

**Institute for Justice's  
Law Student Conference  
Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>**

**\*Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>:** *IJ Headquarters, 901 N. Glebe Road, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Arlington, VA 22203*  
*\*Optional depending on travel plans*

**3:00 – 4:30 PM Attendee Arrival and Hotel Check-In**

**5:00 – 7:00 PM Welcome Reception and Opening Remarks**

**Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>:** *901 N. Glebe Road, 2nd Floor, Arlington, VA 22203*

**8:15 – 8:45 AM Breakfast**

**8:45 – 8:55 AM Student and Speaker Introductions**

**8:55 – 9:35 AM History of Public Interest Law and IJ's Contribution**

To kick off the day, we'll trace the history and evolution of public interest litigation, including IJ's contributions and how young lawyers have made a big impact in that work.

**9:35 – 10:40 AM IJ's Principles and Pillars: Property Rights**

Why can't the government just take all your stuff? We'll discuss IJ's work explaining the answer to this question (a question that still baffles many government officials) in the context of eminent domain, civil forfeiture, zoning, the Fourth Amendment, and beyond.

**10:40 – 10:50 AM Break**

**10:50 – 11:40 AM IJ's Principles and Pillars: Free Speech**

The Free Speech Clause of the First Amendment is one of the most litigated provisions in the Constitution, and there are way more potential First Amendment cases than any one group could ever possibly litigate. How does IJ decide which cases are worth our time and energy? We focus on valuable categories of speech that have the greatest potential to educate, inform, and persuade. We'll discuss our current casework, highlighting how our cutting-edge legal theories are promoting free speech across the country.

**11:40 – 11:50 AM Break**

**11:50 AM – 12:35 PM Deep Dive: Inside IJ's Supreme Court Playbook**

Over the past three decades, the Institute for Justice has taken 13 cases to the Supreme Court—winning 11 in the process—as part of its work to defend individual liberty and enforce constitutional limits on government power. This session will examine a cross section of IJ cases to show how Supreme Court litigation unfolds in practice, including cases where certiorari was denied, cases that were granted and won, cases that were granted and lost, and cases that settled yet reshaped the law and influenced future courts. Along the way, we will pull back the curtain on the work that happens beyond the briefs, from strategic case selection and long-term issue development to the intense preparation of legal teams and clients as they step into the uniquely high-pressure environment of a media saturated Supreme Court argument.

**12:35 – 1:35 PM Lunch**

**1:35 – 2:30 PM From Client to the Court: Advancing a Legal Strategy in the Real World**  
Now that you have the foundation down, we'll teach you what it takes to change the law—from putting together your first case to strategically developing a string of cases to create a circuit split and hopefully convincing the Supreme Court to accept review. You'll learn how to find cases and clients, advance cutting-edge legal doctrines, and how—whether or not we win in court—we can achieve real-world results that help everyday Americans enjoy more freedom.

**2:30 – 2:35 PM Break**

**2:35 – 3:15 PM Your Turn: Crafting a Case in Real Time**  
In this session, you'll take what you learned and apply it to a potential IJ case. Our team will lead a "litigation case discussion" just like the ones IJ attorneys have each month to vet potential cases. One week prior to the event, our team will send all attendees a mock litigation memo to review in order to prepare for this session.

**3:15 – 3:25 PM Break**

**3:25 – 4:00 PM IJ's Principles and Pillars: Educational Choice**  
IJ has litigated educational choice cases all over the country. We'll give an overview of our past and current litigation and the kinds of programs we've defended, highlight the real-world implications of this important work, and preview the issues we see on the horizon for our expanded work in this area of defending education entrepreneurs.

**4:00 – 5:30 PM Break Until Dinner**  
Please meet us outside of your hotel for shuttle service to the boat cruise pickup spot. Buses will be leaving promptly at 5:30 PM.

**5:30 – 9:30 PM Boat Cruise Dinner**  
\*With TBD guest speaker

**Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>:** *901 N. Glebe Road, 2nd Floor, Arlington, VA 22203*

**8:15 – 8:45 AM Breakfast**

**8:45 – 9:35 AM IJ Communication Strategies: Advocating in the Court of Public Opinion**  
We'll share our strategies for working with the media to litigate cases in the court of public opinion, including how we shape narratives around client stories and balance engagement with legal strategy. We'll also distinguish public interest from broader media and communications efforts and explain why that difference matters.

**9:35 – 9:45 AM Break**

**9:45 – 10:35 AM IJ's Principles and Pillars: Economic Liberty**  
The American Dream turns on the idea that we are all free to work—that anyone with a good idea and a lot of elbow grease can climb the economic ladder by giving people what they want. But that dream is under attack, with the government enacting and enforcing arbitrary and burdensome restrictions too often meant to shield entrenched businesses from new competitors. We'll identify some of the worst threats to economic liberty IJ has encountered and how IJ has fought back to empower not just its clients, but all Americans.

**10:35 – 10:45 AM Break**

**10:45 – 11:35 AM Project Highlight: Project on Immunity and Accountability**

IJ's Project on Immunity and Accountability (PIA) is devoted to a simple idea: If we the people must follow the law, our government must follow the Constitution. We'll walk through how our PIA area brings cases that challenge immunity doctrines and seek meaningful remedies when government officials violate constitutional rights.

**11:35 – 11:40 AM Break**

**11:40 AM – 12:25 PM IJ Question and Answer**

Scott Bullock, President and Chief Counsel

Dana Berliner, Senior Vice President and Litigation Director

**12:25 – 1:20 PM Lunch**

**1:20 – 3:40 PM Practical Skills Breakout Sessions:**

**From Theory to Practice: Writing for the Supreme Court**

In this session, we'll walk you through the essential steps of drafting a clear and effective legal complaint, from establishing jurisdiction and defining your claims to presenting facts in a concise, persuasive manner. We will also explore how legal writing changes when you are preserving issues for Supreme Court review, including how to frame questions presented and how to write with future justices—not just district judges—in mind.

**From Theory to Practice: Crafting a Media Strategy**

In this session, we'll explore how media strategy intersects with Supreme Court litigation, including when publicity helps or hurts at the cert stage and how messaging evolves once cert is granted.

**From Theory to Practice: Prepping for Trial**

In this session, we'll explore how great Supreme Court cases are built at the trial level, with a focus on record building, issue preservation, and trial decisions that shape future appeals. We'll examine how to establish and preserve the right facts and issues and how strategic choices at trial can determine whether a case is positioned for appellate and Supreme Court review.

**3:40 – 3:50 PM Break**

**3:50 – 4:50 PM Client Panel and Final Address**

To wrap up the day, we'll hear directly from IJ clients.

**4:50 – 5:50 PM Group Photo and Dinner at HQ**