Time to Vote

Time to Vote is a nonpartisan, business-led initiative to help ensure employees across America don’t have to choose between voting and earning a paycheck. Time to Vote seeks to contribute to the culture shift needed to increase voter participation in our country’s elections.

Join us!
Maketimeyovote.org

LEVI STRAUSS & CO. patagonia
BRENNAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE

BRENNAN LEGACY AWARDS DINNER

NOVEMBER 19, 2019
PROGRAM

Tuesday, November 19, 2019
583 Park Avenue
New York City

Welcome
Robert A. Atkins
Co-Chair, Board of Directors

Brennan Legacy Award Presentation
Levi Strauss & Co. and Patagonia
Accepted by Kelly McGinnis and Betsy Pantazelos
Franz Paasche
Presenter

Memorial Tribute to Gail Furman
Trevor Morrison
Dean, NYU School of Law

Our Fight for Democracy
Michael Waldman
President, Brennan Center for Justice

Brennan Legacy Award Presentation
Katie Fahey
Desmond Meade
Michael Li
Myrna Pérez
Presenters
Welcome to the annual Brennan Legacy Awards Dinner—where we pay tribute to the memory of Justice William J. Brennan, Jr., celebrate the work of the institution that bears his name, and honor those who exemplify his values and vision.

On behalf of all of us at the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law, thank you for joining us. Tonight, we recognize Levi Strauss & Co. and Patagonia for their leadership of Time to Vote, a coalition of more than 400 businesses united to promote voter participation. And we honor two citizen leaders of the new democracy movement: Desmond Meade, whose authentic leadership, life experience, and vision were instrumental in restoring the right to vote to 1.4 million Floridians with past criminal convictions, and Katie Fahey, who turned a Facebook post about gerrymandering into a powerful grassroots movement for nonpartisan redistricting reform in Michigan. Finally, we pay tribute to the life and legacy of our friend and colleague Dr. Gail Furman.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our Dinner Co-Chairs and Committee, our colleagues at NYU and NYU School of Law, and to all our supporters, pro bono partners, and friends. Your commitment makes possible our efforts to reform, revitalize, and defend our nation’s systems of democracy and justice.

The Brennan Center has forged a distinct model—part think tank, part legal advocacy group, part communications hub. Nonpartisan. Independent. We face a decisive year in the great fight for American democracy. We work to defend democratic institutions from attack, resist abuse of power, and restore the rule of law. And, with focus and resolve, we strive to ensure that the 2020 elections are free, fair, and secure.

In all we do, we are guided by the words of Justice Brennan: “If our free society is to endure, and I know it will, those who govern must recognize that the Framers of the Constitution limited their power in order to preserve human dignity and the air of freedom, which is our proudest heritage... We all share the burden.”

We are grateful for your partnership in carrying that burden – and for all you contribute to the Brennan Center community. Have a wonderful evening.

Sincerely,

Michael Waldman
President
**EVENT LEADERSHIP**

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Robert A. Atkins  
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Bank of America

Patricia Bauman & the Hon. John Landrum Bryant

Leslie & Ashish Bhutani

The John and Wendy Neu Foundation

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Sascha N. Rand & Andrew J. Rossman  
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as of November 11
Levi Strauss & Co. and Patagonia

When a handful of companies started reaching out to CEOs to join Time To Vote during the summer of 2018, Levi Strauss & Co. and Patagonia had the goal of getting 50 companies to participate. By the 2018 midterm elections, Time to Vote had 411 participating companies representing a variety of industries, including PayPal, Southwest Airlines, Kaiser Permanente, Lyft, Tyson Foods, and Walmart. The brands committed to increasing voter participation by ensuring their employees had a work schedule that allowed them time to vote. The election had the highest turnout for a U.S. midterm since 1914.

The Time To Vote campaign launched with a full-page print ad in The New York Times on Sunday, September 23, 2018—two days ahead of National Voter Registration Day—and a national television ad by Levi Strauss & Co. The message was amplified through earned media and blog posts by Levi Strauss & Co. CEO Chip Bergh and Patagonia CEO Rose Marcario. The campaign harnessed positive media attention as a force for democracy. It garnered coverage from major national news outlets, as well as local newspapers, television, and radio outlets across the country. The coverage helped drive voter enthusiasm and won positive editorials and accolades from the Washington Post, The Boston Globe, Time, and Pew Research Center. Most importantly, the campaign offered a positive narrative in a tense and negative campaign season, and demonstrated the impact that the business community can achieve when companies put differences aside and work together on the most significant issues of our time.

Time to Vote’s goal is to enlist 1,000 companies for the November 3, 2020 general election. Join us at maketimetovote.org.

Kelly McGinnis

As Chief Communications Officer of Levi Strauss & Co., Kelly McGinnis is responsible for managing the global Corporate Affairs function at the 160-year old apparel company. In this capacity, she oversees corporate media relations, executive, internal, and stakeholder communications, and government and community affairs. Kelly reports to CEO Chip Bergh. During her tenure, LS&Co. held a successful initial public offering in March 2019 and has taken bold positions on gun violence prevention, voter registration, immigration, and equality, to name a few of the company’s values-driven stances.
Previously, Kelly was the Vice President of Global Communications at Dell. Prior to joining Dell, she served as General Manager of FleishmanHillard’s San Francisco office after working with the firm in various capacities in St. Louis and San Antonio. Earlier in her career, Kelly led corporate communications for drugstore.com.

Kelly is a two-time Silver Anvil Award recipient. She holds a master’s degree in public administration from the University of Washington and a bachelor’s degree from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

Betsy Pantazelos

Betsy Pantazelos runs Patagonia’s New York and Connecticut retail district, overseeing six stores and hundreds of employees. Betsy managed Patagonia’s Election Day store closures in 2016 and 2018, which ensured employees had Time to Vote. She looks forward to doing so again on November 3, 2020, because no worker should have to choose between earning a paycheck and voting.

A Massachusetts native, Betsy began working in the Patagonia Boston store in 2007. She managed that location before becoming the New York and Connecticut District Manager in 2014. Betsy leads a team that supports dozens of environmental organizations in and around New York and provides store space as activism hubs for campaign planning, including for the recent climate strikes. Working for the John Muir Trust in Scotland, where she focused on wild land advocacy through Patagonia’s environmental internship program, has been one of Betsy’s career highlights.

Betsy earned a bachelor’s degree in English from Boston University and a master’s degree in publishing from Emerson College. When she is not working to save our home planet (which is Patagonia’s mission statement), Betsy can be found—and sometimes lost—backcountry ski touring in New England, cycling along the Hudson River, and rock climbing. She resides in Brooklyn but remains a faithful Red Sox fan.
Katie Fahey

Katie Fahey is Co-Founder and Executive Director of The People, a nascent nonprofit organization of Americans coming together to restore everyday people’s role in the political process, and their trust in one another. The People connects individuals nationwide across the ideological spectrum to find common ground around nonpartisan good governance reforms, and to navigate the political process to affect structural change.

This work is informed and inspired by Katie’s experiences in her home state of Michigan. Responding to the extreme divisiveness in politics following the 2016 election, Katie posted on Facebook asking if anyone would like to take on gerrymandering in Michigan, and—almost by accident—started a political movement. As a result, she went on to serve as Executive Director of Voters Not Politicians, a volunteer-driven, nonpartisan campaign that ran a successful grassroots effort to end partisan gerrymandering in Michigan. Katie wound up leading a volunteer army over 10,000 strong from all 83 counties in the state that managed, against all odds, to pass a transpartisan ballot proposal with 61% of the vote. Over 2.5 million Michiganders voted to amend the state constitution to create an independent citizens redistricting commission, which is poised to draw its first set of fair maps in 2021.

The story of Katie and her fellow democracy warriors is featured in the 2019 documentary film Slay the Dragon, which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival. Variety hailed the documentary as “the most important political film of the year,” and added that “it may prove to be one of the key political films of the decade.”

In her current role leading The People, Katie draws upon the experience she gained in Michigan to support others across the country who are also looking to make nonpartisan policy changes. The People entrusts, organizes, and empowers individuals not often seen in the political arena: everyday folks who have a lot to contribute but aren’t sure how to make an impact, or feel overlooked by those already entrenched in the political system. The People’s goal is to empower those “non-expert” but passionate citizens to unleash their inherent skills and leverage their nonpolitical experience, with the ultimate goal of creating a government that is responsive and accountable to all its people.

Katie’s began her career in the retail distribution and sustainability space. She received Bachelor of Arts degrees in Sustainable Business and Community Leadership from Aquinas College in 2011.
Desmond Meade

Desmond Meade is a formerly homeless returning citizen who overcame many obstacles to eventually become President of the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition (FRRC), Chair of Floridians for a Fair Democracy, and a graduate of Florida International University College of Law.

As President and Executive Director of FRRC, which is recognized for its work on criminal justice reform issues, Desmond has orchestrated a coalition comprised of over 70 state and national organizations and individuals which includes, but is not limited to, the NAACP, ACLU, PICO, Florida League of Women Voters, Brennan Center for Justice, A. Philip Randolph Institute, PICO Florida, and Florida Immigration Coalition.

Desmond has received many accolades, celebrating his hard work and commitment to social justice. He led the FRRC to a historic victory in 2018 with the successful passage of Amendment 4, a grassroots citizen’s initiative which restored voting rights to over 1.4 million Floridians with past felony convictions. Amendment 4 represented the single largest expansion of voting rights in the United States in half a century and brought an end to 150 years of a Jim Crow-era law in Florida. Desmond is presently leading efforts to empower and civically re-engage local communities across the state, and to reshape local, state, and national criminal justice policies.

A sought-after speaker, Desmond has made numerous media appearances, and has spoken before national organizations such as the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Desmond has testified before members of Congress and was a part of a United Nations delegation, where he gave testimony regarding disenfranchiseement in Florida. Desmond orchestrated a historic meeting at the White House between returning citizens and the Obama administration. He has appeared on numerous shows such as Al Jazeera, Democracy Now!, and MSNBC’s AM Joy. Desmond has been selected as one of Time’s 100 most influential people in 2019, a “Game Changer” by Politic365, and a “Foot Soldier” by MSNBC’s Melissa Harris-Perry. Desmond is married and has five beautiful children.
Robert A. Atkins

Bob Atkins is Co-Chair of the Board of the Brennan Center for Justice. He has been a litigator at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP for 32 years, is Co-Chair of the firm's Litigation Department, and Chairman of the firm's legal ethics committee. Bob has tried cases in state and federal courts all across the country, and has been recognized by The American Lawyer as “Litigator of the Week” for his successful antitrust work and by U.S. News & World Report as one of the “Best Lawyers” in the U.S. Bob handles litigations and government investigations in a wide range of matters and industries, including antitrust and product liability class actions in the medical products business, mass tort actions arising from the 9/11 attacks, struggles for corporate control in the insurance and newspaper industries, charges of payola in the radio industry, false advertising lawsuits in the healthcare industry, and trademark and copyright infringement in the movies and on television. In addition to his commercial practice, Bob regularly litigates voting rights cases, and partners with the Brennan Center on legal challenges to voter suppression laws, partisan gerrymandering, and the Muslim travel bans. From 1983 to 1984, Bob served as Political Director for Representative Robert G. Torricelli (D-NJ) and Campaign Director for Congressman Torricelli’s 1984 reelection campaign.
Patricia Bauman & the Hon. John Landrum Bryant

Patricia Bauman is President of The Bauman Foundation, which supports public policy and advocacy with particular emphasis on civic participation and election reform, as well as environmental issues.

Ms. Bauman is Co-Chair of the Board of Directors of the Brennan Center for Justice. She is on the Board of Trustees of the Natural Resources Defense Council, where she is Chair of the NRDC Action Fund, and a member of the Board of Montefiore Medical Center and the American Bird Conservancy. She is a graduate of Radcliffe College and the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, and earned her J.D. degree from the Georgetown University Law Center.

The Hon. John Landrum Bryant is a designer of jewelry, furniture, lighting, and objects for the home and bath. A graduate of the University of Virginia and the Georgetown University Law Center, he is Co-Director of The Bauman Foundation. Earlier, he was President of the National Park Foundation.
Franz Paasche

Franz W. Paasche leads PayPal’s global external and internal communications functions and the company’s global government relations and public policy activities. He also is responsible for leading PayPal’s social innovation efforts to drive positive social impact around the world. Franz brings over 25 years of extensive expertise in corporate, communications, government, legal, and public affairs domains to PayPal’s expanding global network.

Before joining PayPal, Franz served as Head of External Relations for North America for McKinsey & Company, where he was responsible for external relations, public affairs, strategic communications, and reputation risk, and oversaw issues management and thought leadership initiatives. He also served on the firm’s Global Communications and Publishing Executive Committee and provided counsel to McKinsey’s senior leadership and practice leaders.

Prior to McKinsey, Franz was a Senior Partner at Communications Consulting Worldwide where he provided counsel to a range of global and national companies and institutions on reputation management, strategic leadership communications, brand development, public affairs, and crisis communications.

In addition, Franz has been a Managing Director of strategic communications firm Clark & Weinstock; General Counsel and Executive Vice President at Market Data Corporation; and a litigator with Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP. He is a former staff member for Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan and has served as a lecturer on Leadership in Communications at Columbia University’s School of Continuing Education.

Franz graduated from Swarthmore College with high honors, and received his law degree from the Columbia Law School, where he was a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar and an editor of the Columbia Journal of Transnational Law. He is a member of the Bar in New York State and in New York City.

He was named to The Holmes Report’s Influence 100 list in 2016, 2017, and 2018, and was recognized as The Holmes Report’s Innovation Excellence, Brand Professional SABRE Award recipient in 2018. Franz was named PR Professional of the Year in the Corporate and Nonprofit category by PRNews in 2017. He is also a member of the Arthur Page Society.

Franz was elected to the Brennan Center for Justice Board of Directors in 2018.
Sascha N. Rand

Sascha N. Rand is a Partner in Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP’s New York office and a seasoned litigator with a focus on complex, high-stakes, commercial litigation involving financial institutions, financial instruments, derivatives, antitrust, bankruptcy, business torts, and hedge fund-related litigation. Among recent matters, Mr. Rand has served as one of the Court-appointed co-lead counsel in an array of precedent-setting antitrust cases including the In re Credit Default Swaps antitrust case and ongoing litigation in the In re Stock Lending antitrust case and the In re Interest Rates Swaps antitrust case. In addition to recently representing the ResCap Liquidating Trust in RMBS-related litigation, Mr. Rand represented the Federal Housing Finance Authority in its landmark RMBS securities actions that resulted in approximately $25 billion in recoveries for the U.S. Treasury. In past years, Mr. Rand was responsible for multibillion dollar litigation actions and recoveries brought against banks, auditors, and other professionals in Enron, Parmalat, and Refco. In addition to his commercial work, Mr. Rand regularly seeks to partner with the Brennan Center for Justice, Legal Aid Society, and other critical nonprofit organizations on various projects. Mr. Rand has consistently been identified by Benchmark Litigation as a New York and National Litigation Star.
Andrew J. Rossman

Andrew J. Rossman is a Partner in Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP’s New York office and a seasoned trial lawyer with a broad range of experience in complex commercial litigation including derivatives, securities, corporate governance, bankruptcy, energy, partnership, real estate, and international matters. As lead trial counsel, Mr. Rossman has recovered well over $5 billion in settlements and judgments for private equity firms and their portfolio companies, hedge funds, public companies, officers and directors, and board and creditors’ committees in high-profile disputes in state and federal courts and arbitral tribunals across the country and abroad.

Currently, Mr. Rossman represents KKR in securities litigation arriving out of the SunEdison bankruptcy, Bloomberg in a licensing dispute with UBS, Lehman Brothers International (Europe) in a derivatives dispute with Assured Guaranty, Standard Industries and certain affiliates in litigation with Ashland over the sale of a multibillion dollar chemical company, and New York State Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie in defending the constitutionality of a New York statute creating a commission on prosecutorial conduct.

Previously, Mr. Rossman served as lead counsel for the Lehman Brothers Creditors’ Committee in multibillion lawsuits against JPMorgan Chase & Co., Citibank, and Credit Suisse, including a four-month trial against Citibank culminating in a $1.74 billion settlement; was trial counsel for Access Industries, defeating multibillion dollar fraudulent conveyance and related claims arising out of the LyondellBasell bankruptcy; was lead trial counsel for First Reserve, defeating multibillion dollar breach of fiduciary duty and related claims arising out of the Sabine bankruptcy; was lead counsel for private equity firm MHR, successfully defeating Carl Icahn in courts in New York and Canada over his hostile takeover attempt of Lions Gate Entertainment; won the pivotal trial in the Refco bankruptcy as lead counsel for its largest creditor; was lead counsel for Chris Burch, successfully resolving a highly publicized dispute over the Tory Burch company; and argued and won a unanimous decision in the U.S. Supreme Court on a First Amendment issue.

In October 2017, Mr. Rossman was named Litigator of the Week by The American Lawyer’s Litigation Daily for the $1.74 billion Citigroup settlement with Lehman Brothers and was part of the team awarded Trial Group of the Year by Law360 in January 2018.
PRESENTERS

Michael Li

Michael Li serves as Senior Counsel for the Brennan Center’s Democracy Program, where his work focuses on redistricting, voting rights, and elections. Prior to joining the Brennan Center, Li practiced law at Baker Botts L.L.P. in Dallas for ten years. He was the author of a widely cited blog on redistricting and election law issues that The New York Times called “indispensable.” He is a regular writer and commentator on election law issues, appearing on PBS Newshour, MSNBC, and NPR, and in print in The New York Times, Los Angeles Times, USA Today, Roll Call, Vox, National Journal, Texas Tribune, Dallas Morning News, and San Antonio Express-News, among others.

In addition to his election law work, Li previously served as Executive Director of Be One Texas, a donor alliance that oversaw strategic and targeted investments in nonprofit organizations working to increase voter participation and engagement in historically disadvantaged African American and Hispanic communities in Texas.

Li received his J.D. with honors from Tulane Law School and an undergraduate degree in history from the University of Texas at Austin.
Trevor Morrison serves as Dean of New York University School of Law, where he is also the Eric M. and Laurie B. Roth Professor of Law. He is also a faculty co-director of the Reiss Center on Law and Security at NYU Law. He was previously the Liviu Librescu Professor of Law at Columbia Law School. Before that, he was on the faculty of Cornell Law School. Dean Morrison spent 2009 in the White House, where he served as associate counsel to President Barack Obama.

Dean Morrison’s research and teaching interests are in constitutional law (especially separation of powers and federalism), federal courts, and the law of the executive branch. Drawing on both his scholarship and work experience, he has developed particular renown for his expertise in constitutional law as practiced in the executive branch.

Before entering academia, he was a law clerk to Judge Betty B. Fletcher of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit (1998–99) and to Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg of the U.S. Supreme Court (2002–03). Between those clerkships, he was a Bristow Fellow in the U.S. Justice Department’s Office of the Solicitor General (1999–2000), an attorney-advisor in the Justice Department’s Office of Legal Counsel (2000–01), and an associate at Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering (now WilmerHale) (2001–02).

Dean Morrison received a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from the University of British Columbia in 1994 and a J.D. from Columbia Law School in 1998. He was also a Richard Hofstadter Fellow in History at Columbia University. Dean Morrison is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a Board member of the Brennan Center for Justice, and a member of the American Law Institute and the Council on Foreign Relations.
Myrna Pérez

Myrna Pérez is Director of the Brennan Center’s Voting Rights and Elections Program. An expert on voting rights and election administration, she is the author of several nationally recognized reports and articles. Her work has been featured in media outlets across the country, including *The New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, and MSNBC. She has testified before Congress and several state legislatures on a variety of voting rights related issues. She is a lecturer in law at Columbia Law School and has also served as an adjunct professor of clinical law at NYU School of Law.

Prior to joining the Brennan Center, Pérez was the Civil Rights Fellow at Relman, Dane & Colfax, a civil rights law firm in Washington, D.C. She graduated from Columbia Law School, where she was a Lowenstein Public Interest Fellow. Following law school, Pérez clerked for Hon. Anita B. Brody of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and for Hon. Julio M. Fuentes of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. She previously served as the Chair of the Election Law Committee of the City of New York Bar Association. Pérez is the recipient of several awards, including the Puerto Rican Bar Association Award for Excellence in Academia and the New Jersey League of Women Voters Making Democracy Work Award, and was named one of 2014’s 50 Hispanic Influentials by Hispanic Business.

Pérez earned her undergraduate degree in political science from Yale University. She obtained a master’s degree in public policy from the Harvard Kennedy School, where she was the recipient of the Robert F. Kennedy Award for Excellence in Public Service. Prior to law school, she was a Presidential Management Fellow, serving as a policy analyst for the United States Government Accountability Office on issues including housing and health care.
Michael Waldman

Michael Waldman is President of the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law. He is a leading voice on the issues of American democracy, the presidency, and the law. He joined the Brennan Center in 2005 after a distinguished career in public service and advocacy. Mr. Waldman was Director of Speechwriting for President William J. Clinton from 1995 to 1999, serving as Assistant to the President. He wrote or edited nearly 2,000 speeches, including four State of the Union and two Inaugural Addresses. Previously, he was Special Assistant to the President for Policy Coordination from 1993 to 1995.

In 2016, he published The Fight to Vote (Simon & Schuster). According to the Washington Post, “Waldman’s important and engaging account demonstrates that over the long term, the power of the democratic ideal prevails — as long as the people so demand.” The book was a History Book Club Main Selection. Publishers Weekly called his previous book, The Second Amendment: A Biography (Simon & Schuster, 2014), “the best narrative of its subject.” In a Cardozo Law Review symposium devoted to the book, a Fordham law professor wrote, “The Second Amendment is, without doubt, among the best efforts at melding constitutional history and constitutional law on any topic — at least since the modern revival of originalism two generations ago.” Mr. Waldman’s previous books include My Fellow Americans and POTUS Speaks.

Mr. Waldman has served as the director of Public Citizen’s Congress Watch, a full faculty member at Harvard’s John F. Kennedy School of Government, and a partner at the law firm Cuneo, Waldman & Gilbert, LLP. He is a graduate of Columbia College (B.A., 1982) and NYU School of Law (J.D., 1987), where he was a member of the Law Review.
Dr. Gail Furman was a lifelong advocate for equality, civil rights, and social justice. A native of Queens, she studied at the University of Michigan and received a doctorate in psychology from New York University. She went on to become a talented and successful child psychologist, deeply committed to helping young people unlock their full potential. In addition to her private practice, Gail worked at the Dalton and Fieldston schools and helped create one of the first full-service alternative schools in Harlem.

Gail joined the Brennan Center’s Board of Directors in 2005 and was an annual Chair of the Brennan Legacy Awards Dinner. In addition to her work with the Center, she was a devoted supporter of many causes, having served on the boards of Auburn Seminary, Democracy Alliance, Human Rights First, Leadership Enterprise for a Diverse America, NYU Child Study Center, and Women’s Refugee Commission, among others.

With a generous bequest from Gail’s estate, the Brennan Center is proud to announce a new initiative that will carry on the values she brought to her work: a commitment to justice for all, the strength of diversity, and the power and voice of young people.

Over the years, Gail helped build a community for the Brennan Center, connecting us to others with a shared vision of American democracy. We are especially grateful to her family and the following supporters who have joined us by making gifts in her memory:

- Tom & Andi Bernstein
- Marcy Carsey
- Ellen Chesler & Matthew Mallow
- Margery Colloff
- Joe Conason & Elizabeth Wagley
- Daniel & Alisa Doctoroff
- Kenneth Feinberg
- Andrew Frackman & Emily Braun
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- Jane Lisman & Robert J. Katz
- Marlene Marko & Loren Skeist
- Trevor Morrison
- Erin Murphy
- Susan Raanan & Robert Fleischer
- Gerald Rosenfeld & Judith Zarin
- Jill A. Schuker
- Beatrice Snyder Foundation
- Robert J. Stein
- Steve & Ellen Susman
- Christine Wasserstein
- as of November 11

If you are interested in making a contribution in memory of Gail Furman, please contact John Donahue at john.donahue@nyu.edu or (646) 292-8333.
At a time of massive demographic change and economic dislocation, our public institutions urgently need reform and repair. Our politics are polarized and often paralyzed. We see harsh assaults on communities of color and immigrants. The vital safeguards and checks and balances that underpin democracy are under attack.

The Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law is proud to be a national leader in the fight to reform, revitalize, and defend the systems of democracy and justice. Among our recent accomplishments:

**Setting the National Democracy Agenda**
The best way to respond to attacks on democracy is to strengthen democracy. In March, the House did just that by passing the “For the People Act,” the boldest democracy reform legislation in decades. It includes key Brennan Center solutions like automatic voter registration, election security provisions, and an end to partisan gerrymandering. We coalesced allied groups and provided policy expertise to lawmakers—our testimony was cited 13 times in their report.

**Fighting for Fair and Equal Representation**
On the last day of the Supreme Court term, we celebrated victory against adding a citizenship question to the 2020 census. But the Court’s ruling the same day that federal courts have no role in policing extreme partisan gerrymandering was a damaging blow. The Center played a distinct role, coordinating dozens of amicus briefs in both cases. We also worked to support state reform campaigns, counseling activists on ballot initiatives and legislative opportunities.

**Curbing Abuse of Executive Power**
We issued a year-long investigation of the vast powers available to a president in case of emergencies. Our report proved a crucial resource when weeks later President Trump declared an emergency to build the border wall. We testified before the House Judiciary Committee, arguing that the declaration was unprecedented and illegal. Working with a bipartisan group of allies and former government officials, we lead efforts to rein in these powers through legislative action.

**Achieving Landmark Criminal Justice Reform**
Last December, the First Step Act was signed into law – the most meaningful federal criminal justice reform legislation in a generation. The Brennan Center and our Law Enforcement Leaders group were a fulcrum for the process, opposing a House version that lacked robust sentencing changes and shifting decisively to support a stronger amended bill. We continue to press for effective implementation of the law.
Bringing Democracy Reform to the Empire State
Lawmakers in Albany prioritized democracy reform in an unprecedented way, passing early voting and closing a notorious campaign finance loophole. Another major advance: creation of a new commission to develop and propose a small donor public financing system for state campaigns. We revitalized a coalition of business and civic leaders, deployed our research, and provided expert testimony to ensure the commission’s proposal is sound. A strong system in New York would build momentum for this critical reform nationwide.

Strengthening Unwritten Democratic Norms
The Brennan Center’s National Task Force on Democracy and Rule of Law, co-chaired by former U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara and former New Jersey Gov. Christine Todd Whitman, released its second slate of proposals to restore faith in government. This round focused on curbing political interference in government science and research and fixing the broken appointments process. The release received considerable media attention and provides a roadmap for future reform.

Exposing Lack of Judicial Diversity
In an exclusive article in The New York Times, we released a study on the lack of diversity on state supreme court benches. We found that nearly half of all states do not have a single person of color on their high courts and that 18 states have never had a Black justice. Delaware was one of those states—until Gov. John Carney recently nominated a Black woman to serve. Reuters cited our research in its coverage of the appointment.

Documenting Over-Reliance on Criminal Justice Fees
This week, we will release a groundbreaking study on the practice of levying fees and fines on indigent defendants to fund state and local criminal justice systems. Our key finding: fees and fines are an inefficient way to raise revenue. Unpaid fees often lead to a cycle of continued involvement with the criminal justice system. To inform our research, we spent three years tracking down and analyzing hard-to-find data from ten counties across Texas, Florida, and New Mexico.

Framing Public Debate
A cutting-edge communications strategy is essential to our model for change. We aim to win in the court of public opinion. Brennan Center staff authored 23 publications in 2019, as well as made more than 28,000 media appearances, from television interviews to expert citations to op-eds in The New York Times, Washington Post, and Wall Street Journal. Our public base of support grew to more than 160,000 followers on Twitter and nearly 15,000 financial supporters. And we overhauled our website to create a one-stop resource for all the latest news and expert analysis on democracy and justice issues.
The Brennan Center for Justice plays a critical role in the fight for free, fair, and secure elections. Our work has protected the right to vote for millions of Americans. *The Guardian* called us “the foremost non-partisan organization devoted to voting rights and voting reform.”

This year, election systems are under extraordinary strain. In the past decade, 25 states have enacted new laws to restrict the vote, for the first time since the Jim Crow era. Hardest hit: voters of color, poor people, students. Now we face new threats from foreign hackers and social media disinformation. Our response:

**Stopping Abusive Voter Purges**

Seventeen million people were kicked off the rolls in the most recent cycle. Alarmingly, purge rates are far higher in states with a history of racial discrimination—those once covered by the Voting Rights Act. We are preparing for a March 2020 trial to challenge Indiana’s illegal purges; a win would ripple nationwide. And we’re working to hold accountable—and bolster—election officials who face pressure to purge eligible citizens.

**Securing Election Infrastructure in Battleground States**

Russia attacked our democracy in 2016 and is readying its 2020 assault. Among a tight-knit coalition of experts, the Brennan Center leads in pushing hard for much-needed protections. We secured $380 million in federal funding and continue to fight for more resources. And we work in battleground states to ensure that officials are ready in case of a cyberattack or malfunction.

**Restoring Voting Rights in Florida**

The Center worked with a remarkable coalition to pass the ballot measure that restored the right to vote for 1.4 million with a past criminal conviction. Then the legislature tried to limit the reform’s reach. With a federal court victory last month, Florida cannot deny the right to vote to Floridians who cannot afford to pay past fees or fines. We and our partners will fight to fulfill the promise of Amendment 4.

**Winning in the Court of Public Opinion**

Our communications strategy is bringing the fight for the vote to the center of public debate. We communicate directly with 300,000 followers on social media, alerting them to threats in real time.
THE BRENNA NN LEGACY

The Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law was founded in 1995 by the family and former law clerks of U.S. Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan, Jr. (1906–97) as a living memorial to his ideals: a commitment to a fair and inclusive democracy, support for the disadvantaged, and respect for individual rights and liberties. Above all, Brennan saw the value of “human dignity” as the core of the law.

Born to Irish immigrants, Brennan grew up as witness to the economic hardships and indignities of those in his hometown of Newark, New Jersey. “What got me interested in people’s rights and liberties, “Brennan would later recall, “was the kind of neighborhood I was brought up in. I saw all kinds of suffering—people had to struggle.”

Brennan is regarded as one of the country’s most influential justices—the “playmaker” of the Warren Court, with its breakthroughs in civil rights and civil liberties. He authored hundreds of opinions that strengthened democracy, protected free expression, and bolstered the rights of the accused. Among the most important were Baker v. Carr (1962), which helped establish the principle of “one person, one vote,” and New York Times Co. v. Sullivan (1964), which expanded press freedoms.

In the quarter-century since its launch, the Center has grown from a small startup to one of the nation’s leading legal and policy institutions. It has a staff of 130 attorneys, scholars, journalists, and other experts, and an annual budget of $27 million, with offices in New York City and Washington, D.C.
At left, top to bottom: Alicia Bannon speaks about the lack of diversity on state supreme court benches on MSNBC’s PoliticsNation with Al Sharpton.


Harsha Panduranga discusses domestic extremism at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C.

Below: Lauren-Brooke Eisen examines California’s decision to abolish the death penalty on MSNBC’s Velshi & Ruhle.

Opposite page, clockwise from top left: NBC News anchor Andrea Mitchell and former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice held an armchair discussion on Rice’s new memoir. NYU Law professor and Brennan Center Board member Melissa Murray in conversation with Ta-Nehisi Coates.

At NYU DC, WBUR’s Kimberly Atkins spoke with Mike German about his book Disrupt, Discredit, and Divide: How the New FBI Damages Democracy. Wendy Weiser delivers an address on voter suppression at the National Urban League’s 2019 State of Black America report release.

Jason Cohen, Van Jones, and Joey Jackson during a post-screening Q&A of CNN’s The Redemption Project with Van Jones.

Myrna Pérez testifies before the House Judiciary Committee on restrictive voting laws and the oversight role of the Justice Department.


Elizabeth Goitein discusses presidential emergency powers on MSNBC’s The Last Word with Lawrence O’Donnell.

Spencer Boyer and Michael Waldman at the reopening of the Center’s Washington, D.C., office.

Rudy Mehrbani calls for strengthening ethics rules before the House Committee on Oversight and Reform in testimony that would later go viral.
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Our work depends on the support of our pro bono partners, who fight alongside us for democracy, justice, and the rule of law. Recent highlights include:

**Challenging Abusive Voter Purges**
The Seventh Circuit upheld a federal court’s preliminary injunction blocking an Indiana law that would have immediately removed voters from the rolls without the federally required notice and waiting period. These voters were flagged by the controversial Crosscheck database. The Brennan Center brought the case with **Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP** on behalf of state chapters of the League of Women Voters and NAACP.

**Ensuring Ballot Access**
**Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, LLP** is working with the Brennan Center on two major voting initiatives. In Florida, we challenged the state legislature’s efforts to undermine Amendment 4 by denying the vote to returning citizens until they settle their legal debts. Last month, a federal court granted a partial preliminary injunction in our favor. And in Georgia, we sued to protect the vote from malfeasance or tampering with registration databases. As a result, the state adopted new laws enhancing security and provisional ballot protections.

**Correcting False Narratives**
The Brennan Center, Protect Democracy, and others, with **O’Melveny & Myers LLP**, petitioned the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security to retract a report that misled the public on the nature of terrorist threats facing the United States. The lawsuit forced a government response that admitted to flaws in the report and triggered congressional letters calling on the administration to withdraw it.

**Strengthening Individual Protections in Police Encounters**
With **Holwell Shuster & Goldberg LLP**, the Brennan Center and Cato Institute submitted an *amicus* brief to the New York Court of Appeals calling on it to overrule caselaw that considers a police request to stop a mere “request for information,” requiring no founded suspicion by the officer. Using empirical data and anecdotal stories, the brief challenges the premise that citizens are free to ignore police commands to stop and highlights the consequences for those who do not acquiesce to law enforcement commands.

**Securing Vulnerable Election Infrastructure**
On behalf of current and former election officials in ten states, the Brennan Center and **Troutman Sanders LLP** filed an *amicus* brief in a South Carolina case challenging the state’s deeply compromised election system. In part as a result of this litigation, the state committed to purchasing more secure voting machines before 2020.
PRO BONO PARTNERSHIPS

Curbing Excessive Legal Fines
Holwell Shuster & Goldberg LLP represented the Brennan Center, NAACP, and others in an *amicus* brief before the Supreme Court arguing that the Eighth Amendment’s Excessive Fines Clause should be applied to the states. In a unanimous decision, the Court agreed, a critical step toward combatting the proliferation of court fees and fines that disproportionately impact the poor and people of color.

Blocking Foreign Election Funds
The Brennan Center, with Hogan Lovells US LLP, filed an *amicus* brief in the Fourth Circuit defending Maryland’s online electioneering disclosure law, a legislative effort to close loopholes in campaign finance rules that allow foreign funds to influence elections. A district court had partially enjoined the law from going into effect on First Amendment grounds. The Center’s brief argues that the court erred in subjecting the law to strict scrutiny and otherwise failed to provide sufficient justification for its decision.

Obtaining Critical Data
With support from pro bono partners, the Brennan Center uses the Freedom of Information Act and other public records laws to gather vital information from federal and state agencies. Recent requests and litigation involved data on voter purges and the disbanded voter fraud commission, law enforcement tactics, social media monitoring of visa applicants, and immigration policy. We are grateful to Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP, Davis Wright Tremaine LLP, Eversheds Sutherland (US) LLP, Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz, Covington & Burling LLP, Hogan Lovells US LLP, and Jenner & Block LLP for their assistance.

Fighting the Muslim Ban
The Brennan Center and allies, with Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP and Profeta & Eisenstein, filed suit on behalf of Muslim American citizens and permanent residents to challenge the Muslim Ban. An initial order preventing the ban from going into effect was overruled by the Supreme Court’s 5-4 decision in *Trump v. Hawaii*, which allowed other challenges to continue in the lower courts. The Center re-filed the complaint with updated factual developments and prevailed against the government’s motion to dismiss. We are now briefing in the Fourth Circuit.

Challenging Prosecutor Misconduct
With Covington & Burling LLP, the Brennan Center and others submitted an *amicus* brief to the Supreme Court arguing that people prosecuted based on fabricated evidence should have more time to hold the state responsible. The case was decided 6-3 in favor of our position, based in part on a similar policy argument.
Defending Democracy at the Supreme Court

Over the last several years, the Brennan Center has played a leadership role in several sweeping amicus campaigns to rein in partisan gerrymandering and block the addition of a citizenship question to the 2020 Census. An army of firms and attorneys produced a diverse array of dozens of briefs representing bipartisan elected officials, political scientists and historians, civil rights and good government groups, data quality experts, and other key constituencies, from district courts all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

On the last day of its term, the Supreme Court issued decisions in both matters. On partisan gerrymandering, the Court disappointingly ruled that the federal judiciary has no role to play in policing extreme partisan gerrymandering. But we celebrated its decision to block the citizenship question, which would have crashed census participation, particularly among minority and immigrant communities.

The Center is grateful to WilmerHale for its strategic guidance on our census work and to the many firms and attorneys that lent their expertise to these campaigns:

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Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

The Brennan Center is also grateful to the attorneys at Schulte Roth & Zabel LLP, who have served as longstanding organizational counsel. This year, we would particularly like to recognize Susan Bernstein, Holly Weiss, Scott Gold, and Daniel Greenberg for their support and expertise.
The Brennan Center for Justice —
We’re proud to support you

and congratulations to tonight’s honorees: Levi Strauss & Co. and Patagonia, Desmond Meade and Katie Fahey

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We recognize

Levi Strauss & Co.
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for their commitment to justice and to furthering progressive values. Thank you to the Brennan Center, now more than ever, for working to keep our democracy strong and to defend voting rights.

Leslie and Ashish Bhutani
With much appreciation for the Brennan Center's commitment to justice and democracy and congratulations to this evening’s honorees

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Thank you to the Brennan Center for its work to build an America that works for everyone. We congratulate Levi Strauss & Co., Patagonia, Desmond Meade and Katie Fahey for their passionate commitment to our democracy.
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Emily Spitzer and Eric Lewis
salute the important work of the
Brennan Center
and congratulate
Levi Strauss & Co.
Patagonia
Desmond Meade
and
Katie Fahey
on receiving the Legacy Award.

“Nothing is to be preferred
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Patricia Bauman and the Hon. John Landrum Bryant
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Ruth Lazarus
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Arnold & Porter is proud to support the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law and joins in honoring this year’s Brennan Legacy Award recipients.
We are proud to support the Brennan Center for Justice and its 2019 Brennan Legacy Awards Dinner. Congratulations to this year’s honorees.

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We are proud to support the Brennan Center for Justice, and we salute tonight’s honorees for their leadership in advancing our democracy and its values.

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Lankler Siffert & Wohl thanks the Brennan Center and its staff for all of their hard work in protecting and enhancing our democracy.
The first duty of society is justice.
-Alexander Hamilton

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JEFF BENJAMIN

for his dedication to the fight for democracy and justice.

Jeff’s friends Ginny, Hilary, Jean, Karen, Karo-Jae, Patty, Richard, Rachel, Rochelle, and Shefali
Congratulations to the Brennan Center for Justice and the 2019 honorees.

Joshua Hill and Melissa Murray

The Brennan Center for Justice
Extends Special Thanks to:

Sheri Arnold
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The Hon. Christine Todd Whitman, for her commitment to public service and leadership of the National Task Force on Rule of Law and Democracy  
Salesforce, accepted by Amy Weaver, for its leadership in the business and technology community and commitment to social impact worldwide

2017  Dan Schulman, for his commitment to the democratization of financial services and to improving the economic wellbeing of individuals and businesses worldwide  
Rev. Dr. William Joseph Barber, II, for his outstanding leadership in the fight for democracy, justice, and equality in North Carolina and nationwide

2016  Sandra Phillips Rogers, for her longstanding commitment to diversity in the business sector and equal justice for all  
Christopher Jackson, for providing an extraordinary public service by engaging new audiences in the story of American democracy

2015  Kimberley D. Harris, for her leadership in the legal community and commitment to a strong democracy and fair justice system

2014  Brad Smith, for his extraordinary leadership in the business community, his strong advocacy for access to legal services for the poor, and his outspoken criticism of troublesome surveillance practices by the federal government  
Zachary W. Carter, for his lifelong commitment to justice and equality

2013  Sheri McCoy, for her extraordinary leadership and commitment to human rights and community service  
Bill Moyers, for his commitment to journalistic integrity and a vibrant democracy  
Bryan Stevenson, for his pioneering accomplishments and commitment to criminal justice reform

2012  Michael S. Solender, for his outstanding commitment to public service and leadership in the legal community  
The Hon. Judith S. Kaye, in recognition of her illustrious judicial career and deep commitment to juvenile justice and court reform

2011  Robert M. Morgenthau, for his unprecedented leadership as District Attorney and lifelong commitment to the public good  
Jane C. Sherburne, for her extraordinary leadership in the legal community and commitment to public service

2010  The Hon. Cory A. Booker, for leadership in public service and commitment to open, accountable and just government  
Indra C. Nooyi, for commitment to both public and corporate responsibility and to building a respectful and humane international business community
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Nicole Seligman, for her leadership in the legal community and abiding advocacy for civil liberties

2008 Lewis B. Cullman, for his dedication to democracy and enlightened philanthropy
Representative Donna F. Edwards, for her career as a champion of the public interest
Jay S. Fishman, for his commitment to community, fair and reasoned public policy and thoughtful leadership

2007 Representative John Conyers, Jr., for his relentless commitment to justice and the right to vote
Frederick A.O. Schwarz, Jr., for his lifelong dedication to democracy and the public good Neal S. Wolin, for his vision and leadership in the public and private sectors

2006 Richard Cotton, for his commitment to First Amendment rights
Representative John Lewis, for his lifelong championship of civil rights

2005 Bertha Lewis, for her success in empowering low and moderate-income families
Anna Deavere Smith, for using the power of theater to examine social issues
Daniel Vasella, M.D., for his leadership on human rights and his commitment to social responsibility

2004 Michael S. Helfer, for his commitment to accessible legal services for the poor
Antonia Hernández, for her dedication to the fight to protect and expand civil rights
Representative José E. Serrano, for his work to enhance legal services for low-income families

2003 Elaine R. Jones, for her commitment to equality and her efforts to secure and protect the rights of people of color
Marty Lipton, for his generosity to educational and cultural institutions to benefit equality and human dignity

2002 Geoffrey Canada, for his relentless advocacy and organizing in support of poor children and families
Martin Sheen, for his activism on behalf of poor and working families
UBS PaineWebber, Inc., accepted by Theodore A. Levine, for its commitment to underserved communities

2001 Warren Beatty, for educating the public about the importance of clean elections and campaign finance reform
Senator John McCain, for his role in promoting and passing federal campaign finance reform
Deval L. Patrick, for his unyielding efforts to secure the civil rights of all Americans
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Democracy & Justice: Collected Writings, Vol. XII
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Supreme Court Ethics Reform
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