

On December 2, 2015, the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (“LDF”), co-counsel Covington and Burling, LLP, and LDF cooperating attorney Ed Still filed a federal lawsuit to challenge Alabama’s racially discriminatory photo voter ID law. This lawsuit, filed on behalf of Greater Birmingham Ministries and the Alabama NAACP, represents the latest chapter in LDF’s 75 year history of defending the rights of Black voters and other voters of color in Alabama and across the nation.

## A TIMELINE OF LDF’S 75 YEAR HISTORY OF DEFENDING VOTING RIGHTS IN ALABAMA

### PRESENT DAY

2015

***Greater Birmingham Ministries v. Alabama***, (Filed in N.D. Ala. Dec. 2, 2015). LDF challenge to Alabama’s racially discriminatory photo ID law and voucher requirement that has likely affected the rights of 250,000 registered voters in the State.

2015

***Alabama Legislative Black Caucus v. Alabama***, 135 S. Ct. 1257 (2015). LDF filed a “friend-of-the-Court” brief in support of a successful appeal by Black voters represented by LDF co-counsel Ed Still and others to challenge the racially discriminatory redistricting of the Alabama House and Senate.

2013

***Shelby County, Alabama v. Holder***, 570 U.S. 2 (2013). LDF presented oral argument and defended the constitutionality of the Voting Rights Act in the United States Supreme Court.

2007

***Chapman v. Gooden***, 974 So. 2d 972 (Ala. 2007). LDF successfully proved that the Secretary of State had erroneously interpreted Alabama’s felon disfranchisement law.

2007

***Dillard v. Chilton County Commission***, 495 F.3d 1324 (11th Cir. 2007). LDF defeated a challenge by white voters to a settlement under the Voting Rights Act, which had allowed Black voters to exercise proportional voting power in county commission elections.

1994

***Presley v. Etowah County Commission***, 869 F. Supp. 1555 (M.D. Ala. 1994). LDF stopped white elected officials’ attempts to deny the county’s Black commissioners the ability to exercise the same powers and responsibilities as other commissioners.

1989

***Dillard v. Town of North Johns***, 717 F. Supp. 1471 (M.D. Ala. 1989). LDF successfully challenged the town mayor’s intentionally discriminatory attempt to withhold required candidacy forms from Black candidates, while providing such forms to white candidates.

1988

***Harris v. Siegelman***, 695 F. Supp. 517 (M.D. Ala. 1988). LDF won a lawsuit that required Alabama to appoint additional Black poll workers and eliminated state laws that had limited the ability of Black voters to receive necessary assistance at the polls.

1987

***Dillard v. Crenshaw County Commission***, 649 F. Supp. 289 (M.D. Ala. 1986), aff’d, 831 F.2d 246 (11th Cir. 1987). LDF won a case challenging intentionally discriminatory Alabama state laws, which ultimately resulted in the court requiring nearly 200 counties, school boards, and city councils across the State to make their elections more open to Black voters.

1985

**Hunter v. Underwood**, 471 U.S. 222 (1985). LDF submitted a “friend-of-the-Court” brief in support of a successful challenge by LDF co-counsel Ed Still and others to Alabama’s state constitutional provision, which disfranchised people convicted of crimes of “moral turpitude” because the law had been motivated by the desire to exclude Black voters.

1984

**Bozeman v. Lambert**, 587 F. Supp. 1021 (M.D. Ala. 1984). LDF represented two Black voting rights activists in Alabama who were convicted of alleged “voter fraud” by all-white juries, and LDF successfully overturned their illegal and politically motivated convictions.

1983

**Brown v. Board of School Commissioners of Mobile County**, 706 F.2d 1103 (11th Cir.) aff’d sub nom. 464 U.S. 1005 (1983). LDF won a challenge to a racially discriminatory Alabama state law that had required at-large elections for Mobile County’s school commissioners.

1982

**Bolden v. City of Mobile, Alabama**, 542 F. Supp. 1050 (S.D. Ala. 1982). LDF successfully challenged an unconstitutional law requiring at-large municipal elections that had been intentionally designed by Alabama to weaken Black voting power in the City of Mobile.

1970

**Gilmore v. Greene County Democratic Party**, 435 F. 2d 487 (5th Cir. 1970). LDF won Black voters the right to use sample ballots in Alabama’s Democratic primary elections.

1967

**Smith v. Paris**, 386 F.2d 979 (5th Cir. 1967). LDF stopped the Alabama Democratic Party’s attempt to change the method of election for representation on a local committee.

1966

**Clark v. Boynton**, 362 F.2d 992 (5th Cir. 1966). LDF had notorious Alabama Sheriff James Clark held in contempt because of his brutal treatment of Amelia Boynton and other Black voting rights protesters in Selma. Sheriff Clark had forced protesters to march for four miles as his deputies hit them with cattle prods.

1965

**Williams v. Wallace**, 240 F. Supp. 100 (M.D. Ala. 1965). LDF obtained a court order preventing the Alabama Governor and Alabama state troopers from beating, intimidating, threatening, or coercing Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., John Lewis, and other voting rights protesters during their third attempt to complete the march from Selma to Montgomery.

1960

**Gomillion v. Lightfoot**, 364 U.S. 339 (1960). LDF successfully challenged the Alabama Legislature’s unconstitutional alteration of the City of Tuskegee’s boundaries, which had removed nearly all of the city’s 400 Black voters while not removing a single white voter.

1954

**Sellers v. Wilson**, 123 F. Supp. 917 (M.D. Ala. 1954). LDF case that attacked the evasive and discriminatory conduct of Alabama registrars, including practices that effectively closed the registrar’s office to Black people, and the use of voucher requirements.

1949

**Davis v. Schnell**, 81 F. Supp. 872 (S.D. Ala.), aff’d, 336 U.S. 933 (1949). LDF lawsuit that ended Alabama’s enforcement of a racist and unconstitutional literacy test.

1946

**Mitchell v. Wright**, 154 F.2d 924 (5th Cir. 1946). LDF challenge to “voucher” (i.e., voter identification) requirements for Black applicants seeking to register to vote in Alabama.