WE ARE FIGHTING FOR YOU

Every year we keep at the front of our minds two things: how can we advance liberty, and what is the highest and best use of the support our generous donors entrust to us. When we stop to look back at what we’ve accomplished, we are always grateful for the trust you place in us to get that job done and proud of the Foundation’s team for getting that job done. We hope as you read this report that you are equally proud of what Mountain States Legal Foundation accomplished in your name in 2022.

All of the challenges above are happening right now in our country. And all of them are being fought by Mountain States Legal Foundation through your generous assistance.

We are a Free People, and we fight to preserve our Free Country.

So, join us in taking a short walk down 2022’s memory lane and all we accomplished together.

In 2022, our country faced so many difficulties brought on by the policy choices of Washington and state capitals. However, you enabled us to fight back against those disastrous policies that would divide us by race or gender; or destroy our productivity by cutting off our access to essential natural resources; or undermine free speech by redefining it to mean only those opinions acceptable to the Left; or reject the right to self-defense.

Richard Fletcher  
Chairman

Cristen Wohlgemuth  
President and CEO

THINGS WE’RE EXCITED ABOUT

Center to Keep and Bear Arms Director
In November 2022, MSLF welcomed Brian Abbas as the new Director of the Center to Keep and Bear Arms. Brian was previously a prosecutor in Yuma County, Arizona on the Mexico border, where he focused on prosecuting organized crime, including drug, violent, and financial crimes. He is an avid recreational shooter, gun collector, and inventor. Brian says, “Fighting for the Second Amendment is the right and honest thing to do, and I am answering that calling.”

Expanded Communications, “So a Neighbor Asked ...” and other content on YouTube
We were thrilled to expand our communications work in 2022. We launched our new blog, The Pamphlet, which has already accumulated a rich collection of written content. MSLF is now regularly publishing new video content on our YouTube channel (@MountainStatesLegalFoundation) including speaker events, occasional case discussions, and our monthly series entitled “So a Neighbor Asked ...” which strives to explain legal topics to our friends.
GRASSROOTS SUPPORT

The majority of contributions are from everyday Americans who share our vision of a Free Country for a Free People. Fully 99% of our gifts are of $5,000 or below, from individual Americans.

2022 EXPENSES:
$3,966,041

- Legal: 45%
- Communications: 28%
- Fundraising: 18%
- Operations: 9%

Between 2021 and 2022, MSLF increased its Legal and Communication spending from 70% to 73% of total expenditures while also raising overall spending by almost $500,000.

Thanks to Biden’s inflationary policies, 2022 was a struggle financially for MSLF. At the same time, there are more of you, our supporters, than ever before and together we are well positioned to take on even more fights in the future.

VICTORIES

Ending Race-Based Government Loan Relief - Carpenter v Vilsack
In 2021, Biden’s racist farm loan relief bill was temporarily halted thanks to court orders which stopped government money from going out unfairly only to farmers and ranchers that were not white. Then, in 2022, the Biden Administration saw the writing on the wall and signed legislation which gutted the unconstitutional program and ended payments.

FAA Equal Protection case granted Class Certification - Brigida v US Department of Transportation
In February 2022, the US District Court for the District of Columbia granted class certification to our eight year old-case which accuses the Obama-era Department of Transportation of instituting an air traffic controller applicant and testing process based on race. Now MSLF is in the middle of a lengthy document discovery process which should wrap up in 2024.

Victory over the Regulatory State - Solenex v Haaland
After decades of fighting five different Presidential Administrations, our client, the late Sidney Longwell, and his company Solenex, were vindicated in September 2022. The US District Court for the District of Columbia issued a summary judgment requiring that the Department of the Interior reinstate Solenex’s oil and gas lease, which had been suspended since 1993. The judge on the case said, “It is time to put an end to this interminable, and insufferable, bureaucratic chess match.”
CRUCIAL CASES TO WATCH

Stopping the ATF in Their Tracks - VanDerStok v. Garland
In 2022, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) issued a Final Rule regulating inert objects by defining them as “firearms,” a totally unprecedented and illegal redefinition of the term—so we sued them. We've already won a preliminary injunction for our clients, and we're hitting the gas on striking the ATF's Final Rule altogether in 2023.

Applying the Rule of Law to the Federal Government - United States v. Idaho
When it befits them, the federal government loves to hold people accountable to its rules, but the feds hate it when they're forced to obey state law. This is evident in the arena of stockwater rights on federal land, where the US Government would see itself as some legally exempt land baron over the state governments. We’ve intervened in this case on behalf of ranchers such as Paul Nettleton, Tim Lowry, and Don Pickett, to ensure Idaho’s waters are controlled by Idaho—not faraway bureaucrats.

Fighting for Long Overdue Justice - Rayco v. Haaland
We've been fighting for the Ray Family since 2019—they’ve been fighting the federal government ever since they applied to patent their mining claims in 1991. After we filed suit to force a decision, the government then denied the Rays’ claims altogether. A judge finally accepted motions for summary judgement late in 2022, so this year should see more progress on winning justice for the Rays.

MSLF IN THE MEDIA AND AROUND THE COUNTRY


MSLF participated in events and speaking opportunities with the following organizations: American Farm Bureau, Colorado Alliance of Mineral and Royalty Owners, Daniels Fund, FreedomFest, Heritage Foundation, Panhandle Producers & Royalty Owners Association, Philadelphia Society, Rocky Mountain G.R.I.T.S., SHOT Show, State Policy Network, The Federalist Society, The Steamboat Institute, Wyoming Principles of Freedom, Wyoming Stock Growers Association, several Farm Bureau events, as well as five Discovery Briefings and two Forums in Colorado, California, and Idaho.