



DEFEND



Direct legal support provided to **32** individuals/groups in **34** cases, nearly one a week

EMPOWER



Legal education provided to **2,000+** individuals/groups via **6** training events and our library of **19** freely available online resources

STRENGTHEN



Better legal protections for researchers sought via **15+** media engagements, and **5** regulatory submissions

*Numbers current as of October 1, 2023.

*Term "individual" is used to reflect that a small portion of our clients consists of students and those in science-adjacent roles such as science communicators. Term "group" is used to reflect that, in some instances, we assist an entire research group or other collective association of scientists and other individuals.

Thank you to our supporters for your dedication to defending climate science and scientists. Thanks to you, so far in 2023 we have:

- ✓ **Defended and empowered scientists facing varied and complex issues** such as whistleblowing faulty scientific reports, speaking out against government censorship and corporate greenwashing, concerns over defamation threats for publishing new research, fears of employer retaliation due to climate activism, and invasive open records inquiries.
- ✓ **Released a new guide for scientists wanting to serve as expert witnesses in climate litigation** or in other consulting work: [Creating an LLC and Other Legal Strategies for Consulting or Expert Witness Work](#) provides guidance on best practices to mitigate the potential legal risk when engaging in this vital work.
- ✓ **Strengthened legal rights for scientific integrity** by testifying before the Connecticut General Assembly in support of updating the state's open records laws to better protect scientists; submitting comments to multiple federal agencies on proposed policies to address issues like censorship and political interference; and releasing the fourth edition of our report, [Research Protections in State Open Records Laws](#), which covers all 50 states plus DC.

And here's what else you can expect in 2023. Your donations will be busy:

- ✓ **Ensuring any climate scientist who needs legal representation or advice has access to it**, whether via one-on-one consultation or through the essential training we deliver on avoiding potential legal pitfalls at scientific conferences. If you or someone you know needs assistance, please contact us at lawyer@csldf.org.
- ✓ **Creating a Climate Litigation Toolkit** to provide a full suite of educational materials for scientists to provide necessary expertise in vital climate litigation cases while protecting them against potential retaliation and personal and professional risks.
- ✓ **Protecting the scientific endeavor** as we continue to push for stronger protections for science and research at the federal level; keep the federal and state governments accountable by tracking and recording attacks on science through the [Silencing Science Tracker](#); and work with the scientific community to ensure their voices can be heard.



Featured story: Fighting back against the Oil and Gas Goliaths

Lucy* is a professor at a public university, and earlier this year she found herself subject to aggressive legal action, which could have seen her dragged through the courts. And why? Because her research focuses on harmful atmospheric methane emissions from the oil and gas supply chain. Employing a team of expensive lawyers, an oil and gas company subpoenaed Lucy in an obvious attempt to silence and discredit her. She was heartbroken at the thought of having to hand over her life's work to a company clearly seeking to protect their profits over the health of people and the environment—and, beyond the immediate personal financial impact (which would have been significant), she was even more concerned about the longer-term professional ramifications of prolonged legal action. CSLDF stepped in and, with the help of pro bono partners, were able to protect Lucy from this baseless legal attack and fought back against the deep pockets of the oil and gas sector. We will always do so for any climate scientist needing legal support.

*Name changed to protect privacy