

# IJ ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR '25

(JULY 1, 2024 – JUNE 30, 2025)

Dear *Liberty & Law* reader,

Since IJ opened our doors on September 3, 1991, we have always played the long game. While we celebrate every quick win we achieve, our approach has always been to gradually build precedent, improve policies, and change minds in favor of liberty. That's how we take issues like full First Amendment protection for occupational speech and turn it from a pipe dream law professors laughed at into the law of the land.

For that reason, IJ doesn't put too much value in yearly metrics; we don't know when courts will issue decisions, for instance, so the number of victories will inevitably vary from year to year. So annual statistics just don't fully reflect our approach to transformative legal change. But we understand that top-line figures can provide helpful context to the cases you read about in *Liberty & Law*.

Each student we train is another advocate for liberty-minded public interest law—and sometimes a future IJ attorney. Each brief, book, or article that cites an IJ case is part of a battle to win over the public and the legal community alike to IJ's philosophy of a free society. Even our YouTube subscribers—up to almost half a million!—spread our work to ever more people and have become our largest source of new supporters.

This year's victories show progress across IJ initiatives new and old. Our initiative against civil forfeiture, launched more than a decade ago, scored two big wins at appeals courts to make innocent victims of government seizures whole. And IJ's Zoning Justice Project, launched just last year, has helped usher through 14 bills that make it easier to use your property in peaceful and productive ways—in addition to winning court victories for home businesses in Tennessee and small homes in Georgia.

Each of these wins has ripple effects for years to come. In March, a Florida town withdrew its citation against a community garden after we reminded them that a previous IJ lawsuit spurred reforms that protect the right to grow food on residential property. And in these pages, you'll read about how last year's U.S. Supreme Court victory in *Gonzalez v. Trevino* led to not just a final victory for Sylvia but also created a new tool for victims of government abuse to defend their rights.

In short, every number you will see in this report is part of IJ's long-term strategy.

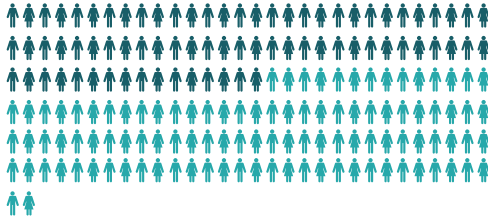
By defending the rights of our clients today, we safeguard the rights of all Americans for generations. Thank you to our supporters, allies, and clients.

Scott Bullock  
President and Chief Counsel

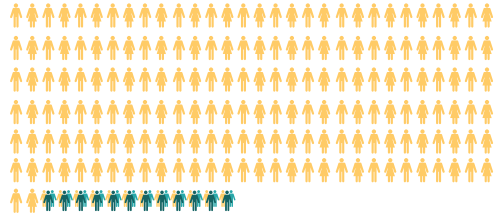
# IJ BY THE NUMBERS

## People

IJ employed **192 total staff**.  
Of those, **76 were attorneys**.



We represented **192 clients**,  
plus **12 class actions**.



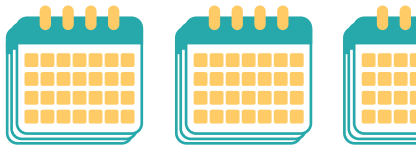
## Activity



**28 cases launched** in FY25.



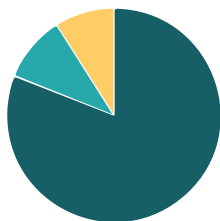
Among the **26 cases closed** in FY25,  
the average case took **2.5 years to litigate**  
and involved **2,263 attorney and staff hours**.



- **The fastest case resolved in 96 days**  
(an eminent domain cert petition)
- **The longest took more than 8 years**  
(a complex forfeiture case in Arizona)
- **The most resource-intensive involved 8,632 hours**  
(Pasco, Florida, predictive policing)

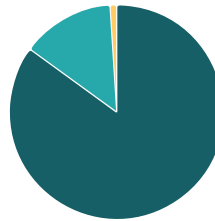
## Financials

Our budget was **\$47,425,762**.



81% programs,  
10% administration,  
9% fundraising

IJ received support from **12,807 donors**.



85% individuals,  
14% foundations,  
1% businesses





PENDING IJ CASE



CITIES WORK



IJ OFFICE



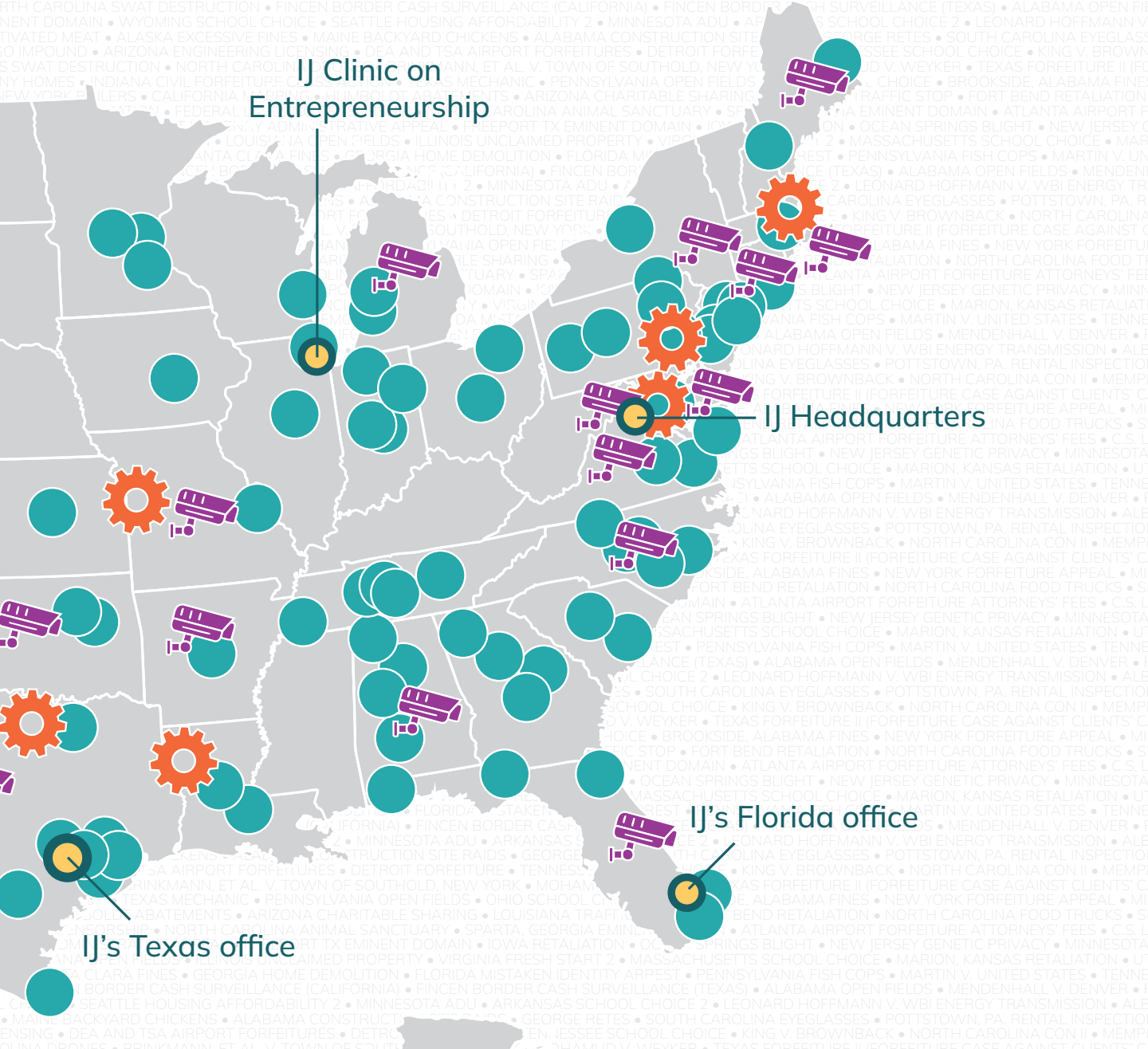
PLATE PRIVACY PROJECT

IJ Clinic on Entrepreneurship

IJ Headquarters

IJ's Texas office

IJ's Florida office



# REAL WORLD RESULTS

## Victories

In FY25, IJ secured **25 victories through litigation** in cases filed in state or federal courts—including **6 Preliminary Injunctions or Temporary Restraining Orders**.

Because success in court is a long-term endeavor, we also bring to bear all the tools of public interest litigation to generate incremental change. In addition to litigation victories, IJ spurred **49 mission-supporting wins** through legislation, grassroots activism, amicus briefs, and “litigation by letterhead.”

## Types of Impact



Secured the return of more than **\$200,000** in wrongly seized assets



Directly **freed 10 businesses** from government restrictions and **eased burdens for 13 industries** in 17 states



Created or expanded **5 educational choice programs**, including universal ESAs in NH, TN, TX, and WY

What you've accomplished for us is life-changing, and we'll never forget how you stood by our side and made what seemed impossible, possible. You are not just our lawyers—you are now part of our family.

- Ndeye Diagne (daughter of Awa Diagne, an IJ client in South Fulton, Georgia).

# IJ'S INFLUENCE



**Published 3 Strategic Research reports**

**Cited in 2 books**



**Cited in reports from 2 state agencies**



**495,000 YouTube subscribers**

Posted **43 videos** in FY25, which have received a total of more than **13.4 million views**



**30,500 Liberty & Law subscribers**



**1,330 media hits** in more than **600 publications**



**124 students trained**



**Collaborated with 117 organizations**, including:

ACLU, Atlas Institute, Cato, Due Process Institute, EdChoice, Federalist Society, FIRE, MacArthur Justice Center, New Civil Liberties Alliance, PLF, Reason, State Policy Network, Yes In My Backyard

# WHAT HAPPENS AFTER IJ WINS A CASE?



Last year's victory in *Gonzalez v. Trevino* brought Sylvia Gonzalez from a small Texas town to the highest court in the nation. Since then, courts across the country have used her case to allow many other Americans to vindicate their rights after being wrongly arrested for criticizing the government.

## RIPPLE EFFECTS OF *GONZALEZ V. TREVINO*:

**July 2019:**

*Sylvia arrested*

**September 2020:**

IJ files suit

**June 20, 2024:**

SCOTUS issues decision  
in Sylvia's favor

**October 7, 2024:**

*Murphy v. Schmitt* granted,  
vacated, and remanded in light  
of *Gonzalez*  
(a petition IJ filed)

**October 15, 2024:**

*Villarreal v. Texas* granted,  
vacated, and remanded in light  
of *Gonzalez*  
(IJ had filed an amicus brief in  
the case, litigated by FIRE)

**April 8, 2025:**

5th Circuit mostly reinstates  
previous decision

**July 7, 2025:**

FIRE appeals to  
SCOTUS again  
(case is still pending)

**July 10, 2025:**

8th Circuit reverses its previous  
decision, allowing the case  
to move forward. IJ passes  
the case back to its original  
attorneys.

**Oct 15, 2025:**

Settlement victory: damages for Sylvia  
and 1A training for town officials

**79 other cases** have cited Sylvia's Supreme Court win.

Sylvia's victory and the ripple effects of her case have been referenced in **39 media clips**, including in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, Fox News, CNN, and NBC.

# HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT IJ!

Donate by mail using the enclosed envelope

Give one-time—or sign up to give monthly

Make a gift through your IRA

Donate stock

Donate cryptocurrency

Ask if your employer will match your charitable donations

Use a donor-advised fund

Designate IJ as a beneficiary of your will, trust, or investment account

Sign a friend up for *Liberty & Law*  
[ij.org/liberty-and-law](https://ij.org/liberty-and-law)

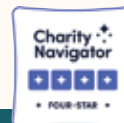
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Scan the QR code to learn more about these options or visit [ij.org/support](https://ij.org/support)



Our nation has been blessed by the wisdom of our Founders in crafting a Constitution and Bill of Rights that have protected our rights for nearly 250 years. But those documents don't enforce themselves. I'm so glad that IJ exists and is succeeding in enforcing and expanding our rights. Thank you so much!

- Jennifer M., Washington

I support IJ because they bring light to stories that might otherwise be swept under the rug, and they fight for the people who don't have the means to make that fight on their own.

- Jeff A., Nevada

