
LAWYERS DEFENDING AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

Meeting the Moment – A Call for Lawyers to Lead

Overview

The foundational principles that have kept the United States as the leader of the free world and a beacon of freedom to other countries for more than two centuries are at profound risk. Our democracy is backsliding quickly towards autocracy and core tenets of the Constitution – for example, due process, separation of powers, and the rule of law – are under continual threat.

Lawyers have a special obligation to speak up when these core tenets are threatened. When democracy, the rule of law, and our Constitution are under attack, the oaths we take as lawyers require us to speak out, our training and education enable us to serve and safeguard higher values, and the rules of professional conduct demand that we act in accordance with these ethical principles.

In this moment, lawyers have an obligation to lead by inspiration and example. This is why Lawyers Defending American Democracy is launching “**Meeting the Moment – A Call for Lawyers to Lead.**” Our goal is to galvanize lawyers across the country to honor their oaths by engaging with their communities on what’s at stake and why defending democracy and safeguarding the rule of law in America matters now more than ever.

Meeting the Moment calls on all lawyers to use their skills and expertise to engage other lawyers, friends, businesses, the media, nonprofit organizations, faith communities, civic and community groups, and others in the fight to preserve our democratic institutions. LDAD is supporting this effort by developing messaging, editorials, social media content, toolkits, and training programs participants can tailor and use in their outreach.

As national leaders in the fight to protect American democracy, LDAD imagines a future where individual rights and freedoms are secure, and where the rule of law is respected as a principle of our justice system.

Principles of Engagement

- At this extraordinary time, we are coming together to harness our collective energy and goodwill to “meet the moment” and engage throughout the country
- Key elements of engagement:
 - [LDAD’s Democracy Commitment](#) as a blueprint for action
 - A national framework to support local actions
 - The development of toolkits, talking points, and templates

- A consistent nonpartisan voice grounded in constitutional values and legal ethics

Key Components of the Initial Phase of this Project Include:

- Building a network of lawyers in every state to form Rapid Response Teams to address specific challenges immediately as they arise, including but not limited to:
 - Threats to judicial independence, including attacks on the judiciary
 - Disinformation that erodes trust in the legal system and undermines norms and principles of democracy
 - Attacks on the legal profession
 - Executive actions and orders that run counter to constitutional principles and the rule of law
 - State efforts to undermine constitutional principles
- Providing volunteers with clear, concise, and consistent materials to help them in this work. The materials will focus on key concepts (e.g., democracy, rule of law, due process, etc.), why they matter, and how individuals will be impacted if they fall and are replaced by an authoritarian form of government. These materials may include:
 - Training session (e.g. in conjunction with bar associations and from LDAD directly)
 - Toolkits that provide presentation support and other materials
 - Messaging guides
 - Suggestions and support for writing Op-Eds and letters to the editor (including how to get them published)
 - Suggestions on how to engage in conversations with people of all opinions
- Sharing information with volunteers about the growing impacts of these threats to the justice system, our democracy, and the rights and liberties of all of us on such topics as:
 - Reduction of traditional pro bono services at a time when the need is increasing
 - The dangers of individuals and organizations capitulating or staying silent out of fear
 - The impact on democracy when institutions crucial to civil society are threatened

Structure

LDAD will rely on a growing network of volunteer lawyers to build this movement across the country. At the heart of this effort will be our **State Leads**.

This model allows for tailored local engagement, allows LDAD to adjust nationally based on local input, and encourages lawyers to lead in ways aligned with their skills, relationships, and regions.

State Leads - Description

Overview:

State Leads are volunteer leaders who will serve as key connectors, advocates, and organizers for LDAD within their state. Their goal is to raise awareness and build lawyer engagement in defense of democracy and the rule of law. They will also serve as critical voices back to LDAD about what individual communities are responding to and what is not resonating with them. It is anticipated that there would be more than one state lead for each state.

State Leads will:

- Be responsible for coordinating the **Meeting the Moment** Initiative within their state
- Recruit other lawyers and identify potential partners to become involved in **Meeting the Moment** and take action
- Serve as liaisons between LDAD and legal communities across their state

Qualifications:

- Lawyer in good standing in your state (whether current status is active, inactive, or retired)
- Strong commitment to upholding the lawyer's oath and legal ethics
- Supportive of LDAD's mission and nonpartisan approach
- Willingness to use personal/professional networks to increase awareness

Responsibilities:

- Help recruit and support the involvement of local lawyers
- Help convene and participate in programs to engage other community leaders (business, faith-based, civic) in efforts to protect democracy and the rule of law
- Share unified messages in public forums and media provided by LDAD (and developed in collaboration with communications experts and participants in this Initiative)
- Share feedback and identify opportunities to strengthen local engagement
- Serve as a resource and coach to other volunteers
- Coordinate with LDAD in sharing aligned messaging and strategy

Examples of Ways Lawyers Can Help Meet the Moment

- **Track Threats** – Monitor disinformation and actions that undermine judicial independence, threaten the judiciary and the legal profession, and undermine the rule of law and the Constitution, and share updates with LDAD leadership and fellow state ambassadors
- **Develop Groups of Lawyers to participate in Rapid Response Teams** to quickly respond to threats to the justice system and the rule of law and to share accurate information
- **Write an Op-Ed** – Start with our supporting talking points and make it your own. Your voice matters
- **Submit a Letter to the Editor** – Use our context as a guide, then personalize it for your community
- **Engage on Social Media** – Repost or like LDAD content on [Bluesky](#), [Instagram](#) and/or [LinkedIn](#)
- **Encourage Other Leaders to Get Involved** – Help build momentum from within your existing networks and communities
- **Speak Out in Your Community and Engage with others** – Present at and engage in collaborative conversations with business associations, civic groups, faith organizations, etc., using the tools from LDAD
- **Share Your Ideas with Us** – This is a collaborative process and your ideas are welcome
- **Engage Your Professional Networks** – Leverage your bar associations, Inns of Court, and other affiliations
- **Pursue Public Service** – Consider running for or seeking appointed office using *Guardians of Justice – a Call for Lawyers to Lead* as the foundation
- **Donate to Support Our Work and Introduce LDAD to Potential Donors** – Every dollar helps advance this nationwide initiative

Communications & Launch

LDAD will feature this initiative prominently on its website and, if sufficient funds can be raised by participants, will engage communications support to amplify the launch.

Communication priorities include:

- Clear messages
- Social media strategies
- Media engagement

Please join us as we launch **Meeting the Moment** at this crucial time!