



This year began with Lambda Legal's team prepared to defend our communities with courage and conviction. The elections of 2024 brought disappointing results, but our legal team had devoted months to prepare for the worst of possible outcomes and contingency plans were in place as we began 2025.

Our four-point plan to navigate the challenges we anticipated following the change in administration guided our work – and yielded results. The entire organization has worked tirelessly to protect the rights of LGBTQ+ people and for our country.

We've challenged sweeping executive orders targeting trans people, gender-affirming care, accurate identity documents, funding for LGBTQ+ entities such as community centers and research benefiting LGBTQ+ people, and service in the military for transgender people. Many of these were old fights, rekindled by the second Trump administration. Others were new and more extreme, designed to dismantle our community by cutting any federal funding for the organizations that serve us, including those that offer HIV prevention services to those most vulnerable, and the institutions that continue research for a cure. We will not let the progress of our past, the needs of our present, and the future of all LGBTQ+ people be threatened. Lambda Legal stepped in to challenge all of these actions.

These attacks provoke fear, and our Help Desk has seen record-breaking demand; more than 6,100 people have

turned to Lambda Legal for legal education and resources. Every one of those calls represents a member of our community, a couple, sometimes entire families, who need support, answers and reassurance from our team.

We've responded, adapted and grown stronger from within, with new infrastructure, financial stability and an expanding legal team, ensuring we have the capacity to meet what this moment demands. And through educational outreach, publications and new reports – the Federal Courts Report and our Toolkit for Transgender, Nonbinary, and Gender-Diverse Youth in Foster Care as examples - we are engaging and empowering our community in naming injustice and proactively shaping a more equitable future.

With every case we file, every call we answer, and every report we publish, we send a clear message to our community: we have your back. Lambda Legal is steadfast in our mission to make the promise of equality real for every member of the LGBTQ+ community. We're not going back on what we've already won without a fight.

THE LAST LINE OF DEFENSE

In the last four years, nearly 2,000 anti-LGBTQ+ bills have been introduced, one in at least every state legislature. More than 230 passed into law in 27 states. In 2025, Lambda Legal had active cases in 24 states. Across the country, Lambda Legal's team is fighting for our community alongside local LGBTQ+ organizations, with pro-bono partners.

+ THE TRUMP TRACKER: Federal Cases

Lambda Legal has filed six major cases since January of 2025 challenging unlawful and discriminatory actions by the Trump administration. Check out the latest breaking news on these cases at: www.lambdalegal.org/trumptracker

PFLAG v. Trump

Challenging the ban on gender-affirming care for trans youth under 19, which threatens funding for hospitals serving trans patients.

GLMA v. NIH (LGBTQ+ Research Funding Cuts)

Challenging the sudden cancellation of 323 LGBTQ+ and HIV-related research grants under HHS Secretary Robert Kennedy Jr.

Shilling v. Trump

Fighting the unconstitutional ban blocking transgender Americans from military service.

Schlacter v. U.S. State Department

We've challenged sweeping executive orders targeting trans people, federal bans on gender-affirming care, accurate identity documents, funding for LGBTQ+ entities such as community centers and research

benefiting LGBTQ+ people, and service in the military for transgender people.

SF AIDS Foundation v. Trump

Suing to stop executive actions that erase trans people, defund LGBTQ+ programs, and ban DEI principles in federal grants.

✓ **RECENT WIN:** This Summer, a judge ruled in our favor, restoring \$6 million dollars in federal funding to these organizations.

Our legal teams have secured injunctions that shielded over a hundred million dollars of research funding while Lambda Legal continues to fight for justice in court.

+ LAMBDA LEGAL WINS AT THE STATE LEVEL

Lambda Legal is showing up in state courts defending LGBTQ+ and HIV rights.

THIS YEAR WE HAVE WON CRUCIAL VICTORIES INCLUDING:

✓ **Missouri DOC settled HIV discrimination case:**

Lambda Legal secured a groundbreaking settlement ending Missouri's practice of placing people with HIV in solitary confinement and ensuring fair treatment in prisons.

✓ **Iowa "Don't Say LGBTQ+" law blocked:**

A federal judge halted Iowa's sweeping censorship law, protecting LGBTQ+ students, educators, and free expression in schools.

✓ **Montana trans healthcare ban struck down:**

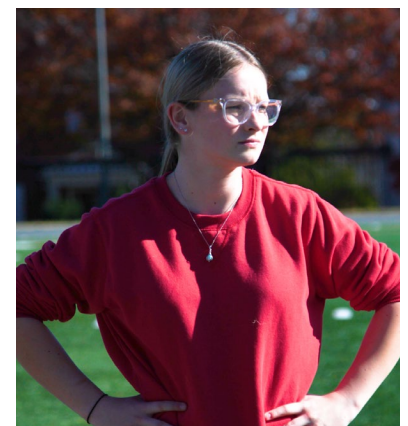
The state's unconstitutional ban on gender-affirming care for trans youth was overturned, restoring vital medical access and rights.

+ RETURNING TO THE SUPREME COURT

B.P.J. v. West Virginia Board of Education – Defending Transgender Youth in Sports

Early in 2026, Lambda Legal will return to the U.S. Supreme Court to defend the right of transgender students to participate fully and fairly in school athletics. We represent Becky Pepper-Jackson, a teenage track athlete challenging West Virginia's cruel and unconstitutional ban on trans students in sports. Lambda Legal has represented Becky since 2021 and we could not be more proud to fight for her and all transgender youth who just want a chance to play and be part of a team.

Oral arguments are scheduled for January 13, 2026 — a pivotal moment for transgender rights nationwide.



Becky Pepper-Jackson





THE HELP DESK: Support in High Demand

Every call, email, and message to Lambda Legal's Help Desk begins with a story from a member of our community. In 2025, the need for the Help Desk has grown exponentially.

So far this year, the Help Desk has handled more than 6,100 requests for assistance – already exceeding the total annual volume of any of the past seven years, with a full quarter still to go.

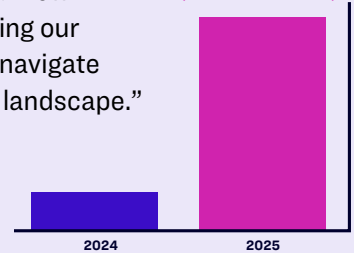
Over the past six months, the Help Desk has averaged nearly 490 new requests per month, a 35% increase over last year's monthly average. That's the equivalent of 16 new people every day, including weekends, reaching out for support, information, and hope.

Our Help Desk serves as a vital source of information for our community. But it is also a space where community members share their lived experiences.

"These stories give us a clearer picture of what our community is navigating at a time when misinformation, uncertainty, and confusion is rampant. The volume of requests we are seeing this year makes clear how essential this service is to helping our community stay informed and navigate an increasingly uncertain legal landscape."

Huong Lam (she/her)
Legal Help Desk Director

6,100 requests
for assistance
(Q1-Q3 2025)



BUILDING OUR TEAM: Strength in Numbers

Lambda Legal wrapped its Unstoppable Future campaign in June with a staggering \$285 million raised. This has allowed us to grow our staff and capacity to serve our community.

To meet growing demand and sustain our litigation momentum, Lambda Legal has strengthened its legal team with 10 new attorneys and legal professionals this year. Each brings unique expertise, lived experience, and deep passion for justice.



To understand is to be empowered, which is why it is so important to educate our community about legal and policy developments and what they really mean. This is why it means so much for me to join Lambda Legal at this exact moment – so I can be part of Lambda Legal's mission to bring clarity and understanding through accessible, plain-language materials and trainings, demonstrating our commitment to meeting this moment in the most impactful ways.

- **Shayna Bloom, she/her**
Public Education Counsel

This infusion of talent expands Lambda Legal's reach and capacity at a pivotal moment. Together, this growing team is prepared to take on the next wave of challenges – and the next wave of victories.



2025 REPORT WRAP-UP: Justice in the Courts and Care Systems

As 2025 draws to a close, two new Lambda Legal publications highlight the twin pillars of our work
– reshaping systems and protecting people where the law meets lived experience.

1. Federal Courts Report:

Who Holds Power on the Bench

“Courts don’t just interpret the law — they define who counts under it.”

In *Judging Our Future: What’s at Stake for LGBTQ+ and HIV Rights in the Federal Courts*, Lambda Legal reveals that while there was great progress during the Biden administration, the federal judiciary remains far from reflecting the diversity of the nation it serves. The report also addresses what we can expect from new federal judges during Trump’s second term.

Only about 2.7% of federal judges openly identify as LGBTQ+, compared to more than 9% of the U.S. population — a gap that shapes how justice is delivered. The report calls for renewed advocacy around judicial nominations and vetting nominees for anti-LGBTQ+ bias.

2. TNGD Youth Toolkit:

Protecting Vulnerable Youth in Care

“Affirmation saves lives — and the law can make that affirmation possible.”

Our second major publication, *Advocating for Transgender, Nonbinary, and Gender-Diverse Youth in Foster Care*, equips attorneys and advocates with strategies to support one of the most vulnerable populations in the child welfare system.

Roughly 30% of youth in foster care identify as LGBTQ+, and about 5% are transgender or nonbinary, facing higher rates of discrimination and mental-health distress. The toolkit offers affirming best practices and concrete legal interventions to help ensure safety and stability for these youth.

ALL RISE

for LGBTQ+ rights

FUND THE FIGHT

Double your impact.
All gifts made before December 31st
matched up to \$250,000

lambdalegal.org/donate

**LAMBDA
LEGAL**

