

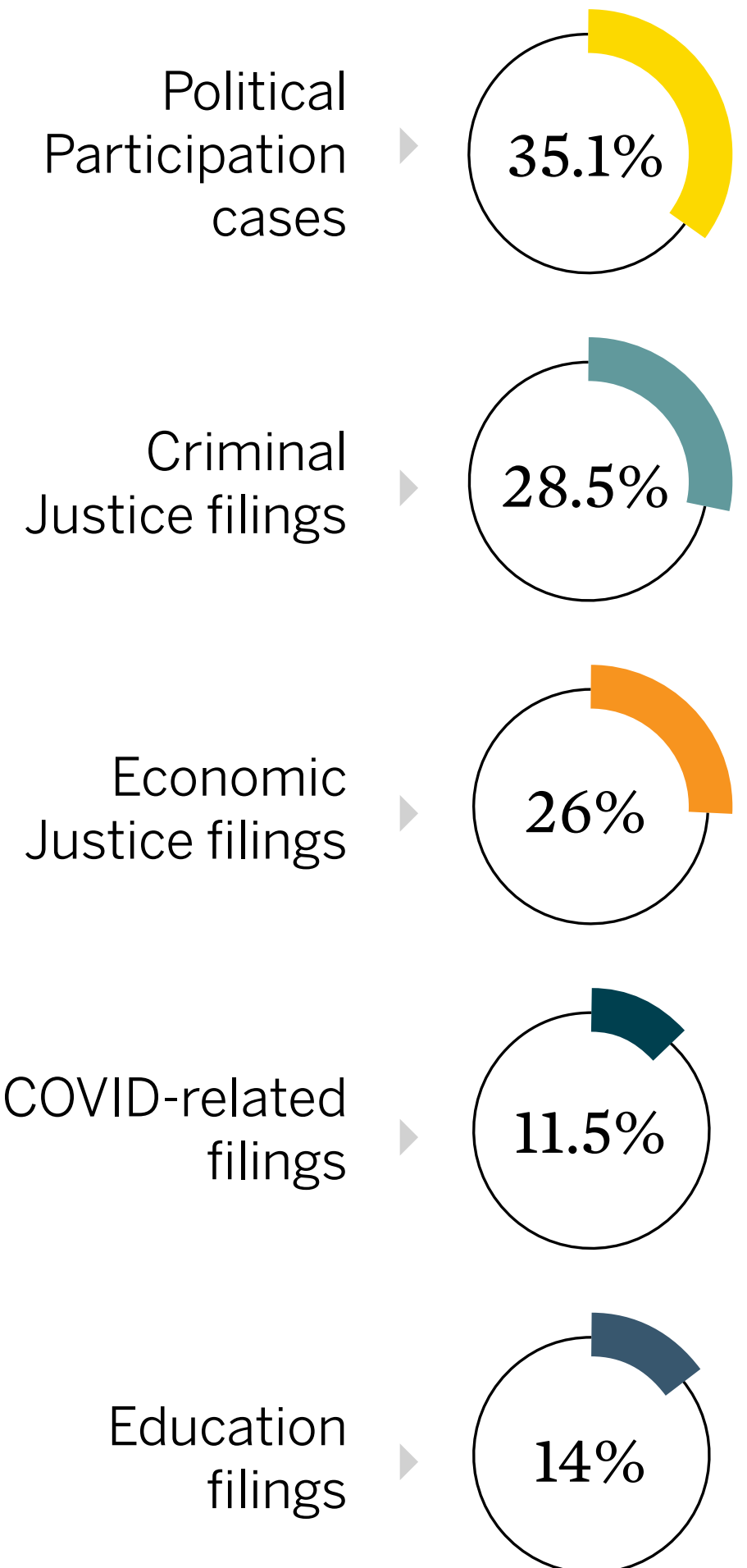
LDF 2020

Unprecedented Challenges & Inspiring Moments

This year, as LDF entered its 80th year of commitment to racial justice and civil and human rights, we faced one of the most unpredictable and challenging years in our nation’s history. A year that began with LDF challenging the Trump Administration over its Muslim Ban and Law Enforcement Commission ended with suing President Trump and his campaign over attempts to disenfranchise Black voters. In between, LDF was forced to add a new category of policy and litigation work focused on the impact of COVID-19, championed the rights of protesters during a historic summer filled with demands for change and accountability, and fought to protect Black voters and their ballots, while also helping recruit over 40,000 poll workers. LDF was able to do so by building off its 80-year legacy — the lessons learned, the victories earned, and the lives changed.

LDF’s mission has always been transformative: to achieve racial justice, equality, and an inclusive society. But 2020 was like no other. Our communities were faced with many challenges, not the least of which have been the ongoing, disproportionate impact of COVID-19 and its effects on health, housing, education, and employment. Through it all we persisted, forcing this country to grapple with some of its toughest truths. As we begin to pivot to the challenges and opportunities 2021 will bring, we take this time to look back on this tumultuous year and reflect on what we have achieved and what it means for our collective future.

2020 Case Overview



Breakdown of Highlighted Cases



2020 Highlights



Political Participation



Economic Justice



Education



Criminal Justice



Milestones

Political Participation Case Highlights 2020

Unprecedented Challenges & Inspiring Moments

Since its founding in 1940, LDF has been a pioneer in the struggle to secure and protect the voting rights of Black Americans. LDF has been involved in nearly all of the precedent-setting litigation relating to minority voting rights. LDF's political participation group uses legal, legislative, public education, and advocacy strategies to promote the full, equal, and active participation of Black Americans in America's democracy.

Filing:

Fuisiler et al. v. Landry
— Black Voters Defend Voting Rights Win in Federal Appellate Court

Filing:

Gruver v. Barton — Case: Voting With A Felony Conviction In FL

Filing: ● ●

Power Coalition for Equity and Justice v. John Bel Edwards — LDF Files Federal Lawsuit Challenging Louisiana Voting Requirements That Put Voters at Risk Amid COVID-19 Pandemic

Filing: ●

NAACP v. United States Postal Service — LDF and Public Citizen File Lawsuit on Behalf of the NAACP Against the USPS to Suspend Implementation of Postal Service Changes Ahead of the November Election

Filing: ● ●

Thomas v. Andino — LDF and ACLU File Federal Lawsuit Challenging South Carolina Requirements That Put Voters at Risk During COVID-19 Pandemic

Filing:

Trump v. New York — LDF Files Amicus Brief Challenging Trump Administration's Memorandum Excluding Undocumented People from 2020 Census Count

Filing:

Jones v. DeSantis — Federal Trial Concludes in Challenge to Florida Law that Undermines Voter Restoration

Filing:

Michigan Welfare Rights Organization, et al. v. Trump and Trump Campaign — LDF Files Lawsuit Against President Trump and the Trump Campaign's Attempts to Overturn the Election by Disenfranchising Black Voters in Michigan

● COVID related case
● Win

Filing:

Texas Democratic Party v. Texas officials — LDF Files Emergency Amicus Brief to Protect Texas Voters at Risk Amid COVID-19 Pandemic

Filing: ● ●

People First v. John Merrill (AL) — LDF, SPLC, and ADAP File Federal Lawsuit Challenging Alabama's Lack of Safe and Accessible Voting During COVID-19 Pandemic

Filing:

Prairie View A&M v. Texas — Black Student Voters Granted Day in Court to Fight for Accessible Early Voting

Economic Justice Case Highlights 2020

Unprecedented Challenges
& Inspiring Moments

Since its founding, LDF has fought for Black Americans to be able to work, live, and thrive without racially imposed barriers. In one of our first cases in 1940, LDF secured a vital decision that required equal pay for Black and white teachers. Through litigation, advocacy, and public education, LDF's economic justice practice continues the fight to increase fairness and equal opportunity for Black Americans in all aspects of the economy.

SCOTUS Ruling:

Comcast v. National Association of African-American Owned Media — Supreme Court Increases Burden for Claims of Race Discrimination Under Crucial Civil Rights Statute

Filing:

Francis v. King Parks Manor — LDF Files Amicus Brief Supporting Black Tenant Whose Landlord Knew of, but Failed to Address, Extreme Racial Harassment Perpetrated by Another Tenant

SCOTUS Ruling:

Altitude Express Inc v. Zarda and Bostock v. Clayton — Supreme Court Rules Title VII Protects Against LGBTQ Discrimination

Filing:

McConnell Dorce v. City of New York — LDF Files Amicus Brief Challenging Racial Impact of NYC's Third Party Transfer Program

Filing:

People's Water Board Coalition et al., v. City of Detroit — Civil Rights Coalition Files Class Action Lawsuit Challenging Detroit Water Shutoff Policy

Learn more about the discriminatory impact of water shutoffs

Filing:

Henderson et al. v. Vision Properties — LDF, ACLU of Michigan, National Consumer Law Center, and Michigan Poverty Law Program File Class Action Fair Housing Lawsuit Against Vision Property Management for Targeting Black Homebuyers in Home Purchase Scheme

Settlement:

Fortune Society, Inc v. Macy's Inc. — Agreement Reached in Criminal History Screening Case

Historic Agreement Reached:

NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund and Student Borrower Protection Center Announce Fair Lending Testing Agreement with Upstart Network

Filing:

NAACP Legal Defense Fund, National Urban League, National Fair Housing Alliance File Suit Against Trump Administration; African American Policy Forum Launches #TruthBeTold Campaign

Education Equity Case Highlights 2020

Unprecedented Challenges
& Inspiring Moments

As the organization that litigated *Brown v. Board of Education*, the landmark Supreme Court case that struck down segregation in public schools, LDF has long led the struggle for equal education in the United States. That struggle continues today, both in and outside the courts, where LDF works tirelessly to ensure that every Black student has access to a safe, inclusive, and high-quality education.

Agreement:

Sheff v. O'Neill — Agreement Reached in Connecticut School Desegregation Case

Victory: ●

Bradford v. Maryland State Board of Education — Latest Victory in the Bradford Case Championing State Constitutional Right to Education

Filing: ●

Students For Fair Admissions v. Harvard — Harvard Students and Alumni File Amicus Brief to Defend Diversity in Higher Education

Filing:

Arnold Family v. Barbers Hill Independent School District — Two High School Students and their Families, Represented by LDF and Akin Gump, File Lawsuit to Challenge Barbers Hill Independent School District's Discriminatory Hair Policy

[Learn more about natural hair discrimination](#)

● Win

Criminal Justice Case Highlights 2020

Unprecedented Challenges
& Inspiring Moments

LDF has always worked to ensure that our nation's criminal justice laws are administered fairly and without regard to race. LDF's criminal justice practice uses litigation, advocacy, and public education to eliminate racial bias in our criminal justice system.

SCOTUS Ruling: ●

Ramos v. Louisiana — U.S. Supreme Court Rules That State Juries Must Require Unanimous Verdicts for Conviction

Filing: ●

Frazier v. Kelley — LDF Files Complaint against Arkansas Officials Allowing COVID-19 to Decimate Prisons

SCOTUS Filing:

Edwards v. Vannoy — LDF Files Amicus Brief Arguing that Ramos Ruling Requiring Unanimous State Juries Should Apply Retroactively

Victory: ●

State v. Robinson — North Carolina Supreme Court Issues Momentous Decision on Death Penalty Racial Discrimination Case

Filing:

Uniformed Officers Association v. the City of New York — Brief Of Amici Curiae

Ruling:

Commonwealth v. Evelyn — Massachusetts' Highest Court Issues Mixed Ruling on Police Seizure of Black Teenager, Setting New Standards for State Court Review of Cases Involving Youth and Black Individuals

SCOTUS Filing:

Calvin McMillian v. State of Alabama — LDF Files Amicus Brief with Supreme Court in Support of Overturning the Judicial Override for Capital Punishment in Alabama

Filing:

Louisville Protestors v. City of Louisville — LDF Files Complaint Against City of Louisville for Military-Style Response to Peaceful Protests

- COVID related case
- Win

Filing:

West Philadelphia Protestors v. City of Philadelphia — LDF and Co-Counsel File Lawsuit on Behalf of Black Residents in West Philadelphia Who Endured Militaristic Police Violence During Protests

Filing:

LDF v. Barr — LDF Files Lawsuit Challenging the President's Law Enforcement Commission, Arguing That It Fails to Comply with Federal Advisory Committee Act Requirements

And check out the recent ruling in the case.

2020 Milestones and Notable Events

Unprecedented Challenges
& Inspiring Moments

LDF was active in numerous other ways outside of the courts, including our Prepared to Vote and Voting Rights Defender projects, numerous research reports, and repeated calls for the end of the unspeakable killing of and violence against Black men and women at the hands of police.

Political participation:

Prepared to Vote 2020

Sherrilyn Ifill on Safeguarding the 2020 Elections

Election 2020:
They Cant. We Can.

Voting Rights Microsite

Janai Nelson Joins MSNBC's Chuck Todd and Katy Tur to Discuss the 2020 Primaries

Census 2020: Count Me In

Poll Worker Recruitment with More Than A Vote

Criminal Justice

Killing of George Floyd

TMI Director Janell Byrd-Chichester Discusses Widespread Civil Unrest over the Unlawful Police Violence and Killings

Summer of Uprisings:
Police Accountability Platform

Sherrilyn Ifill joins Chris Hayes to Discuss Decision in Breonna Taylor Case

Police Union Contract Toolkit

President and Director-Counsel Sherrilyn Ifill Testifies before the House on the Need to Pass the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act

Overview of the Grand Jury Proceedings in the Breonna Taylor Case

Associate Director-Counsel Janai Nelson Discusses the Charges Against Derek Chauvin

Notable Events

55th Anniversary of the Selma March

President Trump's Acquittal by the Senate

Nomination and Confirmation of Justice Amy Coney Barrett

President and Director-Counsel named one of Glamour Magazines Women of the Year

80th Anniversary

Tributes

Passing of John Lewis, Justice Ginsburg, Rev. Lowery, Drew Days

COVID-19

LDF Addresses the COVID-19 Pandemic

TMI Report: Foreclosures, Evictions, and Utilities Cutoffs
— The Fair Housing Impact of COVID-19 on Black Communities