

# THREE DECADES OF DEFENDING LAW ENFORCEMENT





## MISSION

Our mission is benevolent and educational. We support and defend the law enforcement profession and those law enforcement officers who have devoted their lives to upholding the Constitution and serving the United States and its citizens while enforcing its laws. We also seek to educate the public about the many risks and threats to law enforcement personnel in order to build a more informed, respectful, and appreciative society.

We execute our mission by:

- Publicizing the many challenges and dangers faced by our nation's law enforcement officers in the media, and through our website, social media, direct mail campaigns, and educational engagements;
- Supporting the defense of wrongfully accused/charged law enforcement officers by providing funds for defense counsel, court and subsistence costs, and expert witnesses;
- Supporting the activities of law enforcement professional associations, fraternal organizations, and related groups;
- Raising awareness of the risks to the livelihood, health, and safety of our nation's law enforcement officers and providing support and appropriate recognition for their many sacrifices;
- Responding to efforts to undermine the legitimacy of law enforcement officers engaged in the performance of their duties; and
- Providing recognition to exceptional private citizens who defend and protect law enforcement officers engaged in official actions.

**Los Angeles DA Hires Anti-Cop Activist  
for Top Prosecutor Job**

***The Police Killings Were  
Years Ago. New Prosecutors  
Are Reopening Cases.***

**Newly elected DA George Gascón to  
reopen several controversial officer-  
involved shooting cases**

**Alameda County DA Price to  
reopen police-involved death cases**

***He Sued Police 75 Times. Democrats Want  
Him as Philadelphia's Top Prosecutor.***

## **A message from the LELDF president**

The work of our law enforcement officers has always been the subject of great public interest. But in recent decades, this noble profession has been increasingly criticized and unfairly maligned. Public officials, activists, and the media frequently distort the facts around police use of force, especially deadly force. The narrative that excessive force is commonplace, discrimination is rampant, and law enforcement officers are out of control is not only false, but it also promotes dangerous hostility toward police.

Sadly, some exploit these misperceptions for political gain. More and more elected prosecutors are targeting completely innocent law enforcement officers to satisfy ideological aims or advance their careers – at the expense of the truth and justice. Fortunately, officers in the vast majority of these cases are vindicated at trial – but not before bearing the crippling financial burden of defending themselves in court.

To ease this burden and ensure justice for these officers, the Law Enforcement Legal Defense Fund (LELDF) was born. Over the past 30 years, the LELDF has provided legal defense funding to more than 90 law enforcement officers. Since 2020, the number of officers requesting our support has skyrocketed every year.

As the need for help continues to grow, the importance of the LELDF's work has never been greater.

The success the LELDF has achieved in fighting back against these false narratives about law enforcement and protecting officers from unjust prosecution is only possible because of the generosity of our donors.

Without the sustained support of donors in every corner of our country, we simply could not fulfill our vital mission. We are honored to have your support in our efforts to defend the noble profession of policing and the men and women who selflessly risk their lives to 'protect and serve' our communities each and every day.



Jason C. Johnson  
President

# OFFICERS WE'VE DEFENDED

"When I was charged with a crime just for doing my job, I was confronted with not only the loss of my freedom, but financial ruin for my family. The LELDF stood up and supported my legal defense, which eventually grew to several hundred thousand dollars in legal fees. My family and I are grateful beyond words to the LELDF and its donors."

**Special Agent Mark Wagner**  
Wisconsin Department of Justice



**ACQUITTED**

"I would love to thank the LELDF for all of the support that was given to me. If it wasn't for the LELDF I would have lost my house and been very close to declaring bankruptcy. I could not have done it without the LELDF support. Thank you for all of the letters, notes of support and prayers from everyone that donated."

**Detective Michael Dunn**  
Farmer's Branch, TX Police Department



**ACQUITTED**

"Since my first contact with the LELDF they have stood by my side as I face the daunting task of clearing my name. It is only because of their thousands of generous donors that I have hope we will be successful and I will be able to return to the work I love."

**Officer Terence Sutton**  
Metropolitan Police Department of  
the District of Columbia



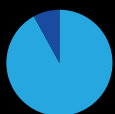
**APPEAL  
PENDING**

# LELDF CASE INTAKE PROCESS



Although the LELDF board of directors occasionally grants exceptions, it prioritizes the cases of law enforcement officers charged with a felony. The LELDF does not provide defense support funding for cases involving non-duty related actions or in situations in which, in the LELDF's sole judgment, criminal charges are legally appropriate.

## BY THE NUMBERS



92%

of cases resolved in favor of officers (dropped, acquitted etc.) over the past decade



6 million+

contributed to individual officers' legal costs



90+

officers supported across the US since founding in 1995

One



Presidential Pardon secured for Officer Stephanie Mohr (2020)

## RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY

# DEFUNDING ~~DEFENDING~~ THE POLICE

Launched in 2021, the LELDF's "Defending the Police" project builds on our decades-long commitment to promoting effective, constitutional policing through data-driven research and staunch advocacy for those who 'protect and serve' our communities. The LELDF serves as an independent voice for the men and women of law enforcement and for policies that support the noble profession of law enforcement and ensure public safety and due process. Our rigorous research and public advocacy efforts apply a fact-based approach through original research reports, op-eds and commentary, public speeches and testimony, factsheets, and stakeholder and media engagement.

## ORIGINAL RESEARCH REPORTS

### **Prosecutorial Malpractice: Progressive Prosecutors, Public Safety, and Felony Outcomes (2020)**

Examining the effectiveness of progressive prosecutors compared to their immediate less radical predecessors in six major cities, finding a significant decline in prosecutions and convictions even as crime rose.

### **Less Policing = More Murders (2021)**

Demonstrating that as proactive policing (arrests, stops, searches) declined in the wake of the 2020 Floyd unrest, homicides rose dramatically in 10 major cities. De-policing cost lives.

### **Justice for Sale: How George Soros Put Radical Prosecutors in Power (2022)**

Tracing, in a first of its kind study, how billionaire George Soros spent over \$40 million to elect 75 progressive district attorneys and millions more to build an advocacy network to promote radical policies impacting one in five Americans and most major cities.

### **Reform by Decree: How DOJ Enacts Its Policing Agenda (2023)**

Outlines the nature and scope of the federally imposed police reform settlements or "consent decrees" and their harmful unintended consequences including their budgetary burden, drawn out timelines, and negative impact on public safety and police morale.

### **Fatal Falsehoods: Setting the Record Straight on Police Shootings (2024)**

Analyzing the publicly available data on police use of force and shootings, showing that, contrary to media claims, such incidents are rare, limited and largely justified. The study is the first to uncover widespread errors and misrepresentations in the Pulitzer-prize winning Washington Post police shootings database.

### **TURNING IN THE BADGE: POLICE ATTRITION AFTER 'DEFUND THE POLICE' (2021)**

Analyzing the law enforcement attrition in 15 large departments, as demoralized police quit and retired in droves and recruitment fell due to anti-police policies and rhetoric.



### **FOLLOW THE MONEY: MAPPING SOROS PROSECUTOR FUNDING (2024)**

Documenting the identities and locations of 27 Soros-funded prosecutors, the front groups used to bankroll their campaigns, and the total amount each district attorney received, in an interactive mapping tool.



**Opinion** | D.C.'s reaction to violent crime sends a troubling message

**The Washington Post** Sept 2021

Police use-of-force is not as common as the public thinks. The news media too often fails to say so



**CHICAGO SUN-TIMES** May 2024

*'Defund the Police' Led to Lower Standards*

Recruitment difficulties have reduced the quality of officers, increasing the risk of abusive conduct.

**WSJ**  
Feb 2023

**OPINION**

How George Soros' billions are remaking America's justice system

**NEW YORK POST** June 2022



Defunding the police isn't the answer

**CNN**  
June 2020

38th Annual Jefferson B. Fordham Debate on Qualified Immunity

**WORK CITED BY:**



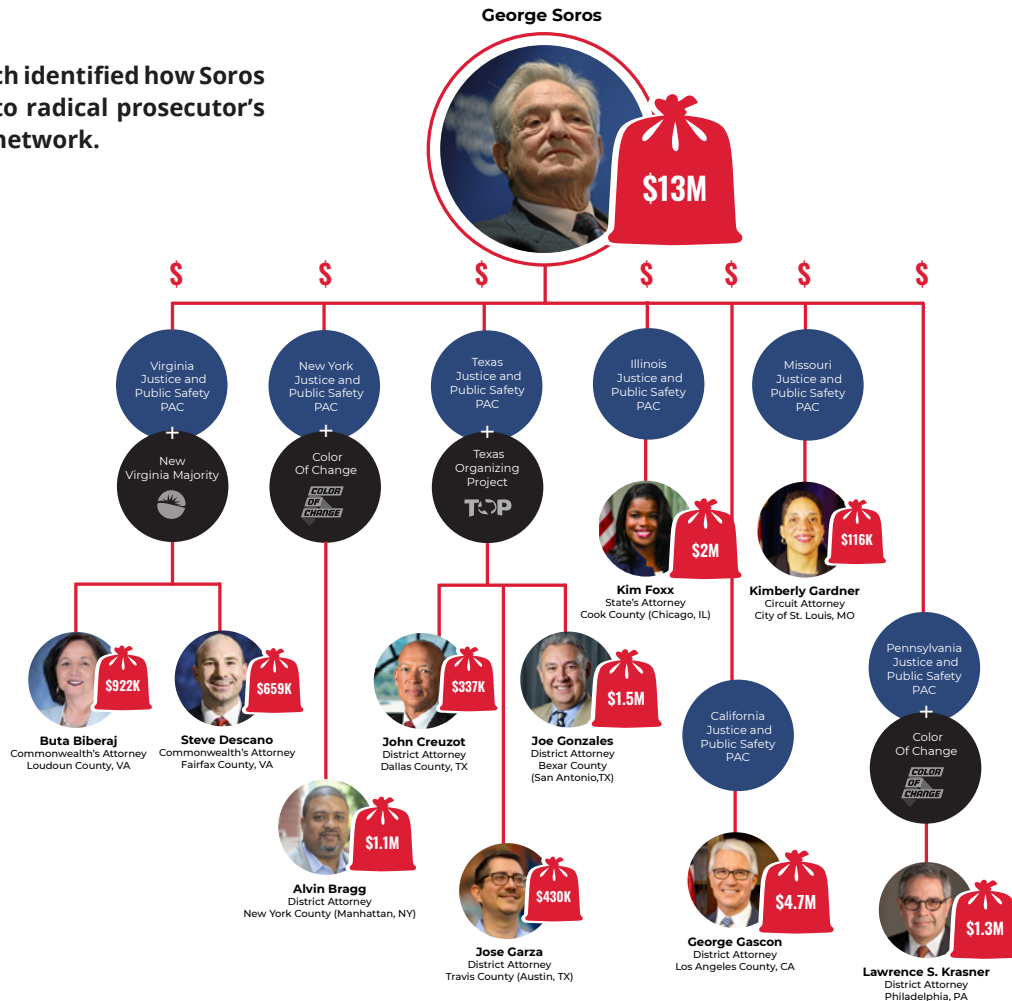
**ALSO FEATURED IN:**



The New York Times **Bloomberg**

# FACTSHEETS AND INFOGRAPHICS

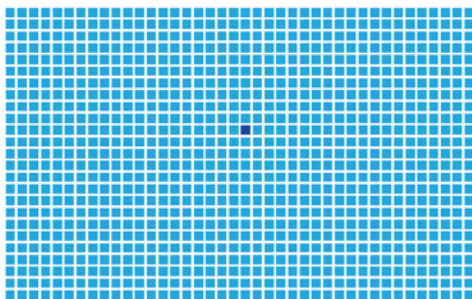
The LELDF's research identified how Soros funneled millions to radical prosecutor's campaigns via his network.



Academic researchers have demonstrated that police use of force is extremely rare despite false media claims.

## FACT: POLICE OFFICERS RARELY USE FORCE

**99.9%** of POLICE CALLS are resolved peacefully



## WHEN POLICE STAND DOWN CRIMINALS STEP UP

	ARRESTS	HOMICIDES
<b>NEW YORK</b>		
Anti-police protests (2020) <sup>1</sup>	▼ -55%	▲ +45%
<b>CHICAGO</b>		
Court limits police stops (2016) <sup>2</sup>	▼ -24%	▲ +59%
<b>BALTIMORE</b>		
Baltimore riots (2015) <sup>3</sup>	▼ -28%	▲ +55%

1. NYPD Comstat / NYC Open Data, June/July 2019 vs. June/July 2020  
 2. City of Chicago Data Portal, 2015 vs. 2016  
 3. Open Data Baltimore, May 2014-April 2015 vs. May 2015-April 2016

The LELDF's work shows violence soars when police pull back due to anti-police policies and politics.



# STEPPING INTO THE SHOES OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

## IN-PERSON MOBILE POLICE SIMULATOR

For over a decade, the LELDF has offered stakeholders, the media, and the general public the opportunity to “step into the shoes” of law enforcement during use of force scenarios with its mobile police simulator. The simulator program has given numerous members of the media the firsthand opportunity to see what split-second decisions look like and judge for themselves.



**CNN** Training simulators show challenges for cops

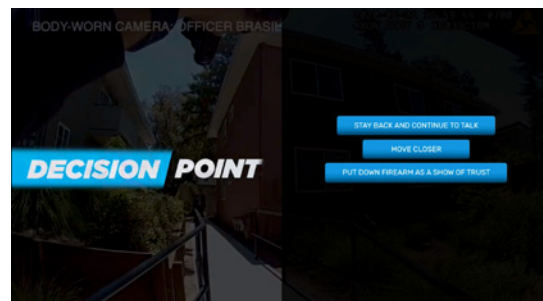
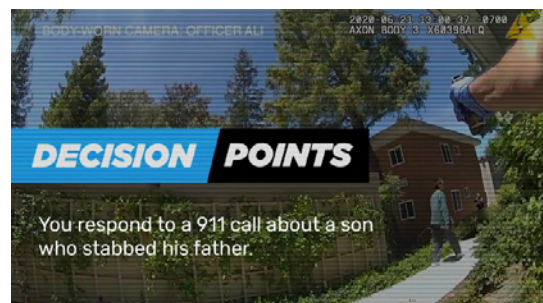
**“On a screen projected onto the wall in front of me, I watch a madman go on a workplace shooting rampage. Bodies line the floor. I’m the only officer on the scene. If I don’t act fast, more will die. Everything is moving so quickly that it’s almost impossible to tell between shooters and victims. I eventually take down the intruder, but obviously not soon enough.”**

-Chris Moody, CNN Senior Digital Correspondent

## “DECISION POINTS” INTERACTIVE, ONLINE, AND ACCESSIBLE

To complement our simulator program, the LELDF launched a new, first of its kind online experience tool, “Decision Points,” in November 2021. It allows users to experience firsthand real-life high-stakes situations faced by law enforcement officers. Using actual police bodycam footage, the tool walks the user through the scenario in real-time, pausing to ask the user what decision they would or should make at a critical juncture. The tool then provides the user with an explanation why their choice was appropriate or not and continues the scenario, stopping repeatedly to engage the user on their preferred decision. It then provides analysis from a law enforcement “use of force” expert on how the scenario unfolded and why decisions were made.

The tool offers the media, government officials, stakeholders, and the general public the ability to “walk in the shoes” of law enforcement and better understand how split-second, life and death decisions are made by police every day. To date, over 33,000 users have accessed the Decision Points simulator. The simulator has been featured on Fox News, Police1, LawOfficer.com, The Epoch Times, and numerous radio shows and podcasts.



**Try it out:**  
[www.policedefense.org/decisionpoints](http://www.policedefense.org/decisionpoints)

# REACHING THE PUBLIC: EDUCATING THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA

To combat the misinformation and myths about law enforcement, the LELDF has built a robust social media presence to directly educate and inform the public about policing in America. Our efforts have targeted and grown a broad, highly-engaged audience across social platforms eager to share our content that combats myths about policing, increases awareness of the threats officers face, and tells the true stories of officers wrongfully charged with crimes just for doing their jobs.



## IMPACT AND INFLUENCE BY THE NUMBERS SINCE 2023

15M views    175 videos    300 original graphics

### FOLLOW US

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Instagram @LELDF

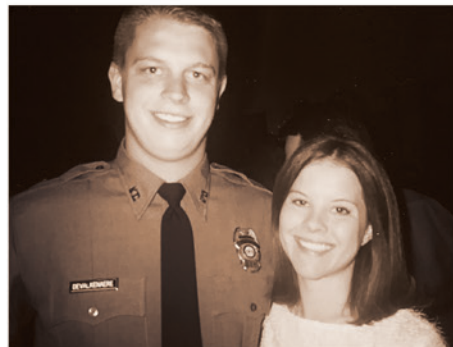
Facebook.com/LELDF

# DONATE



Without the sustained support of donors in every corner of our country, we simply could not fulfill our vital mission.

Become a donor today!



[policedefense.org/give](https://policedefense.org/give)





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