in future elections.

Voter disenfranchisement comes in many forms: voter purges, ID requirements, felony disenfranchisement, exact-match voter registration and the changing of polling places. Hurdles to voting disproportionally disenfranchise communities of color, disabled populations, Native Americans, homeless populations, poor communities and other marginalized groups.

Voting should be accessible for all citizens, no matter where they live, the color of their skin or how much money they make. We need a free and fair system that ensures everyone's voice is heard.

Through our strategic litigation, our Restore Your Vote campaign's state-based advocacy and public education tools, CLC is on the front lines: in court and partnering with voters on the ground to protect the right to vote.

CLC'S THREE AREAS OF REFORM



Removing barriers to voting and voter registration



Protecting minority access to the ballot



Expanding voting access for people who have completed prison sentences

VOTING RIGHTS SPOTLIGHT

What Voting for the First Time Meant to Me

by Rodney Lofton

Published on campaignlegal.org on January 7, 2019

I currently work four days a week at the First Christian Church in Mobile, Alabama as part of the Second Chance Program—and I am proud to say today that I am a voter. But it wasn't always this way.

Although I am 49 years old, a veteran that served four years in the military (in Jacksonville, Florida), and have been living in Mobile for 32 years, I had my voting rights taken away from me.

Before I was stripped of my rights because of a conviction back in 2015, I didn't vote. A lot of minorities, particularly people in the black community here in Mobile do not vote for a variety of reasons. People feel disconnected from the political process and many are confused about who can and can't vote. Many people here think that a crime disqualifies them from voting, even misdemeanors. The state has not put much effort into educating citizens about this.

But in September 2018, I was approached by Ellen Boettcher of the Alabama Voting Rights Project, which is a partnership between the Campaign Legal Center and Southern Poverty Law Center. She told me that not all convictions deny you of the right to vote. Mrs. Ellen gave me the paperwork and walked me through the rights restoration process. I got a voter registration card in the mail and cast a ballot in November's elections—for the first time in my life. Even after Mrs. Ellen helped me out, I almost couldn't vote. On Election Day, my truck broke down. The pastor at First Christian Church helped me get to the polls

by giving me a ride. By giving me a ride to the polls, it encouraged me because it showed that someone had my back and cared that I voted.

Mrs. Ellen and the voting rights restoration movement are a blessing. I hope that more people can talk to organizers and learn they can have their rights restored, so they can feel like me. Being heard means a lot to me. I've experienced many obstacles getting to the ballot box, and I don't take my voting rights for granted.

Now I can see the races on TV and weigh in on the situation. Before, I could watch—but I felt removed—I could not have any impact. One vote could change the outcome, you never know.

I care about local issues like schooling. We have pretty good teachers in my area but they don't have access to the updated resources they need. That is slowing down progress for kids down here.



I wanted to vote so my voice would be heard on this and other issues that are important to me. Voting for the first time was a joy because it allowed my voice to count.

Rodney Lofton of Mobile, Alabama voted for the first time in 2018 after having his rights restored.





CAMPAIGN FINANCE

Elected officials must be responsive to the public rather than large donors. The dependence of political candidates on wealthy special interests is a serious flaw in our political system that undermines this core value of the democratic process.

Our country needs real transparency and reasonable limits on the funding of political campaigns to reduce political corruption in our campaign finance system. CLC plays an indispensable role to promote transparency, accountability and inclusion in our campaign finance system through our unparalleled knowledge of campaign finance law and litigation expertise. Through litigation, policy and legislative solutions and forcing the Federal Election Commission (FEC) to enforce existing campaign finance laws, CLC advocates for less political corruption and a more representative government.

CLC plays a powerful watchdog role. We hold public institutions and public officials accountable by legal action over lawbreaking and by shining a bright light on their malfeasance.

We promote the complete transparency of campaign spending, as well as reasonable limits on the funding of campaigns. We help enact such policies at all levels of government, and work to ensure that the FEC enforces current campaign finance laws at the federal level. CLC defends laws in court that promote the First Amendment's guarantee that every American has the ability to participate in the political process.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE SPOTLIGHT

CLC's Role in the Arrest of Lev Parnas and Igor Fruman

In 2018, CLC filed a complaint with the Federal Election Commission (FEC) documenting how Lev Parnas and Igor Fruman had laundered a six-figure contribution to President Trump's super PAC through a shell corporation. Not only did our complaint ultimately help lead to their arrest on criminal campaign finance charges, but the series of events it triggered unveiled how dangerous big money can be in U.S. elections.

April-May 2018

Lev Parnas and Igor Fruman attend intimate dinner with President Trump, organized by Trump's "approved" super PAC America First Action, where they argue for the removal of the U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine, Marie Yovanovitch

America First Action received \$325,000 from a newly created company called Global Energy Producers LLC (GEP)

Parnas and Fruman met with Rep. Sessions (R-TX) to make the case for Amb. Yovanovitch's removal

Rep. Sessions called for the removal of Amb. Yovanovitch in a letter to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo

July 2018

CLC connected GEP to Parnas and Fruman, then filed the FEC complaint alleging the pair had laundered the \$325,000 super PAC donation through the shell company

Throughout late 2018 and early 2019

Parnas and Fruman worked closely with Rudy Giuliani and introduced him to current and former Ukrainian prosecutors and government officials

May 2019

Amb. Yovanovich recalled

June 2019

CLC filed a supplement to its GEP complaint

July 25, 2019

On a call with Ukrainian
President Zelensky, President
Trump inappropriately used the
power of his office to pressure
Ukraine to open an investigation
into his potential 2020 political
rival (which itself violates
campaign finance law)

August 12, 2019

Whistleblower filed complaint with the intelligence community's Inspector General

September 2019

U.S. House of Representatives opened an impeachment inquiry

October 9, 2019

Lev Parnas and Igor Fruman arrested on charges stemming directly from CLC's complaint



It's simple: we cannot have a healthy democracy without the enactment and enforcement of clear ethics laws and rules in our

federal, state and local governments.

CLC serves as an ethics watchdog, holding government officials accountable by employing a comprehensive strategy and approach to ethics enforcement at all levels of government.



Legal Approach

CLC files lawsuits and complaints to enforce ethics laws and promote accountability in our government, particularly with Members of Congress and Executive branch officials. CLC also develops proposals and advocates for ethics law reform.



Public Education

CLC works to educate the public about the importance of ethics compliance among our government officials through interviews with the media, public statements, blogs and creating social media content.



Fact-Finding

CLC employs fact-finding strategies, including conducting independent investigations and working with journalists to uncover ethics violations by government officials.

CLC's long-term goal is to strengthen adherence to ethical rules and norms by our elected and appointed leaders at all levels of government.

ETHICS SPOTLIGHT

The Department of Interior (DOI) and its bureaus are responsible for protecting the nation's natural resources; it manages public lands, national parks, wildlife refuges and environmental conservation efforts. The DOI's responsibilities have nationwide consequences, and they will only become more important as resources become scarcer. Top political appointees at the DOI, however, previously lobbied or worked for the wealthy special interests that they now regulate, which raises significant ethics concerns.

America deserves public servants who are committed to protecting our resources for all of us, rather than for wealthy special interests and well-connected industries.

Ethics rules are designed to ensure that decisions affecting millions of people, like those determining how increasingly scarce resources are allocated, are decided on behalf of the public, not on behalf of special interests.

While CLC has been working to hold the leaders of the DOI accountable for ethical lapses since early 2018, we filed two critical ethics complaints in 2019.

In February 2019, CLC sent a letter to Mary Kendall, the Inspector General at the DOI, to request an investigation into several senior members of the DOI for violations of their ethics pledges. Additionally, CLC filed an ethics complaint with Kendall to highlight the troubling conduct of Acting Interior Secretary David Bernhardt. CLC urged Kendall to conduct a full investigation to determine whether

Bernhardt violated his ethics pledge and his ethical obligation to avoid the appearance of favoritism in government decision-making.

In April 2019, the Inspector General at the DOI announced that it was opening an investigation into potential ethics violations by six senior DOI political appointees after CLC filed its complaints. And in December of that same year, the DOI Inspector General concluded that a top official violated federal ethics rules when he took meetings with his former employer.

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This is a big deal. It not only reveals a pattern of indifference toward ethics at Interior's highest levels, but it also calls into question the true motives of our public servants tasked with the immense responsibility of managing the country's natural resources.

DELANEY MARSCO, CLC ETHICS COUNSEL

While many of the investigations are still pending, CLC continues to highlight the deficiencies in our ethics rules and laws to advocate for stronger ethics rules in the future. Without this enforcement and accountability, we cannot have a healthy democracy.



REDISTRICTING

In our elections, every voice should be heard, and every vote should count equally.

In many states, politicians draw district lines to pick their voters and protect themselves. Elections should be determined by voters, not by politicians who draw maps.

Discrimination, such as partisan gerrymandering and electoral systems that under-represent people of color, leads not only to mistrust and dysfunction, but to public policies that ignore the will of the people. CLC's redistricting reform program works toward the long-term goal of ensuring equitable representation of all people in America through their electoral systems.

Our work is guided by two main categories of reform:



Reducing partisanship in redistricting through litigation and advocacy at federal and state levels. We have been the preeminent organization leading federal litigation on redistricting through our groundbreaking litigation on *Gill v. Whitford* and *Rucho v. League of Women Voters of North Carolina*. We help create, implement and protect independent redistricting commissions through advocacy, education and litigation.



Increasing minority representation at local, state and federal levels using ranked choice voting (RCV). We represent plaintiffs in Virginia Beach in a federal Voting Rights Act (VRA) suit and assist, draft and defend state and local RCV ballot initiatives.

A key to restoring citizen confidence in our political system is ending gerrymandering and creating fair maps to make sure every voice and every vote counts.

REDISTRICTING SPOTLIGHT

Independent Redistricting Commissions

CLC's #FairMaps campaign helped change the national discourse on partisan gerrymandering and contributed to the groundswell of action around redistricting reform across the country. On June 27, 2019, in *Rucho v. League of Women Voters of North Carolina*, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that federal courts may not intervene to block partisan election maps, no matter how unfair they may be. While the U.S. Supreme Court failed to put an end to partisan gerrymandering, the support for change is growing and energized throughout the country.

Our redistricting work focuses on the creation, implementation and protection of Independent Redistricting Commissions (IRC). We work with state-level partners to harness this energy and develop measures they can advance in their states. Upon enactment of these policies, CLC provides partnership to protect these new laws when they are challenged in court.

Why are IRCs so important? An Independent Redistricting Commission is a body separate from the legislature that is responsible for drawing the districts used in congressional and state legislative elections. In most states, the state legislature is responsible for drawing and approving electoral districts with a simple majority subject to a gubernatorial veto. Because this process—known as redistricting generally involves political actors whose careers depend on how the lines are drawn, both major political parties have used the process to unfairly strip voters of their voice. State-led redistricting efforts remain the only stronghold against manipulation of district lines for partisan advantage. Well-designed IRCs offer the best option to help ensure that the mapdrawing process is more transparent, all Americans' voices are heard and politicians are accountable and responsive to constituents.

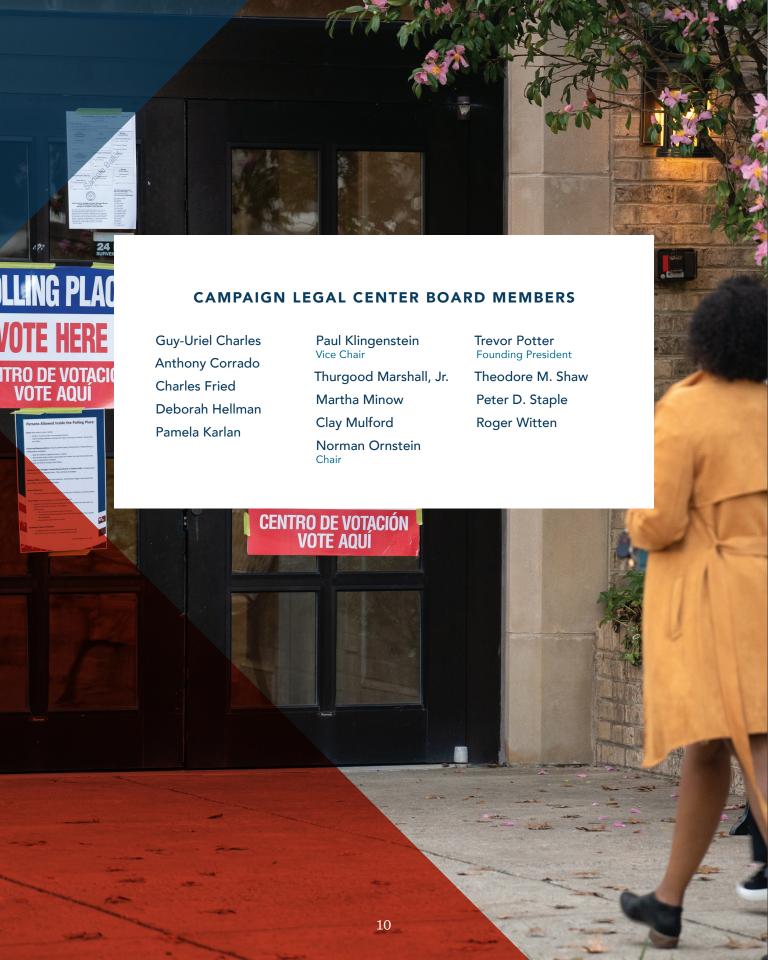
Designing an IRC

An effective IRC has three components:

- People: The commissioners should consist of the general public and the general electorate should be active in the process.
 - Power: The commission should engage in partisan fairness while protecting communities of color and language minorities.
- Process: Transparency should be present throughout the process of designing an IRC (for example, through public hearings or a commission website).

Typically, IRCs are passed by voters at the polls, and in order to get on the ballot, citizen groups often collect signatures. In Michigan, a citizen group collected over 400,000 signatures to get an IRC on the ballot and it passed. Some states don't allow ballot initiatives to implement an IRC. In these states, we work with state legislators to advise the creation of IRCs.

Through providing legal advice and technical guidance, CLC has worked with dozens of states to support the creation, implementation and/or protection of IRCs.



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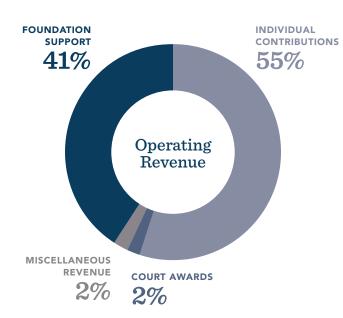
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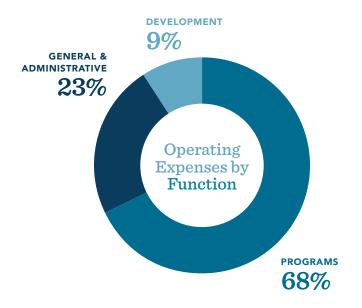
FINANCIALS

CLC has gone through a tremendous amount of growth in the past several years, more than tripling in staff size since 2016. This is a testament to the critical nature of our work, the strong fiscal management of our leadership and the generosity of our philanthropic partners.



2019 OPERATING REVENUE

Total	\$14,316,229
Court Awards	\$235,422
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$223,967
Individual Contributions	\$7,893,611
Foundation Support	\$5,963,229



OPERATING EXPENSES BY FUNCTION

Total	\$7,447,752
Development	\$675,259
General & Administrative	\$1,726,357
Programs	\$5,046,136



OPERATING EXPENSES BY PROGRAM

Total	\$5,046,136
Ethics	\$212,547
Communications	\$580,225
Campaign Finance	\$1,854,754
Redistricting	\$1,495,718
Voting Rights	\$902,892

Our 2019 revenue includes multi-year commitments raised above our annual budget to support strategic efforts (including, but not limited to, litigation) leading up to, and beyond, the 2020 election.

