



IN TIRELESS DEFENSE OF OUR NATION'S FOUNDING PRINCIPLES

Institute for Constitutional
Advocacy and Protection

— GEORGETOWN LAW —

2026 ANNUAL REPORT

We use litigation, policy, and public education to protect constitutional rights and to hold our governmental institutions to the highest standards of integrity and accountability.

Institute for Constitutional Advocacy and Protection

GEORGETOWN LAW



ICAP joined by counsel and supporters at the Supreme Court



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This July 4 the country celebrated the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Its text is a reminder of the ideals on which the country was founded, and that we fight for today:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

ICAP has worked this past year to protect these rights—standing up for immigrants who have made their homes here, protesters who have gathered to make their voices heard, residents who have been wrongly killed or injured by law enforcement, and non-profits that have been targeted for their advocacy.

That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, ... laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

ICAP has used its legal advocacy both in and out of the courts to hold our governmental institutions accountable—protecting the separation of powers that restrict executive actions and fighting for the rights of states to make decisions about how to prioritize their resources to best serve their communities. And we work every day to protect the “Right of the People”—also referred to in the Declaration—to affect the government through the right to vote that is the foundation of our democratic republic.

This is the work that many of you have supported, allowing our team of talented attorneys to achieve hugely impactful successes, many of which you will read about in these pages. Yes, there have been losses too, but that is why it is so important to keep working. Whether litigating in the courts, testifying before the legislature, or providing accessible explanations of constitutional principles for the public, ICAP’s small but mighty team will use every legal tool available to restore adherence to the ideals that are as important today as they were 250 years ago.

Sincerely,

Mary B. McCord
Executive Director
and Visiting Professor of Law

OUR PLAN

With the rule of law as our North Star, we use every legal tool available to confront threats to constitutional rights and democratic institutions, adhering to the ideals embedded in the Declaration of Independence 250 years ago.

Litigation

We take bold, precedent-setting legal action to defend rights and advance the rule of law in every level of the court system.

Advocacy

Our team works in partnership with non-profits, law firms, other pro bono counsel, and law school clinics to build coalitions that amplify impact in and out of court.

Public Education

We shape discourse and steer the national conversation through scholarship, media engagement, and public-facing materials.

Training

Our attorneys prepare the next generation of public interest lawyers by offering law students hands-on experience in constitutional litigation and advocacy work.

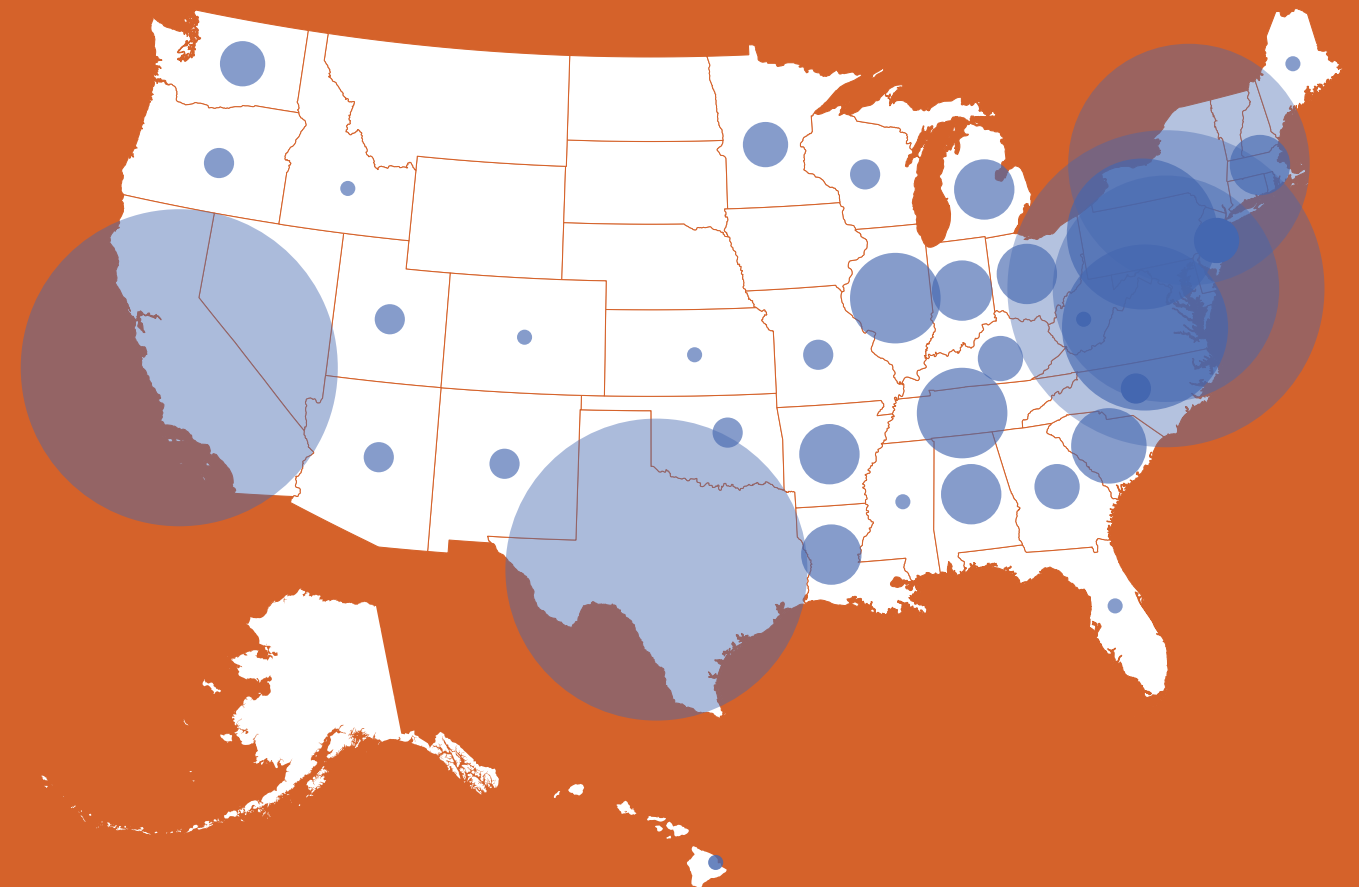
ICAP by the numbers

155

COURTS

ICAP has filed in
since launching in 2017

WHERE WE LITIGATE



OUR WORK

Amid an extraordinary onslaught of attacks on Americans' constitutional freedoms, ICAP has worked relentlessly inside and outside the courts to hold governmental institutions accountable, protect communities, and defend the unalienable rights to "Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."

Litigation

We litigate at every level of the judiciary—from state and federal trial and appellate courts to the U.S. Supreme Court—filing 57 legal briefs in the past year alone to check executive power, defend First Amendment and other constitutional rights, and protect community safety.

Legal Support and Consultation

We work closely with state and local governmental officials to develop winning litigation and policy strategies for protecting constitutional rights, with members of Congress to hold the Executive Branch accountable, and with advocates and activists to protect voters' freedoms in the upcoming midterm elections and 2028 presidential election.

Hardworking Experts

We are led by attorneys with deep experience in trial and appellate advocacy, civil rights, national security, and criminal prosecution and defense. We speak publicly, publish op-eds, and provide resources to make the challenging legal issues of the day accessible to lawyers and non-lawyers alike.

ICAP by the numbers

116

CASES

Litigated since 2017, often
at multiple court levels



HOLDING GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS ACCOUNTABLE

Over the last year, Americans have witnessed the unrest and tragedy that can unfold when people in power act with impunity. From the abduction of unaccompanied minors in the dead of night to the killings of peaceful protesters, countless federal actions have endangered people and betrayed the founding ideals that shaped our Constitution. We've been hard at work defending the rule of law and ensuring our institutions live up to their democratic principles.

EYES ON ICE

At the end of 2025, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security launched "Operation Metro Surge," an immigration enforcement action that rocked communities across the country, including the residents of Hennepin County, Minnesota. Over the course of three weeks in January 2026, federal immigration officers shot and killed two peaceful protesters—Renee Good and Alex Pretti—and shot and wounded Julio Cesar Sosa-Celis outside his home. These were just a few high-profile examples of the excessive force and unconstitutional tactics used by ICE during the surge. Horrified, but prepared, ICAP deployed its unique expertise and legal tools.

IMMEDIATE RESPONSE: We immediately put our prior Department of Justice experience to use, working directly with the Hennepin County Attorney's Office in its investigations into the shootings. We also collaborated with other partners, in Minnesota and elsewhere, to formulate legal challenges to the infringements on constitutional rights and state sovereignty that came with Operation Metro Surge and other ICE surges.

ICAP by the numbers

35

FEDERAL DISTRICT
COURT BRIEFS

Filed last year

ICAP by the numbers

10 out of 13

Number of former Department of Justice attorneys at ICAP last year

ICAP by the numbers

12 COURT OF APPEALS BRIEFS

Filed last year

HENNEPIN COUNTY SUES: In March, we filed suit challenging the federal government’s policy and practice of blocking Minnesota investigators from accessing evidence related to the shootings. The refusal to share evidence—in one case physically blocking investigators from accessing the crime scene—was a sharp departure from the usual cooperation between federal and state law enforcement in investigations of this nature. In a surprising turnaround, before it was required to file a response to our lawsuit, the federal government agreed to begin evidence sharing.

“It is extraordinary that we need to file this lawsuit at all.”

– Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison

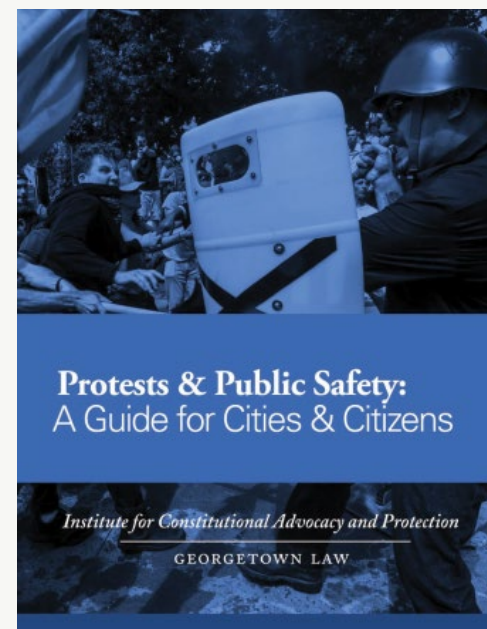
CONSISTENT APPLICATION OF THE FIRST AMENDMENT: In April, we supported an ongoing federal case challenging constitutional violations by federal immigration agents by arguing, on behalf of more than three dozen former DOJ Civil Rights attorneys, that actions taken by ICE agents against protesters in Minnesota were “substantively indistinguishable” from actions by local police forces that the Department of Justice had previously found to violate First Amendment rights in its police “pattern or practice” investigations.

“As the DOJ has repeatedly stressed in findings against local law enforcement agencies, the First Amendment protects the right to watch law enforcement do their jobs in public, to record their activities, and to publicly criticize what law enforcement is doing. Those same principles apply to federal law enforcement.”

– Seth Wayne, ICAP

ACCOUNTABILITY AND JUSTICE: Our work with the Hennepin County Attorney’s Office helped lead to the arrest of the ICE agent who shot Julio Cesar Sosa-Celis in May. We are also supporting the County in its prosecution of an ICE agent who pointed his weapon at a motorist and a passenger during a fit of road rage. The agent now seeks to “remove” his prosecution to federal court, and we’re fighting against the removal.

A PUBLIC RECORD OF ICE ABUSES: Working with the Illinois Accountability Commission, ICAP Special Litigation Counsel Julia Gegenheimer dedicated countless hours to collecting evidence and providing legal analysis that will inform the way we view federal immigration for years to come. The Commission published its final report in April, which is full of shocking testimony about what occurred during “Operation Midway Blitz.”



CONSTITUTIONAL PROTEST GUIDE

Our most comprehensive resource emerged from our successful litigation against violent white supremacists and unlawful private paramilitaries after the Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville, Virginia. The tools contained in this guide are just as essential as they were in 2017—and in high demand. The Constitutional Protest Guide helps local jurisdictions protect public safety while preserving First Amendment rights.



LEGAL VICTORIES

When we are unwavering in our mission to hold power to account, we prevail. Over the last year, ICAP has helped achieve legal victories for immigrants, veterans, same-sex couples, and the legal foundations of our government itself.

BIRTHRIGHT CITIZENSHIP AFFIRMED: We have been fighting the Trump administration’s executive order attempting to limit birthright citizenship since Inauguration Day in 2025. Our litigation not only secured protection for our plaintiffs but also shaped a winning legal strategy to preserve birthright citizenship for all babies born on U.S. soil. On June 30, the Supreme Court struck down the executive order and reaffirmed birthright citizenship as clearly defined in the Fourteenth Amendment.

“Birthright citizenship is guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment and has been recognized by the Supreme Court as the law of the land for over 100 years. The President of the United States has no power to amend the Constitution with the stroke of a pen on an Executive Order.”

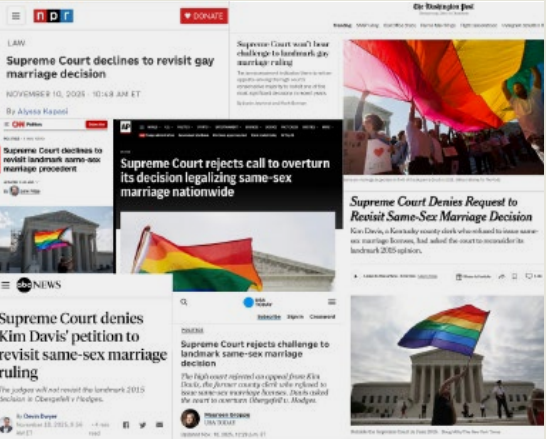
– Rupa Bhattacharyya, ICAP

MARRIAGE EQUALITY UPHELD: In November, we persuaded the Supreme Court to deny former Kentucky County Clerk Kim Davis’s petition seeking to overrule *Obergefell v. Hodges*, the landmark decision recognizing marriage equality as a constitutional right. Representing a same-sex couple whose marriage license was denied by Davis, we successfully argued that *Obergefell* is the law of the land and should not be reconsidered by the Court. The Supreme Court’s rejection of Davis’s petition was a win for hundreds of thousands of same-sex couples and for all Americans who believe that marriage equality must remain a core constitutional value in our country.

EXECUTIVE POWER CHECKED: In February, the Supreme Court struck down President Trump’s sweeping global tariffs in a case argued by ICAP Faculty Director Emeritus Neal Katyal. In an enormous victory for the separation of powers, the majority concluded that the tariffs were beyond the powers that Congress gave to the president under a 1977 law to respond to national emergencies.

A WIN FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM: Our suit on behalf of U.S. Army Captain and West Point graduate Joy Bledsoe successfully resulted in the U.S. Department of the Army granting her request to be a conscientious objector assigned to a noncombatant role.

ACCOUNTABILITY FOR DOJ: We have been fighting to ensure that Department of Justice attorneys remain under the supervision of the state bar authorities that issue their licenses to practice law, which is critical to establishing credibility with the public and the courts and ensuring a system of accountability. In April, we represented more than 350 former Department attorneys in submitting a [comment letter](#) to a proposed rule that would shield DOJ lawyers from such supervision. In July, we represented more than 500 former Department attorneys in an [amicus brief](#) urging a federal district court to reject the DOJ’s claim that state bar discipline impermissibly interferes with the ability of Department attorneys to do their jobs.



IN THE MEDIA

In May, ICAP’s Rupa Bhattacharyya and Mary McCord spoke extensively about the DOJ’s so-called “settlement” of Trump’s collusive lawsuit against the IRS and the resulting \$1.776 billion “anti-weaponization” fund. Their commentary appeared in the *LA Times*, *Bloomberg Law*, and *NPR’s Here & Now*, among others.

SAFEGUARDING CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

Since our founding in 2017, we have confronted threats to the Constitution using every legal tool available. Nine years later, our work is just as urgent and true to our guiding principle: When the rule of law is threatened, we must defend it.

PROTECTING FIRST AMENDMENT FREEDOMS

From voting rights in Texas to freedom of the press in Oregon and religious freedom at the U.S.-Mexico border, we defend Americans' most cherished constitutional freedoms conferred by the First Amendment.

JOLT v. PAXTON: When Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton attempted to revoke the corporate charter of Jolt Initiative, a non-profit that promotes civic engagement and encourages young Latinos to vote, ICAP filed a federal lawsuit to stop him. In January, after argument by ICAP Senior Counsel Jonathan Backer, we successfully obtained a preliminary injunction barring his baseless and retaliatory efforts. We look forward to continuing to represent Jolt through a final resolution of the case.

FONSECA v. BARRINGER: In March, ICAP Senior Counsel Bill Powell argued in the Ninth Circuit on behalf of award-winning radio journalist April Fonseca, who was arrested and had her equipment seized while reporting on the clearance of a homeless encampment in Medford, Oregon, in violation of her First Amendment right to record public officials doing their jobs in public.



ELECTION PREPARATION RESOURCES

Behind the scenes, ICAP has been consulting with election experts and updating our [resource center](#) in preparation for the 2026 midterm elections. We are proud to equip municipalities across the country with the tools they need to defend free and fair elections.



Election Preparation:
A framework for public safety agencies



State-by-State Fact Sheets
on Unlawful Militias



Protecting Against
Voter Intimidation



What Police Need To Know
About Protecting the Count



False, Misleading, and
Intimidating Election Information



"Constitutional Sheriffs"
and Elections

MENNONITE CHURCH v. DHS: In February, Supreme Court Director Kelsi Brown Corkran argued in the D.C. Circuit on behalf of 27 religious denominations and organizations challenging the DHS’s [rescission](#) of a longstanding policy that had restricted federal immigration enforcement in places of worship.

UNITED STATES v. CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF LAS CRUCES: In May, we began representing the [Catholic Diocese of Las Cruces](#), New Mexico, to prevent the DHS from seizing its property to build a segment of border wall. The wall would deface Mount Cristo Rey, a holy site where a 29-foot-tall limestone statue of Jesus Christ has sat atop the mountain and attracted pilgrims for more than eight decades.

“The power of the Department of Justice should not be used as a weapon against people and organizations disliked by the president.”

– Mary McCord, ICAP

PERKINS COIE v. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE: In April, we filed an [amicus brief](#) on behalf of ethics scholars in support of law firms targeted by the Trump administration based on the people and causes they represented.

WELTY v. DUNAWAY: In June, Senior Counsel Bill Powell argued in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit [against](#) a new Tennessee law that violates the First Amendment rights of those who provide information about how and where to access legal abortion.

ALKAYALI v. KALER: In July, we took on the defense of student protesters who were spray-painted by a contractor at the direction of Case Western Reserve University officials when they would not abandon their right to peaceful protest.

DODDAMANI v. BLANCHE: In August, we filed suit on behalf of former federal prosecutor Sunita Doddamani, who was fired in retaliation for her perceived political beliefs after successfully prosecuting eight defendants who violated the federal law that prohibits interfering with access to reproductive health care services, including abortions—a case she was assigned to based on her extensive trial experience.



FIRST AMENDMENT RESOURCES

ICAP’s [free resources](#) give law enforcement, municipalities, community leaders, and activists relevant legal tools to protect First Amendment rights while promoting public safety.



Countering Bigotry and Extremism in the Ranks



Guidance for Law Enforcement About First Amendment Rights



Fact Sheet: True Threats



Protecting and Preserving the Public Meeting Space



Protecting Safety and Free Expression on Campus



Constitutional Protest Guide

DEFENDING THE RIGHTS OF IMMIGRANTS AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

Under the current administration, immigrants and those who support them have faced numerous attacks on their constitutional rights. We have challenged these attacks at all levels of the court system, including the Supreme Court.

L.G.M.L. v. NOEM: After federal officials attempted to expel unaccompanied Guatemalan children from the U.S. in the middle of the night on Labor Day weekend, ICAP worked with partners to obtain a [preliminary injunction](#) blocking their unlawful removal. Since then, we have moved to [expand the protections of the law](#) to all unaccompanied children.

“At a hearing [on the emergency motion], counsel for Defendants explained why it was ‘fairly outrageous’ for Plaintiffs to have sued: all Defendants wanted to do was reunify children with parents who had requested their return. But that explanation crumbled like a house of cards about a week later. There is no evidence before the Court that the parents of these children sought their return. . . . Congress enacted into law a specific process for removing unaccompanied . . . children like Plaintiffs, and Defendants’ ‘reunification’ plan likely contravenes those statutory requirements.”

– U.S. District Judge Timothy J. Kelly

MULLIN v. AL OTRO LADO: In March, ICAP Supreme Court Director Kelsi Brown Corkran argued in the Supreme Court against the government’s policy of turning back asylum seekers at the border. The Court’s subsequent 6–3 ruling in favor of the Trump administration was accompanied by a powerful dissent by Justice Sotomayor, who explained that the Court’s decision is an affront to congressional authority over immigration matters with devastating humanitarian consequences.

“Congress carefully crafted our asylum system to ensure that the United States lives up to its ideals and its treaty obligations towards noncitizens fleeing persecution. The turn-back policy flouted both.”

– Kelsi Brown Corkran, ICAP

IN THE MEDIA

ICAP’s Mary McCord and fellow DOJ alum Andrew Weissmann continue to co-host the award-winning podcast *Main Justice*—now at more than 200 episodes—where they dive deep into the legality of executive actions, provide an insider’s perspective on the current state of the DOJ, analyze significant court decisions on separation of powers and constitutional rights, and host diverse experts to help listeners understand complicated topics like the laws of war.

ICAP by the numbers

108

AMICUS BRIEFS

Filed since launching
in in 2017

CASA v. NOEM: We challenged the Secretary of Homeland Security’s unlawful attempt to terminate Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designations for individuals from Afghanistan and Cameroon. Although the Supreme Court’s recent TPS decision about Haitians and Syrians makes our case much more difficult, we are assessing all options to continue to pursue our Equal Protection claim.

SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD v. FINNEY: In September, Senior Counsels Elizabeth Cruikshank and Bill Powell argued in federal court in the Middle District of Tennessee for an injunction against a newly enacted, unconstitutional Tennessee law written so broadly that it could criminalize providing shelter to an undocumented immigrant, even with no intent to conceal.

“When individual states start creating their own immigration rules and penalties, it creates confusion, fear, and chaos, not just for immigrants, but for families, employers, and communities across the state.”

– Elizabeth Cruikshank, ICAP



PROTECTING COMMUNITIES

We support law enforcement policies that protect public safety and preserve constitutional rights, and we challenge the practices that threaten them. In the last year, we have worked with state and local officials in more than 10 states who have prioritized the protection of the communities they serve.

A DEFENSE AGAINST EXECUTIVE OVERREACH

Over the last year, the Department of Justice has brought more than a dozen lawsuits targeting so-called “sanctuary cities.” ICAP has partnered with county sheriffs and state attorneys general to combat these attacks and help keep their communities safe.

UNITED STATES v. NEW MEXICO: We are working with New Mexico Attorney General Raúl Torrez to defend the state’s newly enacted Immigrant Safety Act against a DOJ lawsuit. One in eight workers in New Mexico is an immigrant. The state’s decision to avoid voluntary cooperation with federal immigration enforcement—including potentially inhumane detention conditions—is one that prioritizes the safety of its communities and one that we are honored to defend.

IN THE MEDIA

Last fall, Legal Director Rupa Bhattacharyya spoke with *The Hill*, *The Guardian*, and *NPR* about President Trump’s corrupt claims seeking taxpayer money in compensation for perceived harms by the government.

STATE EX REL. ROKITA v. MONROE COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE: While defending Indiana Sheriff Ruben Marté’s policy not to voluntarily cooperate with federal immigration enforcement in a state court suit filed against him by the Indiana attorney general, we counter-sued, successfully obtaining an injunction against the state’s newly enacted law mandating that local law enforcement honor administrative immigration detainer requests that are not supported by probable cause of a crime and are not signed by a neutral judge or magistrate.

UNITED STATES v. WASHTENAW COUNTY: In Michigan, we are defending the Washtenaw County Sheriff’s policy of refusing to comply with administrative immigration detainer requests by moving to dismiss the DOJ’s lawsuit seeking to commandeer the Sheriff into enforcing its federal immigration scheme, in violation of the Tenth Amendment.

UNITED STATES v. CITY OF BOSTON: On behalf of 27 cities, counties, and elected officials, we filed an amicus brief in support of the Boston Trust Act, a law that protects public safety and trust in the community by limiting local law enforcement cooperation in federal immigration enforcement.

UNITED STATES v. STATE OF CONNECTICUT: Similarly, this time on behalf of 43 cities, counties, and elected officials, we filed an amicus brief in support of Connecticut’s Trust Act and a City of New Haven Executive Order, which both manifest a commitment to integrate immigrants into local communities and to promote public safety, health, and a thriving local economy by declining to cooperate with federal immigration enforcement.

“Immigrants and their families best contribute to economic growth and thriving communities when they know they can trust local law enforcement and government officials. Recognizing that reality, local governments across the country have chosen to limit their entanglement with federal immigration enforcement. That choice is not only eminently reasonable—it is local governments’ choice to make.”

– ICAP, on behalf of 43 cities, counties, and elected officials in *United States v. State of Connecticut*

A HIGHER STANDARD OF SAFETY

From Kentucky to Hawai‘i, we have challenged human rights abuses, defended gun safety laws, and been a voice for the most vulnerable in the justice system.

FITZHUGH v. PATTON: In October, we successfully persuaded the Supreme Court to deny review of a decision in a class action suit striking down a Tennessee county “source hearing” rule that subjected our client to pretrial detention until he could prove that his bail funds were not derived from criminal activity.

POYNTER v. BENNETT: In June, ICAP Senior Counsel Elizabeth Cruikshank argued en banc in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit on behalf of a man who was brutally beaten by fellow detainees in a Kentucky jail, resulting in permanent disability. We are challenging the constitutionality

ICAP by the numbers

7
SCOTUS BRIEFS
Filed last year



of the county’s failure to follow policies requiring the classification of detainees based on risk of violence, a failure which resulted in the injury to our client.

WOLFORD v. LOPEZ: In June, the Supreme Court ruled against a Hawai‘i law that would have established a default rule barring guns from private property open to the public without the explicit consent of the owner. Though a disappointment for us after defending the law since it was initially challenged, the Supreme Court reaffirmed the right of private property owners to bar guns from their property by putting up signage or otherwise providing notice that guns are prohibited. And Hawai‘i’s ban on guns in sensitive places like restaurants and beaches—which we also defended—remains in place.

SILENCER SHOP FOUNDATION v. ATF: In December, on behalf of local jurisdictions, we supported a federal law that imposes taxation and registration requirements on particularly dangerous weapons that are susceptible to criminal misuse. We have continued to defend that law in two other cases.

PITTS v. BURKE: We are opposing Supreme Court review of a Tenth Circuit determination that police officers in Oklahoma used excessive force in violation of the Fourth Amendment, repeatedly tasing and later shooting and killing an unarmed man in his home.

ICAP by the numbers

4,240

STUDENT HOURS

Devoted to ICAP
each year

OUR INFLUENCE

MEDIA

ICAP attorneys are regularly featured in the media for their expertise in constitutional law.

Interviews and Appearances

ICAP's Mary McCord regularly appears in national news outlets, sharing her perspective on breaking legal news. In fall 2025, she spoke to *The Atlantic* about the rise of political violence, appeared on NPR's *1A* podcast to discuss the indictment of James Comey, and spoke on *Chris Hayes's Why Is This Happening?* podcast about U.S. troops being deployed against American citizens. She also joined the *Democracy Docket* podcast in December and *The Bulwark* podcast in May to discuss the corruption and scandals roiling the DOJ, and in July she appeared on *More to the Story* to discuss the last decade of growing white nationalism in America.

Mary appeared on *MS NOW* to analyze the Supreme Court argument on the Executive Order limiting birthright citizenship, joined *PBS News* to discuss what's next for the Justice Department after Pam Bondi's firing, spoke on *NPR* about the Trump administration's vow to prosecute domestic terrorists and "Antifa," and provided *day-long legal commentary during* Todd Blanche's confirmation hearing to be the next U.S. Attorney General.

In January, Senior Counsel Elizabeth Cruikshank went on the Institute for Justice's *Short Circuit* podcast to discuss her years of experience litigating on behalf of people behind bars, and Special Litigation Counsel Julia Gegenheimer spoke with *Slate's Amicus* podcast host about the DOJ's duty to investigate law-enforcement-involved shootings.



ICAP attorneys frequently write articles and op-eds for major publications, shaping the national conversation.

Op-eds

In October, as part of a special edition of Georgetown Law’s *Journal of National Security Law and Policy*, Mary wrote about why courts should no longer defer to the Executive Branch on matters of national security and foreign policy.

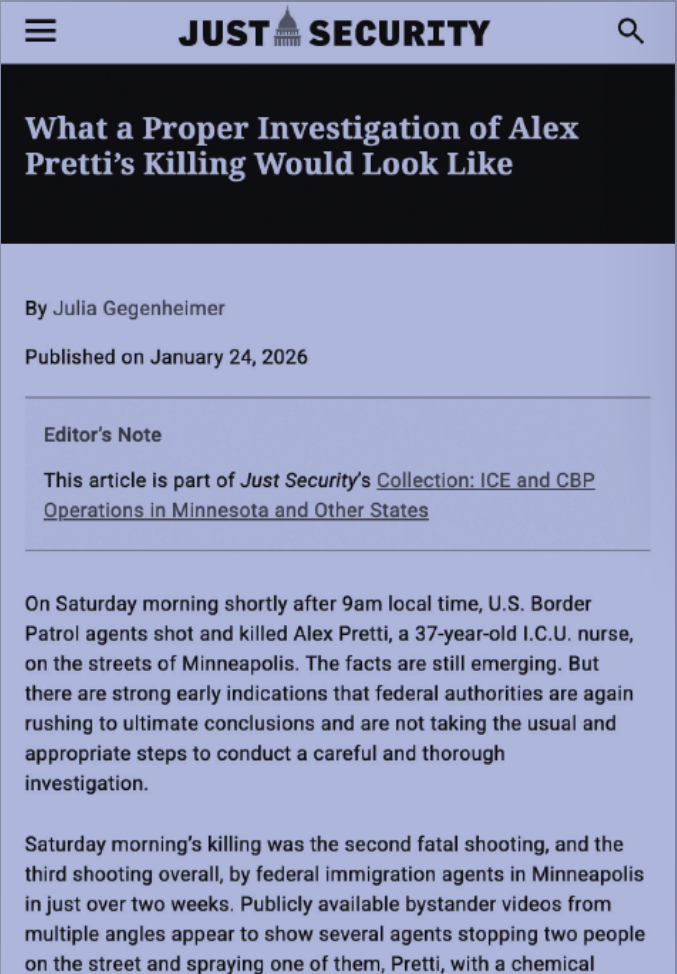
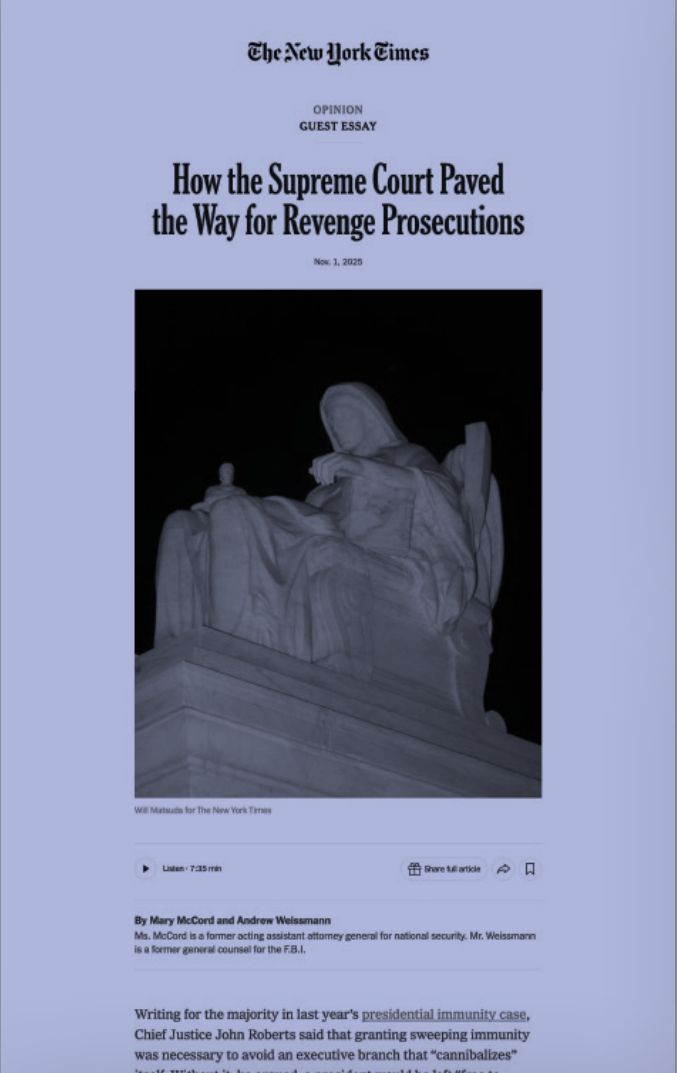
In November, Mary and Andrew Weissman co-authored an opinion piece for the *New York Times* about how the Supreme Court paved the way for “revenge prosecutions,” and Rupa wrote in the *Justice Connection* Substack about what the DOJ should do with the president’s \$230 million demand: “Nothing.”

In January, Julia Gegenheimer made the case in *Just Security* for a criminal investigation into the shooting of Renee Good and explained what a proper investigation into Alex Pretti’s killing would look like.

Mary published multiple op-eds on MS NOW, writing on the lessons Americans should take from Jan. 6 into the current election year, the DOJ’s “embarrassing” about-face on executive attacks on law firms, the dangerous precedent of the DOJ’s settlement with Michael Flynn, and the brief, damaging tenure of U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi.

— JOURNAL OF —
NATIONAL SECURITY LAW AND POLICY

The
New York
Times



LEGAL BATTLES IN THE HEADLINES

ERMOLD v. DAVIS

New York Times:
Supreme Court Denies
Request to Revisit Same-Sex
Marriage Decision

CNN:
Supreme Court declines to
revisit landmark same-sex
marriage precedent

USA Today:
Supreme Court rejects
challenge to landmark
same-sex marriage decision

Washington Post:
Supreme Court won't hear
challenge to landmark gay
marriage ruling

MINNESOTA v.
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

New York Times:
ICE Agent Charged in
Shooting of a Venezuelan
Immigrant in Minnesota

CBS News:
Feds now sharing
evidence in Minnesota ICE
surge shootings, including
Renee Good's SUV

Bloomberg
Law

CBS NEWS

CNN

The
New York
Times

npr

USA
TODAY

The Washington Post

UNITED STATES v. CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF LAS CRUCES

New York Times:
New Mexico Diocese Tries
to Block Government From
Seizing Land for Border Wall

LGML v. NOEM

New York Times:
Justice Dept. Reverses
Course on Claims Guatemalan
Children's Parents Sought
Their Return

DODDAMANI v. BLANCHE

NPR:
Former federal prosecutor
is suing DOJ for 'unlawful
and retaliatory' firing

CBS News:
Former federal prosecutor
fired over FACE Act case sues
DOJ for unlawful termination

JOLT v. PAXTON

Bloomberg Law:
Paxton's Pursuit of Latino
Voter Group Prompts Bad
Faith Finding

GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENT

ICAP attorneys are regularly asked to testify before Congress and state legislatures on urgent issues related to constitutional rights.

On the fifth anniversary of the Capitol insurrection, Mary testified about political violence before a shadow hearing of House Democrats.

On Feb. 25, Special Litigation Counsel Joe Mead testified before the Maryland General Assembly about the constitutionality of a bill introduced to limit state and local cooperation with federal immigration efforts.

On May 20, Mary's scheduled appearance before the Senate Judiciary Committee was canceled after a horrific shooting at the Islamic Center of San Diego. Her proposed testimony, explaining why misuse of the domestic terrorist label threatens constitutional rights and drives extremist violence like the shooting in San Diego, was published in *Just Security*.

On June 9, Mary testified before the House Judiciary Committee about the dangers of using the prosecutorial power to target people and organizations based on viewpoint.

"We cannot ignore the false narratives that this administration seeks to rely on to suppress voting rights and public protest. And if we are to learn from Jan. 6, we must understand two things: that mis- and disinformation are the primary drivers of political violence and that political violence is not limited to physical attacks but also includes the intimidation, threats and harassment that inhibit civic participation and undermine the functioning of our democratic republic."

– Mary McCord, ICAP



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

ICAP attorneys are also invited to speak and teach at events across the country, providing expert insights to a wide variety of litigators and decision-makers.

Last fall, Mary joined Democracy Docket for a conversation with an expert panel about voting, the courts, and the ongoing fight for our democracy. She also delivered the keynote address at Stockton University's 19th Annual Constitution Day event, explaining how executive overreach threatens the rule of law, and why that matters to our constitutional democracy. And this spring she discussed the global legal frameworks that govern war crimes and executive power at the New York Historical Society.

ICAP Legal Director Rupa Bhattacharyya joined a panel at the National Legal Aid and Defender Association's annual conference to discuss how defending democracy is integral to the fight for access to equal justice. And at the American Constitution Society's National Convention, Rupa and other former DOJ attorneys explored how to rebuild independence at the DOJ and restore its tarnished reputation.

ICAP Supreme Court Director Kelsi Corkran spoke at the Federalist Society National Lawyers Convention in defense of meaningful judicial review of executive branch action. Kelsi joined a panel of legal experts at the Constitutional Accountability Center's 13th Annual Home Stretch at the Supreme Court event to discuss the most significant cases from this Supreme Court term and look ahead to major issues on the horizon. She also spoke about the Supreme Court's term at the D.C. Circuit Judicial Conference and weighed in on the Court's emergency docket at the National Association of Women Lawyers' annual convention in Chicago.

ICAP Faculty Chair Emeritus Neal Katyal spoke at TED 2026 in Vancouver about what really won the \$4 trillion tariffs case in the Supreme Court.





TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION

Our work to shape the future of constitutional advocacy takes place in the classroom as well as the courtroom. Through education and mentorship, we prepare law students to become principled, strategic, and effective defenders of democracy.

Constitutional Impact Litigation Practicum Seminar

Every semester at Georgetown Law, ICAP attorneys teach a practicum seminar during which students have a rare opportunity to learn how constitutional principles are defended in courtrooms and in the public square. The students are embedded in litigation teams where they have the opportunity to provide research support in developing legal theories, produce first drafts of motions and sections of legal briefs, join meetings with clients and partner organizations, and contribute to policy initiatives.

Many Georgetown Law alumni of this practicum have gone on to distinguished public-interest careers—federal and state clerkships, fellowships at public-interest organizations, and roles within the U.S. Department of Justice and other federal agencies.

Domestic Violent Extremism Seminar

Taught each spring by Mary, this seminar explores the legal, historical, and constitutional dimensions of domestic violent extremism. Students examine the root causes and drivers of extremist violence, existing laws (and gaps in those laws), and the implications of regulation on constitutional rights. Each student produces a final paper that proposes an original policy solution to a real-world problem involving domestic extremism.





Leadership

Mary McCord, Executive Director and Visiting Professor of Law

Rupa Bhattacharyya, Legal Director

Kelsi Brown Corkran, Supreme Court Director



Team

Sara J. Adeli, Litigation and Administrative Assistant

Jonathan Backer, Senior Counsel

Shelby Calambokidis, Senior Counsel

Elizabeth Cruikshank, Senior Counsel

Julia Gegenheimer, Special Litigation Counsel

Alex Lichtenstein, Senior Counsel

William Powell, Senior Counsel

Allahjah Smith, Operations Manager

Seth Wayne, Senior Counsel and Criminal Reform Litigation Coordinator

Tinesha Zandamela, Justice Fellow



Faculty Chair

Neal Katyal, Paul and Patricia Saunders Emeritus Professor of Law



THE WORK CONTINUES

The attacks on our founding ideals are not slowing down, and neither will we. ICAP attorneys are relentless advocates for civil liberties, democratic principles, and the rule of law.

Our small team has accomplished meaningful victories, but we understand that democracy is an ongoing project. We will keep fighting for a more just and resilient democracy, as part of an effort that began 250 years ago.

We are honored to play this role in our nation’s story, and we hope you’re inspired to join us.

Why Your Support Matters

We provide all our legal services pro bono—litigating in courts across the country, supporting good government, and developing strategies to protect civil rights at no cost to the people and communities we support.

Though we are based at Georgetown Law, we are not funded by the law school. Our work depends entirely on external support.

Please consider making a gift to help us continue this vital work.



“DUE PROCESS”
IS A RIGHT
OF EVERY PERSON
IN OUR COUNTRY

“We can collectively stop the erosion of the rule of law. It won’t be overnight, but it can be done. It has happened in other countries. And if we are complacent, and we think that America is too exceptional to go down the path of other countries, we are wrong.”

Mary McCord, Executive Director
Institute for Constitutional Advocacy and Protection

Institute for Constitutional Advocacy and Protection

— GEORGETOWN LAW —

600 New Jersey Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20001

law.georgetown.edu/icap

ReachICAP@georgetown.edu
[Bluesky](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)