



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## LAWYERS DEFENDING AMERICAN DEMOCRACY ISSUES STUNNING NEW REPORT IDENTIFYING 5 STATES ON THE VERGE OF BECOMING AUTOCRACIES

**BOSTON, MA** - [Lawyers Defending American Democracy](#) (LDAD), a non-partisan organization dedicated to protecting the Constitution and the rule of law, is pleased to announce the release of a groundbreaking report, "[Marching Towards Autocracy: How States are Failing Democracy – And What We Can Do About It.](#)" This comprehensive analysis sheds light on the challenges facing American democracy at the State level, and urges action steps needed to reverse this trend.

In a time of unprecedented threats to the very foundations of democracy, the report is a rigorous examination of how these challenges are impacting five key states: Arizona, Florida, Texas, Tennessee, and Iowa. Explored in the context of eight core democratic principles, the report sheds light on the wave of anti-democratic laws and policies being implemented in these States, highlighting instances where the rule of law is under severe strain and identifying systemic issues that demand urgent attention.

### Key Findings:

- **Erosion of Democratic Institutions:** The report uncovers significant instances of erosion within democratic institutions at the state level, including the diminished reliance on fact-based decision-making that pose a significant threat to the overall health of the nation's democracy.
- **Challenges to Electoral Integrity:** A detailed analysis of electoral processes reveals challenges that are undermining the integrity of elections, jeopardizing the core tenet of representative democracy.
- **Reshaping Public Education by Undermining Academic Freedoms and Principles Critical to a Uniform, High Quality Education:** Recognizing the importance of academic freedom, the report identifies attacks on educators and the public education system based on the content of their teaching or the perspectives they share. It emphasizes the need for protecting educators' rights to explore diverse topics, present a well-rounded education, and allow an honest retelling of American history.
- **Threats to Civic Freedoms:** The report examines the loss of civic freedoms, including the fair treatment of all citizens and respect for individual autonomy, identifying areas where these fundamental rights face unprecedented challenges.

- **Call to Action:** "Marching Towards Autocracy" not only highlights the issues, but recommends a roadmap for action. The report proposes tangible steps that lawyers, policymakers, and citizens alike can take to strengthen democratic institutions and uphold the rule of law.

LDAD's Executive Director **Lauren Stiller Rikleen**, emphasizes, *"Over the succeeding years, anti-democratic impulses have spread. A growing number of states are passing laws that disregard the will of the majority, ignore principles of accountability and open government, and remove or undermine fundamental rights of individuals. These actions are having a profoundly negative impact on the democracy we collectively cherish and on the rule of law that is foundational to protecting a society from succumbing to authoritarianism."*

For media inquiries, interview requests, or additional information about the organization's efforts, please contact Lauren Stiller Rikleen at [lrikleen@rikleeninstitute.com](mailto:lrikleen@rikleeninstitute.com) or (508) 259-3500.

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### **About Lawyers Defending American Democracy**

Founded in 2019, Lawyers Defending American Democracy (LDAD) is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to fostering adherence to the protection of the Constitution and the rule of law. LDAD has filed disciplinary complaints against lawyers who have violated their oath to protect the Constitution, notably against Rudolph Giuliani, Jeffrey Clark, Kenneth Paxton, John Eastman, and Kenneth Chesebro. LDAD regularly issues open letters, reports, and statements calling for adherence by public officials to the rule of law and encouraging fellow lawyers, leaders of bar associations, and the legal academy to join in speaking out against threats to democracy. Our work is available at <https://ldad.org/>.