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LDF Files Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals Brief to Defend Black Louisiana Voters

Today, the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF), the law firm of Cozen O'Connor, and longtime Louisiana civil rights attorney, Ronald L. Wilson filed a brief with the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals to defend a voting rights case in Terrebonne Parish meant to ensure Black voters are able to elect their preferred judicial candidates. In 2017, a federal district court [determined](#) that Louisiana's use of at-large voting for electing five members to the 32nd Judicial District Court (32nd JDC), the state court encompassing Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana, violated the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the U.S. Constitution.

"The fight for Black Terrebonne voters to have a voice continues," said Deputy Director of Litigation Leah Aden. "At-large voting has been found time and time again to violate the Voting Rights Act. We are confident that the court will uphold the 2017 decision."

Plaintiffs filed the lawsuit to force the creation of a majority-Black single-member district that will provide them and other Black voters in Terrebonne with a chance to have a say-so as to who serves them on the 32nd JDC. Many other state courts in Louisiana's judicial system, including its highest court, the Louisiana Supreme Court, use district-based voting like the remedy Plaintiffs seek in this case. The 2017 ruling was a massive win for voting rights and continues to serve as an example of the amazing strides made when Black communities and civil rights groups work together.

Read the full brief [here](#).

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Founded in 1940, the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF) is the nation's first civil and human rights law organization and has been completely separate from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) since 1957—although LDF was originally founded by the NAACP and shares its commitment to equal rights. LDF's Thurgood Marshall Institute is a multi-disciplinary and collaborative hub within LDF that launches targeted campaigns and undertakes innovative research to shape the civil rights narrative. In media attributions, please refer to us as the NAACP Legal Defense Fund or LDF.

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