



LIFE LEGAL
DEFENSE FOUNDATION

LIFE LEGAL DEFENSE FOUNDATION

2025 Annual Report

Litigate. Educate. Advocate.

DEFENDING LIFE

in the courts and the public square since 1989



ALEXANDRA SNYDER

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DEAR FRIEND OF THE LIFE LEGAL DEFENSE FOUNDATION,

- ✓ We at Life Legal are happy to report that the Life Legal family has expanded and now consists of five associated organizations. Their differing (though related) purposes enable us to advance the pro-life cause on more fronts than ever before. Our latest addition focuses on reversing pro-abortion gains in the most “progressive” U.S. State—California.
- ✓ Along with the rest of the pro-life movement, we rejoiced this year in the removal of Planned Parenthood’s federal funding—and in a Supreme Court ruling that enabled the removal of state funding. But we’re planning to go further. We mean to deprive Planned Parenthood of another undeserved perk that it now enjoys—its tax-exempt status.
- ✓ We were glad that warnings we have sounded for decades over abuses in the organ donation industry were vindicated this year by a federal investigation. The Department of Health and Human Services is taking action—and we ourselves are renewing our efforts to ensure that endangered patients are not terminated for their organs—or even subject to removal of their organs while they are still alive.

And, yes, while addressing these big questions, we have seen our daily work grow to unprecedented levels. We are defending pro-life speech, helping pro-life pregnancy resource centers, and intervening for pro-life principles when patients face denial of care. We are doing all this as never before.

The advocates of death are calling on all their resources to promote their twisted excuse for medical ethics. We are opposing them on every front.

We’ve won significant victories. And we can win many more—with your help!

YOURS FOR THE EMBATTLED VALUE OF INNOCENT HUMAN LIFE,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alexandra Snyder". The signature is fluid and cursive.



In moments
of crisis,
confusion, or fear:
Life Legal is answering
the call

Litigate. Educate. Advocate.



Since 2020, Life Legal has:

- Protected life and liberty for more than 13,000 people nationwide through legal assistance and advocacy
- Launched billboard and digital advocacy campaigns that reach millions of people
- Helped close at least 60+ abortion mills
- Acquired California Right to Life to reach a younger demographic
- Filed over 20 amicus briefs in the United States Supreme Court and federal appellate courts
- Co-founded the task force *HealthcareCivilRights.org* to advocate for ethical medical care
- Litigated numerous cases involving women injured by abortionists

Life Legal attorneys, Allison Aranda, Catherine Short, and Corrina Konczal

LIFE LEGAL FAMILY OF ORGANIZATIONS — SERVIN

As Life Legal has expanded since its founding in 1989, the challenges facing pro-life action have also expanded. Initially, we rushed to represent activists charged during the mass rescue movement that extended into the early 1990s—and we are still representing rescuers today. But we have expanded to address many other pro-life needs.

Now the Life Legal family encompasses several groups, each of which serves a separate purpose or has a different emphasis.

> **The Life Legal Defense Foundation** stands as the parent organization. It emphasizes legal representation of pro-life activists, intervention for patients faced with denial of care or outright termination, and timely amicus briefs in major cases involving pro-life principles or free speech. Life Legal boasts a nationwide network of over 5,000 attorneys who typically donate their valuable billable hours free of charge.

> **Life Legal Minnesota** pursues a similar mission in Minnesota and the surrounding states. It upholds the

sanctity of human life through litigation, advocacy, and education. In its courtroom activities, Life Legal Minnesota faces the same hurdles that confront the parent organization in California. Both states are among the most pro-abortion in the country.

> **The Health Care Civil Rights Task Force** addresses our society's crisis in medical ethics by defending the sanctity of life and the Hippocratic tradition. It especially seeks to help patients and families threatened with denial of care. It partners not only with Life Legal but with groups such as Christ Medicus, the Terry Schiavo Life & Hope Network, and the Healthcare Advocacy and Leadership Organization (HALO).

> **California Right to Life** is an affiliate actually older than Life Legal itself, having been founded in 1981. It is now under Life Legal's ample aegis and pursues a mission emphasizing sidewalk counseling, public advocacy, and campus outreach. CRTL features an annual internship program to train future pro-life leaders. CRTL's decades of activism prove that it is in the movement for the long haul.

137 cases nationwide and Canada in 2025 • 6,241 people represented



G A VARIETY OF PURPOSES

> **California Right to Life Action** is the newest addition to the Life Legal family—and constitutes a response to the woeful array of hostile laws in the state where we were founded and maintain our administrative offices. While many other states are moving to protect human life in the womb, California is doubling down on extreme pro-abortion policies, even to the point of promoting abortion tourism to target children around the country. CRTL Action refuses to surrender to the madness and instead proposes to shape a future where life is protected. Every societal reversal is dismissed as impossible—until it materializes. Through zealous education and legal reform, CRTL Action commences the reversal of California's abortion policies here and now.

As Life Legal's family of activists rushes towards 2026, we prepare for ominous challenges in a rapidly changing landscape. The abortion cartel will of course finance further ballot initiatives to guarantee the continuance of its lucrative business. So far, such

initiatives are on the ballot in Nevada and Virginia, but the list is sure to grow.

Pro-lifers have also had an initiative certified in Missouri.

Facing relentlessly biased mainstream media and the tremendous war chests of the pro-aborts, pro-lifers have not up to now fared well in the ballot initiative arena. We have, however, learned a lot, and the defeat of a pro-abortion initiative in Florida last year may signal a change in our favor. The Life Legal family is determined to work effectively against pro-abortion initiatives in 2026. We've been preparing all year.

Pro-life national database grows:

1989: 10 attorneys

2000: 1,500 attorneys

2010: 3,500 attorneys

2024: 5,000+ attorneys

FIGHTING FOR LIFE from Coast to Coast

As Life Legal's family of activists rushes towards 2026, we prepare for ominous challenges in a rapidly changing landscape.



Defunding Planned Parenthood is Just the Beginning



Defund Planned Parenthood Day

Early in July, after decades of pro-life outcry and practical pressure, Congress passed, and President Trump signed, a budget bill that generally prevents federal Medicaid funds from going to businesses that slaughter children in the womb—including the Leftist-exalted golden calf known as Planned Parenthood. As the nation's number one abortion mega-corporation, Planned Parenthood could hardly be exempt from this legislation.

As of this writing, U.S. District Judge Indira Talwani has enjoined enforcement of the law. So baseless is her ruling, however, that it is widely expected to be overturned.

In cooperation with many other pro-lifers, Life Legal played a significant part in this victory.

- We appealed to members of Congress directly and kept appealing without growing weary.
- We signed on to dozens of joint letters to preserve the Hyde and Weldon amendments, to cut Margaret Sanger's twisted brainchild out of Title IX funding, and to cut the flow of tax monies directly.
- We participated on "Defund Planned Parenthood Day" on June 28.

The decisive action of Congress and President Trump was only one of the headlines that upset Planned Parenthood in July. In *Medina v. Planned Parenthood*, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that states too can refuse Medicaid funds to abortion profiteers—including the biggest, most unprincipled abortionist profiteer of all.

In its own arguments, Planned Parenthood whined and wailed, appealing to the abortion chain's special status as a provider of "reproductive health care." The implication was that these words constituted an "open sesame" formula to vast stores of taxpayer dollars. Our amicus brief in the case directly addressed the special pleading of privileged child murder businesses—the "abortion distortion" that has twisted so many legal principles over the past 50 years.

And the court listened. No abortion distortion. No special status for abortionists. No guaranteed public funding.

After the ruling, Planned Parenthood complained that it would be forced to close 25 murder mills nationwide, including five in the abortion bastion of Northern California. We'd love to attribute these closures to the *Medina* decision. And we're confident that this decision will cause Planned Parenthood, a parasite on the body politic if there ever was one, a lot of trouble in the near future. But pro-lifers must understand that most of those closures were going to happen anyway. Brick-and-mortar abortion mills are steadily losing business to the chemical abortion industry. Women are picking up their abortifacients at the local drugstore—or receiving them in the mail.

Cutting the abortion giant's government funding remains a glorious achievement. But it is only the beginning. We at Life Legal are now working to take away Planned Parenthood's completely undeserved tax-exempt status.

Planned Parenthood rests its "non-profit" status on not paying dividends to stockholders. In the common understanding of the word, however, Planned Parenthood is profitable beyond the dreams of the robber barons. It does more abortions than anyone else. And it's widely recognized as charging more per abortion than its competitors. Its officers receive huge salaries—\$904,014 for its president in 2023—and all the perks of royalty.

Tax-exempt status can be removed if an organization participates in illegal practices, allows assets or income to benefit insiders, or engages in political activity. Planned Parenthood strikes out on all these counts. During its lawsuit against the Center for Medical Progress, its representatives didn't even deny that it peddled baby body parts for "valuable consideration," contrary to federal law.

The baby-killing titan's "charitable" recognition is a farce. Its tax-exempt status is an injustice that dives to the lowest depths of a monster-infested pool. The time to hold it to rules that govern other for-profit corporations is now. And Life Legal means to lead the way.

"I'm Not Dead Yet"

Aggressive Organ Harvesting versus the Sanctity of Life

On July 21, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, under Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., revealed the results of an investigation into the organ procurement industry. Anybody who paid attention and was previously uninformed experienced profound shock: could this really be happening in America? But we at Life Legal were not surprised.

What were the findings detailed by HHS investigators? The most significant was that, of 351 cases examined, 28 patients "may not have been deceased at the time organ procurement was initiated." We suspect that this finding, based on a mere 351 cases, may be a drastic underestimation of how often organs are taken from patients—or should we say "specimens"?—who are still alive.

In one nightmarish case, a patient was readied for removal of his organs while he visibly wept and shook his head. It takes an excessively flexible definition of death to justify this procedure—and many similar ones, now verified by the HHS, that are only marginally less extreme.

Life Legal has played a key role in exposing these abuses. We were sounding the alarm on the organ donation process long before sounding that alarm was fashionable. And we've been seeking remedies.

- We've investigated the ramifications of various definitions of death that transplant enthusiasts apply to hasten the recovery of organs.
- We've long engaged in public advocacy—such as lobbying the Organ Procurement and Transportation Network (OPTN) for greater transparency and adherence to the law. Moreover, we've recruited individual citizens and other organizations to do the same.
- Most important of all, we've stepped in to save many patients scheduled for convenient declaration of death and speedy excision of organs. And we're stepping in to save more on a regular basis.

Our work on individual cases necessarily demands high degrees of confidentiality. In some of the accounts below, patients' names have been changed or abbreviated.

- "Baby Olivia" suffered a brain injury two weeks after birth. Doctors pushed to withdraw her ventilator and sought to wrest custody from Olivia's mother. Thanks to Life Legal's assistance, a court upheld the mother's custody. Olivia's treatment continued and she was able to return home.
- 11-year-old Mariana suffered a cerebral injury as a result of undiagnosed diabetes. The organ donation engineers

got right to work in an effort to declare her brain-dead and, when she passed one test, clamored for further tests that she could fail. Life Legal's intervention kept the death certificate at bay. She was transferred to long-term care and survived her ordeal.

- "Baby Juan Carlos," again just two weeks after birth, was dismissed as "probably brain dead" by doctors. His family reached out to Life Legal. Our nurse guided parents in dealing with the hospital. Eventually, a second EEG showed clear brain waves. Doctors had been wrong. Juan Carlos was alive—and his organs are still in his possession today.

These few cases by themselves—and we've dealt with many more—indicate a number of objections to the current organ donation system.

- Definitions of death are exploited to maximize the immediate availability of organs. For example, the legal definition of "brain death" requires the complete cessation of cerebral activity, including in the brain stem. But many practitioners now apply a definition that permits some activity. The adjusted definition makes a death certificate that much easier to secure.
- Registration as an organ donor is often used as an expansive license to restrict treatment and invite death—and even to freeze loved ones out of any decision on the continuation of care.
- In addition, transplant enthusiasts are already pushing the envelope. A recent article in *The New York Times* recommends removal of organs from donors whose bodies are warm, whose hearts are beating, who look like they're about to wake up. It also proposes automatic removal, according to these standards, from anyone who hasn't explicitly opted out.

Life Legal takes no position on organ donation as such. But we will continue to fight for patients whose lives are being terminated to secure valuable organs. And we will continue to advocate for more humane, life-centered policies when it comes to organ harvesting.





Specific victories of 2025:

- ✓ A pregnant woman in Texas decided to abort her child. Her partner's mother, the baby's grandmother, pleaded for the infant's life—to no avail. The expectant mother fled from Texas to a pro-abortion state, and the victim was indeed aborted. A year later, the grandmother learned that the aborting mother was seeking to prosecute her for criminal harassment. Some forms of malice apparently know no boundaries. But Life Legal mounted a vigorous defense, and, in March of this year, before trial, prosecutors dropped all charges.
- ✓ In 2021, pro-lifers, including our clients Laura Gies and Audrey Whipple, participated in a sit-in at an Akron, Ohio, abortion mill. The Biden/Garland Justice Department decided to make a federal case under the FACE Act out of this nonviolent action. We filed a motion to dismiss on grounds that FACE prohibited only obstruction, not sit-ins. Early this year, our argument proved efficacious—in the eyes of the Trump DOJ. The suit was dismissed.
- ✓ GenBioPro, a manufacturer of the abortifacient poison mifepristone, challenged West Virginia's law banning abortion with some limited exceptions. The drug dealer's rationale was that FDA approval of its product preempted state law. In effect, GenBioPro's action was yet another attempt to nullify *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* and reinstate *Roe*, at least for pharmaceutical child-killing. Our amicus brief argued that FDA approval only spoke to safety, not to access. The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals agreed—and West Virginia's prohibition on most abortions still stands.
- ✓ Family Planning Associates, a gigantic abortion chain, snuck a murder mill into Tulare, California. However, the property the abortionists leased was governed by a declaration of covenants that forbade abortion facilities. We sued on behalf of the property owners association. No, we haven't finished that part of the case yet. Our victory involves the vengeful countersuit filed by the ever-malicious abortion profiteers. We filed to dismiss their action as a SLAPP suit—a Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation. And it was duly dismissed.

VICTORIES FOR HUMAN LIFE

Catherine Short at courthouse with CMP David Daleiden

In our annual reports, Life Legal informs supporters of the successes that their generosity has enabled over the past year. But, before addressing those specific victories this year, we'd like to consider a matter of much longer standing. 2025 marked the 10th anniversary of the shocking videos published by investigative journalists at the Center for Medical Progress.

You've seen the videos and probably know most of the story. CMP proved through extensive video evidence that Planned Parenthood was violating federal law by peddling baby body parts for "valuable consideration." Moreover, the videos revealed the shocking callousness of the entire abortion industry that monetized the brutal killing of innocent human beings. The mainstream media didn't know how to respond at first—but quickly devoted themselves to Planned Parenthood damage control. Pro-life whistleblowers were targeted with vengeful lawsuits and Life Legal stepped up to represent them. Even so, the investigators, not the perpetrators, are the ones facing consequences.

That doesn't sound like a pro-life victory. But pro-lifers need to shift their viewpoint.

The CMP videos shook abortionist rationales harder than anything since the mass rescue movement that marked our founding. Planned Parenthood apologists made feeble attempts to absolve their idol of illegal wrongdoing. But they couldn't erase the recorded confessions of practitioners who actually bragged about dismembering infants so as to secure specific parts.

It's often difficult to quantify the effect of particular events on subsequent societal change. But it's reasonable to conclude that the CMP videos had an enormous effect. It may well be that, if CMP had never released them, elections and Supreme Court appointments would have been different.

It may well be that, without the CMP videos, *Roe v. Wade* would still be the law of the land. It's not the law of the land. And that definitely is a victory.

Life Legal is proud to have backed the heroes of CMP all the way.

Looking Forward: Rising to the Challenges Ahead



As indicated on the previous page, a major concern this coming election year is opposing the pro-abortion strategy of reinstating *Roe*, state by state, through ballot initiatives. **But we face other challenges.**

- ✓ We are appealing a trial court decision in *Bakersfield Pregnancy Center v. California Department of Managed Health Care*—our challenge to SB 245, the California statute that grants induced abortion a favored status over childbirth. A victory here could help turn back the tide of pro-abortion legislation in “progressive” states.
- ✓ We are continuing our long history of defending pro-life rescuers—and it’s no easier now than it’s been in the past. Our clients, Red Rose rescuers, enter abortion mills, decline to leave, and offer both roses and help to women in the waiting room. We are defending them against a FACE suit in New York and against criminal charges. We emphasize that, while rescuers trespass, they use no force, threat of force, or physical obstruction.
- ✓ We are challenging a San Diego ordinance that establishes bubble zones around schools and churches as well as medical offices. Though there are no guarantees where pro-life speech is concerned, we believe that the judge is slowly coming to understand that the City faced no problem that required restrictions on speech.

And, as always, we are maintaining a full load of everyday work assisting activists and pregnancy centers. The calls are coming in right now.

A Call to Action for Pro-lifers:

In light of revelations from the HHS investigation (see page 7), we are counseling the Life Legal faithful to guard against the excesses of the organ procurement industry.

We strongly advise explicit withdrawal from the organ donor registry. Instead of the feel-good option of registering as a no-limits organ donor, it’s wise to appoint a trusted loved one as health care agent. Such an agent can make decisions based on specific circumstances—and in the interest of the patient. Yes, you can still donate organs—according to your agent’s instructions.

The organ registry as it currently stands may deliver a living patient up for inconceivable indignities.

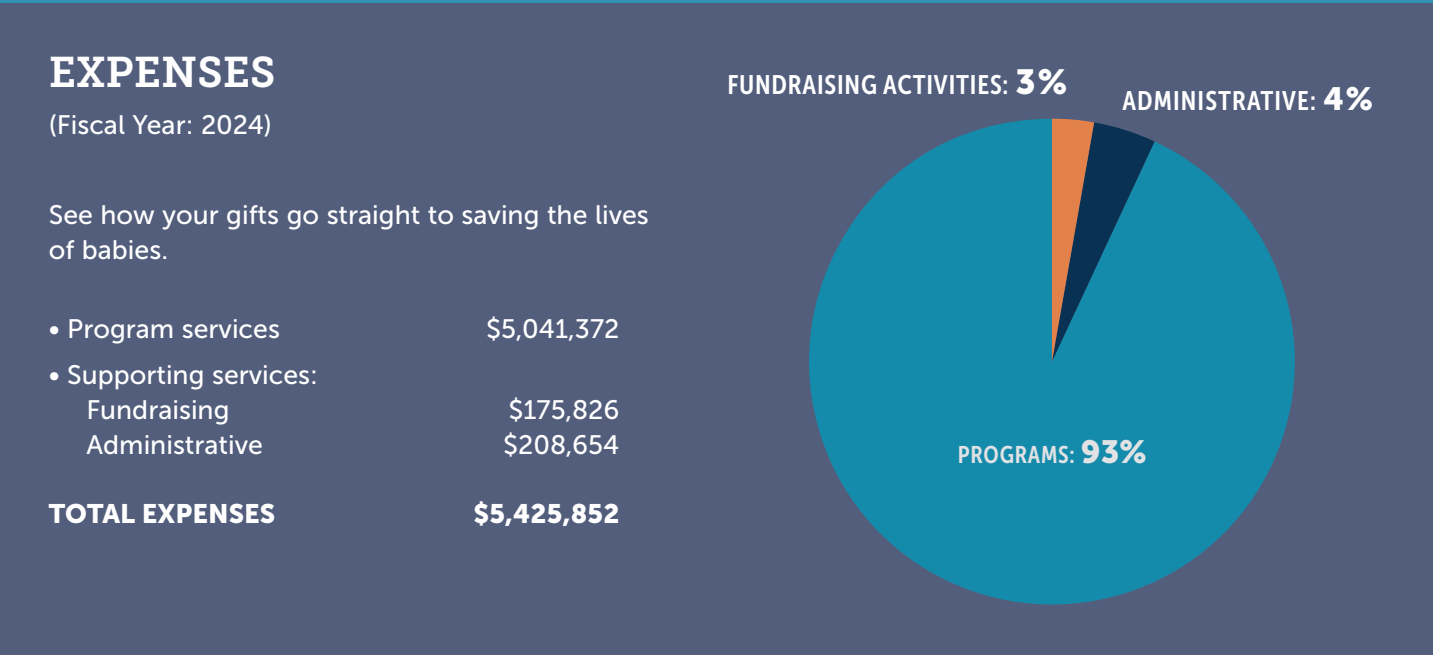
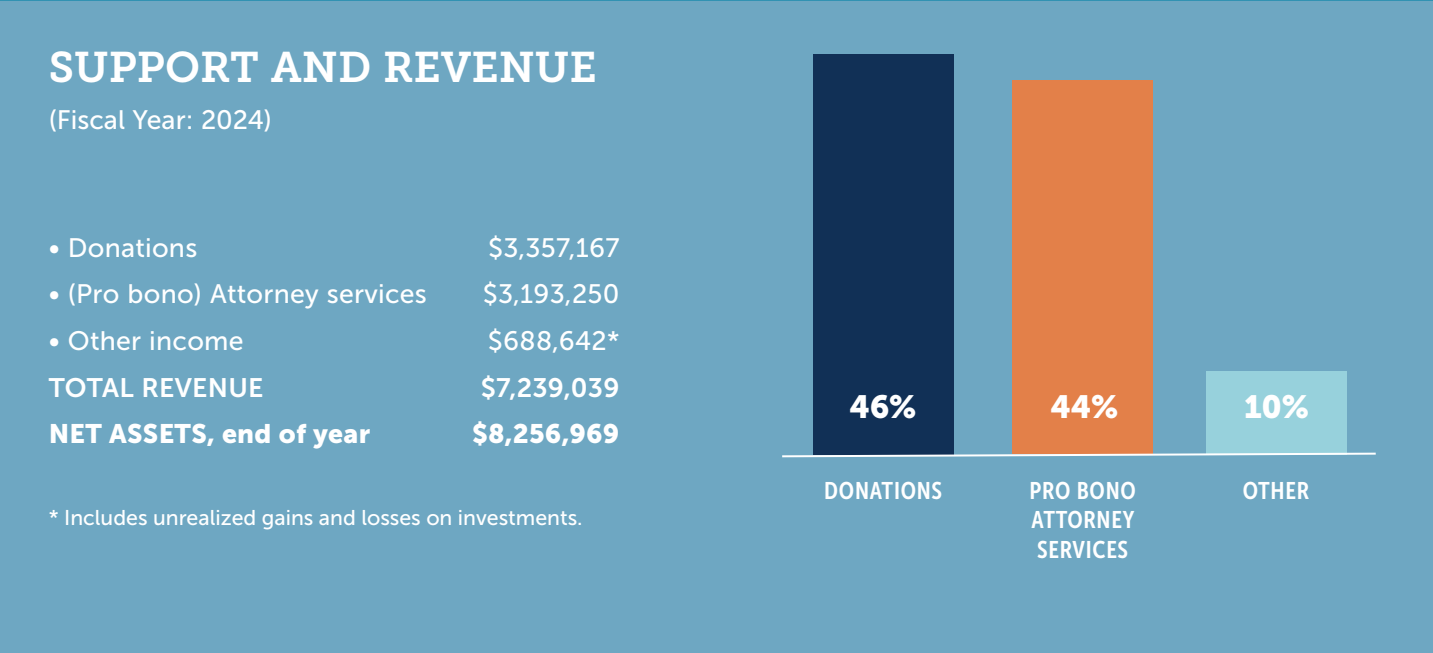
- ✓ Registered donors are subject to shifting definitions of death that don’t always accord with the law.
- ✓ Once the patient is declared dead, the family loses all legal authority over the body. Control passes to the organ procurement business. No spouse or parent can interfere with the business’s decisions.
- ✓ It is illegal for organ procurement businesses to sell vital organs for “valuable consideration”—as Planned Parenthood assuredly sold the organs of aborted babies. But bodies contain tissues that are not classed as vital organs: skin, tendons, eyeballs, and so on. These can be—and are—sold for profit by organ procurement businesses.

The bottom line is that current standards and practices provide powerful incentives to declare patients dead before they, or their families, would consider them dead.

Donating organs and tissues may in itself be a noble aspiration. However, until the industry is thoroughly reformed, pro-lifers and others should secure themselves from abuses. As decades of legalized abortion have shown, medical ethics have long been in decline. The informed pro-lifer should never assume that medical and para-medical operatives are adhering to Hippocratic standards. We urge you to remove your name from your state’s organ donor list.

Stewardship of Your Gifts

As you give you can be assured that Life Legal will be a wise steward of your gifts. The graph below reflects Life Legal’s 2024 Independent audit by Mullins P.C. Program expenses include donated attorney services totaling over three million dollars.



Life Legal Defense Foundation is organized as a religious nonprofit corporation and recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) public charity. We operate under the highest standards of financial accountability and excellence. All charitable donations to Life Legal Defense Foundation are tax-deductible, as allowed by law, within the United States.



Your Life Legal team: Diana Champion, Kathi Rogers, Mary Rose Short, Mary Riley, Jared Conder, Corrina Konczal, Alexandra Snyder, Sadie Vu, Catherine Short, Russ Rooney, Allison Aranda, Tom Riley, Elizabeth Figueroa, Peyton Kwalwasser, Wendy Cravalho, Kelly Connelly (photo: Annalaura Lopez Connelly)

Closing Statement

Thank you for empowering the Life Legal Defense Foundation—and the whole Life Legal family—to pursue pro-life victory over the past year. We earnestly hope that we can depend on your continued support as we engage with the challenges and opportunities of the year to come.

- Without you, we could never have grown from a small group of attorneys helping pro-life rescuers into a coalition of groups promoting pro-life principles on numerous fronts—nor mobilized a network of 5,000 pro bono lawyers in the nation's courtrooms!
- Without you, we never would have seen our decades of advocacy end in the cancellation of public funds to the abortion Moloch Planned Parenthood—nor would we now be gearing up to vacate Planned Parenthood tax-exempt status!
- Without you, we never could have saved so many patients targeted for false declarations of death—nor warned so many against the abuses practiced in the organ procurement industry!

And, without your help, we won't be able to carry these projects and many others forward into the future.

The abortion industry—and corresponding opponents that confront us on other life issues—have suffered some hard knocks in recent years. *Roe* fell in 2022. Now their most powerful army of annihilation, Planned Parenthood, has lost its privileged place as parasite on the taxpayer. Even the pernicious influence of anti-Hippocratic standards in organ donation has been exposed.

But the death merchants have shown that they mean to fight fang and claw to maintain their power.

We are winning—but future successes are far from assured.

Please, as a staunch supporter of human life who understands the value of our mission, could you contribute \$50, \$250, \$500, or even \$1,000 toward our work in 2026?

Keep in mind that, while the abortionists have lost sources of public funding, they still command oceans of blood money against us. From pro-lifers who can afford to consider even higher levels of generosity, we are especially seeking gifts of up to \$5,000 or even \$7,500.

We know we can't compete against the Abortion Empire dollar for dollar. But, if we can match them dime for dollar, or even nickel for dollar, we can defeat them. We've proved it over and over again.

Still, we understand the power of the Widow's Mite. We would be deeply grateful for any amount you could afford to contribute.

In the Life Legal family, we pray every day for our benefactors. And we appeal to you now to pray for us as well.

May the God who gives us strength to face the day—and the coming year—reward you abundantly for intervening to save human life in an age of insanity! May he keep you and your loved ones safe! And may he lead us into a pro-life future!



LIFE LEGAL

DEFENSE FOUNDATION

OUR MISSION

Life Legal is dedicated to upholding the sanctity of human life through passionate litigation, comprehensive education, and robust advocacy. Our mission is to defend the rights of the unborn, protect vulnerable individuals, and promote a culture that values life at every stage.

By advocating for pro-life policies and educating the public on the inherent value of every human life, we strive to create a society where every life is cherished and protected under the law.

*Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed.
Yes, speak up for the poor and helpless, and see that they get justice. Proverbs 31: 8-9*

STAFF

ALEXANDRA SNYDER, ESQ.
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

CATHERINE W. SHORT, ESQ.
CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER

MARY RILEY
CHIEF FINANCIAL/OPERATIONS OFFICER

ALLISON K. ARANDA, ESQ.
DIRECTOR OF CRIMINAL LITIGATION

CORRINA KONCZAL, ESQ.
DIRECTOR OF CIVIL LITIGATION

JARED CONDER
DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC INSIGHTS

MARY ROSE SHORT
*DIRECTOR OF CALIFORNIA
RIGHT TO LIFE*

ELIZABETH FIGUEROA
*DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
AND MARKETING*

RUSS ROONEY
DIRECTOR OF LIFE LEGAL MINNESOTA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JOHN R. STREETT, ESQ.
CHAIRMAN

GELLERT DORNAY

PATRICK LAURENCE, ESQ.

JOHN MADIGAN, J.D.

MARIA MCCARTHY, ESQ.

CHRISTOPHER
SCHWEICKERT, ESQ.

DAVID SHANEYFELT, ESQ.

COLETTE WILSON, ESQ.

BOARD OF ADVISORS

THE HON. STEVE BALDWIN

DR. JOHN EASTMAN

THE REV. JOSEPH D. FESSIO, S.J.

ROBERT P. GEORGE

THE HON. RAY HAYNES

JAMES HIRSEN, ESQ.

THE HON. HOWARD KALOOGIAN

DAVID LLEWELLYN, ESQ.

ANNE J. O'CONNOR, ESQ.

BEN STEIN, ESQ.

ANDREW ZEPEDA, ESQ.

LIFE LEGAL DEFENSE FOUNDATION

P.O. BOX 2105

NAPA, CALIFORNIA 94558

EMAIL: INFO@LIFELEGAL.ORG

(707) 224-6675

LIFELEGAL.ORG/DONATE