



With the possibility that the 2024 elections will usher in another anti-science, climate-denying administration, this is an extraordinary year for climate science. In recognition of this, CSLDF is releasing this mid-year impact report to say a heartfelt thank you to our donors, and update you on our plans.

THE ONGOING FIGHT FOR CLIMATE SCIENCE IN 2024 – BY THE NUMBERS

DEFEND



Direct legal support provided to **29** individuals/groups in **32** cases, a **33% increase from 2023**

EDUCATE



Nearly **200** individuals/groups personally trained on their legal rights through **7** in-person events/webinars, **more than we delivered in 2023**

PROTECT



Holding anti-science actors accountable through **18** media engagements, **an 80% increase from 2023**

Numbers current as of July 31, 2024.

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 loyal community for your unwavering support in the fight for climate science. The first half of 2024 has been record-breaking. With your support we are:

- ✓ Defending more scientists than ever from harassment, censorship, and frivolous legal attacks by anti-science actors, including helping individuals countering climate misinformation and intimidation attempts.
- ✓ Still working tirelessly with scientists who were censored during the previous administration to file whistleblower complaints and ensure they aren't forgotten.
- ✓ Fielding an increasing number of legal questions from researchers wanting to safely advocate for science and providing free legal assistance on how to effectively avoid professional ramifications.
- ✓ Continuing the fight for stronger scientific protections at the federal level through pressing for the adoption of new scientific integrity policies within key agencies.

The rest of 2024 holds much uncertainty – here's how we're preparing:

- ✓ This summer, we're updating our structure so we will be able to bring new types of litigation cases on behalf of those we serve. In the case of a new administration, we will be ready to directly fight back in the courts for climate science.
- ✓ Ensuring a full legal bench is on hand to help the growing number of climate scientists who are seeking legal representation or advice, through hiring an additional attorney, recruiting interns, and growing our pro bono partner network. If you or someone you know needs assistance, please contact us at lawyer@csldf.org.
- ✓ Delivering training and education sessions with scientific societies and at scientific conferences on engaging in democracy, advocacy and activism, alongside promoting our free online resources of the *Political Action Toolkit*, *Climate Litigation Toolkit* and *Advocacy and Activism Toolkit*. If you are part of a group who would like a personalized training session, please contact us at info@csldf.org.



Featured story: An entrenched battle to protect academic freedoms

Chris* is a tenured professor and this year faced egregious censorship of his research after he questioned the institution's climate policies. The administration sought to remove his academic freedoms at every turn, from stopping him teaching, to limiting what he was allowed to research, and even dictating his conference attendances. These actions were taken by the department in breach of their own policies and were a clear retaliation against Chris for his climate work. CSLDF worked with Chris to push back on these actions. It was months of entrenched work to ensure Chris' voice was heard and his freedoms protected. While the institution refused to admit wrongdoing, Chris was ultimately able to keep teaching and researching - a victory for Chris, for academic freedom, and for climate science and scientists.

*Name changed to protect privacy