

LIBERTY IN ACTION



LAND OF THE FREE

GOLDWATER
INSTITUTE

2025

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Dear Friends,

Millions of Americans delivered a message to their government in 2024, speaking with one voice: Defend our rights, protect our liberties — and don't stand in the way of our American Dream.

But we know that no matter who is in Washington, woke activists, leftist leaders, and entrenched bureaucrats will stop at nothing to maintain their iron grip on government. They have embedded their ideology in our institutions. They're indoctrinating our children in schools. And they're trampling on our constitutional rights in the courts. They will dig in, hunker down, and do everything they can to force their vision on our nation.

We won't let them.

The Goldwater Institute is fighting in state courts, legislatures, and communities nationwide to advance, defend, and strengthen the freedom guaranteed by the constitutions of the United States and the fifty states. And we're winning.

Last year, the Goldwater Institute achieved victories for freedom across the country. We enacted nearly 50 laws, including measures to root out DEI from public universities, to protect individuals' right to try cutting-edge treatments, and to ensure hard working Americans are free to practice their professions without first begging the government for permission. Goldwater scholars worked with K-12 schools and universities to restore the teaching of America's founding principles. Our attorneys are engaged in 40 active lawsuits and have defended parents' rights, stood up for the freedom of speech, upheld the right to bear arms, and fought government overreach.

Every single day, with your generous support, the Goldwater Institute is fighting to empower all Americans to live freer, happier lives, so that we can remain the Land of the Free, and the Home of the Brave.

Sincerely,

VICTOR RICHES

President and CEO
The Goldwater Institute



“THE ENEMIES OF THE AMERICAN DREAM WILL STOP AT NOTHING TO MAINTAIN THEIR IRON GRIP ON GOVERNMENT. THE GOLDWATER INSTITUTE WON'T LET THEM.”

VICTOR RICHES

President and CEO of the Goldwater Institute

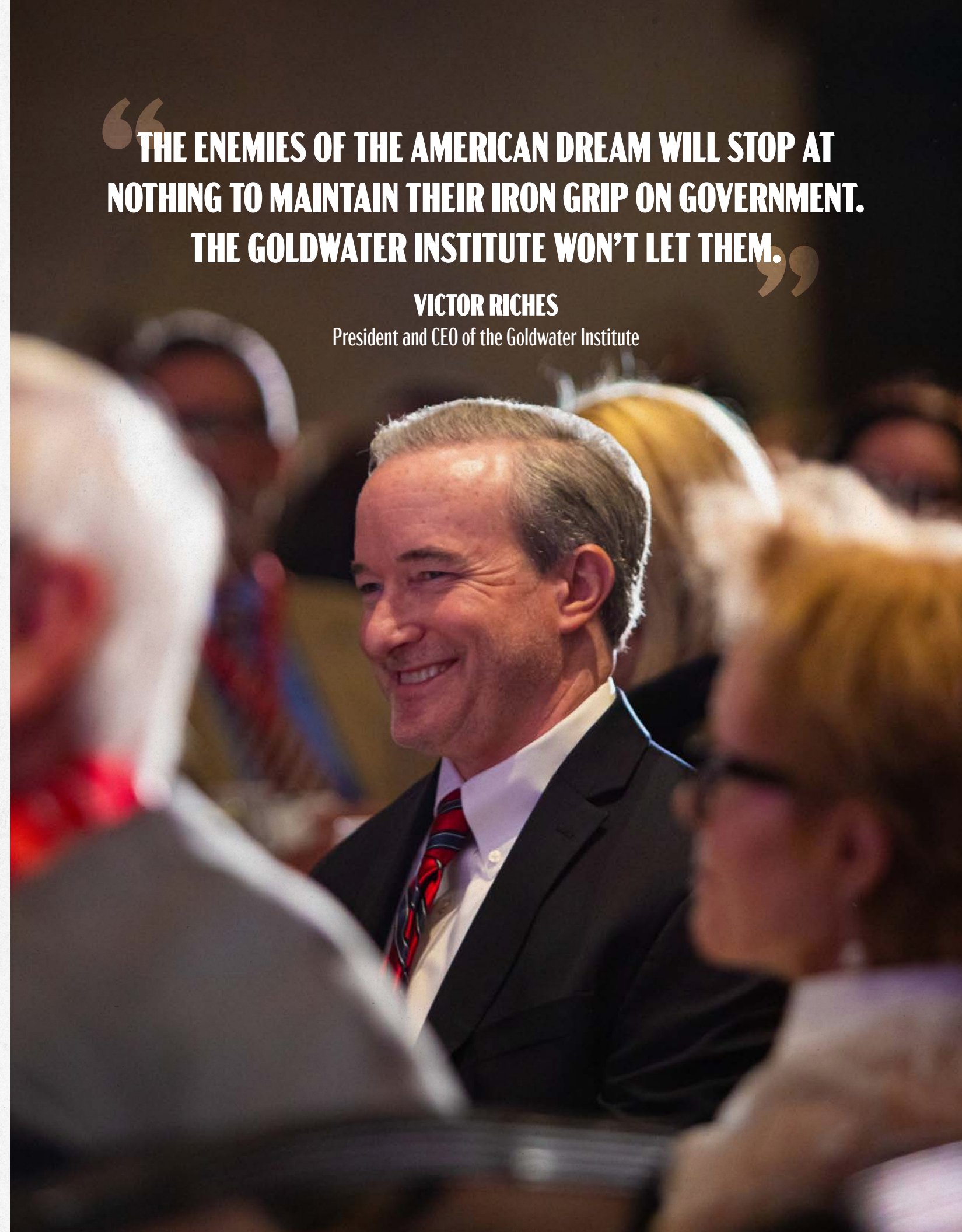


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“AMERICA’S THE ONLY COUNTRY THAT HAS A DREAM.

No other place has one, and everybody knows about it everywhere in the world because it's a place of promise, a place where you can come and work hard, study hard, and achieve your goals.

IT’S CRITICAL THAT WE HAVE INSTITUTIONS LIKE GOLDWATER WHO PRESERVE THE VALUES THAT ARE FUNDAMENTAL TO THE SUCCESS OF THIS COUNTRY.”

DR. BEN CARSON

Former U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
2024 Goldwater Institute Freedom Gala Keynote Address



RADICALISM IS DESTROYING AMERICA'S UNIVERSITIES. GOLDWATER IS FIGHTING BACK.

Radical, racist political ideologies are crippling higher education. Professors and staff are forced to sign “diversity statements” if they want to keep their jobs. Students have no choice but to take “diversity, equity, and inclusion” (DEI) courses as a condition of graduating. Taxpayers are spending billions of dollars to pay for it.

The Goldwater Institute is showing the country how to rein in the DEI regime in public universities. We have enacted laws in state after state that ban “diversity statement” litmus tests in hiring and that dismantle the DEI bureaucracy that embeds discrimination in every aspect of campus life. And we’re fighting in court to ensure those laws are enforced.

We’re also exposing the problem for the country to see. Our research has uncovered that public universities in at least 30 states require all undergraduate students to complete a DEI course to even be allowed to graduate with a degree—and that it is costing students and taxpayers nearly \$2 billion every four years.

We’re taking the fight further with our Freedom from Indoctrination Act, which ensures that no student at a public university is forced to take DEI courses in order to earn a degree.

DEI has rapidly overtaken America. It infected our universities. It has spread through our culture. But thanks to the Goldwater Institute, Americans are fighting back and reclaiming the land of the free.

GOLDWATER EXPOSES RADICAL DEI ON AMERICA'S CAMPUSES



Racial discrimination. Billions in spending. Top-down mandates imposed by unelected bureaucrats. The Goldwater Institute is publishing reports that expose the cost of radical DEI at America's public universities—and we're driving reforms across the country.

Billions for DEI in Higher Ed?

State taxpayers and undergraduate students are being forced to subsidize "Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion" course mandates at public universities, costing nearly \$2 billion and 40 million hours of student time. The Goldwater Institute uncovered this shocking fact in a groundbreaking report—and made headlines nationwide.

Landmark Victory! Kentucky Eliminates DEI after Goldwater Report

Kentucky is among the latest states to enact a Goldwater Institute reform that eliminates DEI from public colleges and universities. The victory follows a Goldwater report that revealed the corruption of the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education, a powerful bureaucracy that forced schools to adopt targets for the racial makeup of students and staff and to implement other discriminatory

Indoctrination in the Lone Star State

In Texas, students and taxpayers are being forced to subsidize wasteful and destructive DEI mandates to the tune of \$100 million, as the Goldwater Institute revealed. The report uncovered that at least five major public institutions in Texas force students to take DEI courses as part of their general education or program requirements.



FIGHTING DEI IN COURT

Dr. Owen Anderson, has taught at Arizona State University (ASU) for over 20 years, is a popular professor, but could face discipline from his superiors—all because he won’t take the university’s discriminatory DEI training.

The Goldwater Institute sued ASU on his behalf for using taxpayer funds to mandate DEI training among faculty—in violation of state law.

“I shouldn’t be forced to take training and affirm ideas with which I disagree as a condition of employment,” Owen says. “This ‘training’ is simply racism under the guise of DEI. It goes against my conscience, and I want no part of it.”

“ASU is essentially forcing its employees to agree to a certain type of speech, which violates the Arizona Constitution’s broad protections for free speech,” Goldwater Institute attorney Stacy Skankey says. Taxpayer-funded discrimination has no place in higher education—so Goldwater is putting a stop to it.

Inclusive Communities for Faculty - Power & Privilege on Campus and in the Workplace

Inclusive Communities for Faculty

Power & Privilege on Campus and in the Workplace

Universities are unique environments where power and privilege dynamics are often displayed in interactions between and among administrators, staff and students. While administrators typically have titles such as deans, directors and provosts, staff may include instructional designers, managers, and specialists. The *College of Education at the University of Iowa* suggests five questions for campus groups to explore the uses of power and privilege at their university. Consider these questions when engaging with students, peers and your own self-reflection.

1. What are power and privilege?
2. How do power and privilege play out in our society, our community, and in our college?
3. How do power and privilege experienced in your life? How does it interfere, mediate, or influence your relationships?
4. How are power and privilege reinforced by power and privilege?
5. How does one confront barriers reinforced by power and privilege as a student, faculty, staff, educator, helping professional, parent, community member?

Administrators and university leaders may be unfamiliar with the complexity of power and privilege and how they influence individual thoughts and actions, especially when it comes to creating policies and procedures. These inform the unrecognized rules and norms that dictate university work life. As film and television producer Franklin Leonard said, "When you're accustomed to privilege, equality feels like oppression."

It takes courage, long term investments, and resources for institutions to change. Individuals in leadership have the ability to make effective changes starting with evaluating existing policies and practices, ensuring equitable distribution of resources and workloads, developing inclusive hiring and promotion practices, and engendering a work environment where individuals are empowered to show up as their authentic selves.

Ask a Chief Diversity Officer

Listen to Yale University's Chief Diversity Officer, Deborah Stanley-McAulay, describe how university leaders should approach diversity in the campus workplace and the outcomes that managers and employees should expect from diversity training.

Ask a Chief Diversity Officer

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MARICOPA

OWEN ANDERSON, a resident of Arizona;
and D. LADD GUSTAFSON, a resident of Arizona,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS; an
Arizona corporate body,

Defendant.

Case No. CV2024-005713

FIRST AMENDED VERIFIED COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

INTRODUCTION

1. This lawsuit seeks declaratory and injunctive relief against the Arizona Board of Regents (“ABOR”) which has used and is now using public money to prepare and disseminate mandatory faculty and staff training for its employees that presents forms of blame or judgment on the basis of race, ethnicity or sex, in violation of state law.

2. Arizona law prohibits discriminatory practices by the state, state agencies, and specifically prohibits government entities—including Arizona State University (“ASU”), from requiring its employees to participate in mandatory training programs that present any form of “blame or judgment on the basis of race, ethnicity or sex.” A.R.S. § 1494. The statute defines “blame or judgment on the basis of race, ethnicity or sex” as:

“Parents have a fundamental right under the Constitution to control and direct their children’s education. The Goldwater Institute will defend that right, all the way to the Supreme Court.”

Jon Riches

Goldwater Institute Vice President for Litigation



The Pitta family of Massachusetts turned to the Goldwater Institute for help in defending their parental rights.



GOLDWATER DEFENDS PARENTS’ RIGHTS

Goldwater Institute Leads National Fight for America’s Future

From Maine to Virginia, Arizona to Indiana, Massachusetts and beyond, Goldwater Institute attorneys are defending parents’ right to school choice, to know what is being taught in schools, and to uphold their constitutional right to direct the care and upbringing of their children.

The public education bureaucracy treats your children like they belong to the government. Schools conceal important information about their operations, curricula, and even students, while shooting down parents’ pleas for transparency.

But children are not the government’s property. Fortunately, with the Goldwater Institute spearheading the nationwide campaign to defend parental rights, the public school bureaucracy is losing its stranglehold over education. Numerous organizations in the liberty movement, as well as the attorneys general of a dozen states, are rallying to our side, as Goldwater takes on the bureaucratic bullies from Maine and

Massachusetts to Rhode Island and Wisconsin.

When public school officials trampled on Massachusetts dad Scott Pitta’s First Amendment freedoms, Goldwater defended his right to record a meeting with government officials in his own home, about his own child.

When a school district lied to Rhode Island mom Nicole Solas about the existence of secret documents revealing its DEI policies, Goldwater sued the district to get answers—and we won.

When Pennsylvania school officials stonewalled mom Tara Adams’ attempts to find out if school officials were defaming her daughter behind her back for being a conservative, Goldwater successfully sued the district. Ultimately, they had no choice but to divulge what they had said about Tara’s daughter in secret.

Goldwater has got parents’ back—and together, we’re going to win the fight for America’s future.



HOMESCHOOL MOMS VS. THE GOVERNMENT

Homeschool moms Velia Aguirre and Rosemary McAtee wanted to give their children the best education they could. Thanks to the Goldwater Institute's Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA) program, they were able to do just that—until the government got in the way.

Arizona's attorney general twisted the law and changed the rules of the ESA program, even blocking the parents' purchases of everything from kids' books to the Constitution. The Goldwater Institute is suing state officials on Velia and Rosemary's behalf. We're challenging this wrong-headed new requirement and seeking a court order to ensure parents don't have to run a gauntlet of paperwork and bureaucratic hurdles every time they want to buy books or pencils for their children.

"The law is clear: ESA families have the right to use these educational materials without being forced to justify to the Attorney General or state bureaucrats why they're buying pencils or picking individual books for their children," said Goldwater Institute Staff Attorney John Thorpe.

The Goldwater Institute is dedicated to protecting families from this kind of government overreach nationwide. After all, it's parents—not politicians or bureaucrats—who know their children best.

20+ STATES ADOPT GOLDWATER'S EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

Children deserve better than failing schools. That's why the Goldwater Institute invented Education Savings Accounts (ESAs), a school choice reform that empowers parents to choose the education that's best for their children—instead of forcing them to be stuck in failing schools. More than twenty states have adopted Goldwater's ESAs, and that number is growing.

It's parents—not politicians or bureaucrats—who know their children best. That's why Goldwater is dedicated to empowering parents, and our work is paying dividends around the nation. Today, tens of millions of families are free to choose an education that truly meets their child's unique needs in the states where Goldwater has made universal school choice a reality, including Arizona, where we created the nation's gold standard for ESAs.

We're also working to ensure parents can find out what their child will learn before making an enrollment decision. To that end, Goldwater has already passed our landmark Academic Transparency Act in Florida and West Virginia to require public school districts to post their learning materials online, with more states on the horizon.

Sadly, countless public schools have abandoned their historic mission as training grounds of American citizenship. But school choice enables parents to immediately place their children in schools that embrace the historic mission of K-12 education: to help students become intelligent and responsible citizens.

We're igniting the spirit of America's potential. And we're not done yet. Not even close.



GIVING KIDS THE EDUCATION THEY DESERVE



TEACHING AMERICA'S FOUNDING PRINCIPLES

Don't be surprised if you don't see the Stars and Stripes in an American classroom—or a bust of George Washington—or a replica of the Bill of Rights. America was founded on an ideal. Our Founding Fathers are our heroes. But if you visit a classroom today, you'll be hard-pressed to find anyone teaching our American values.

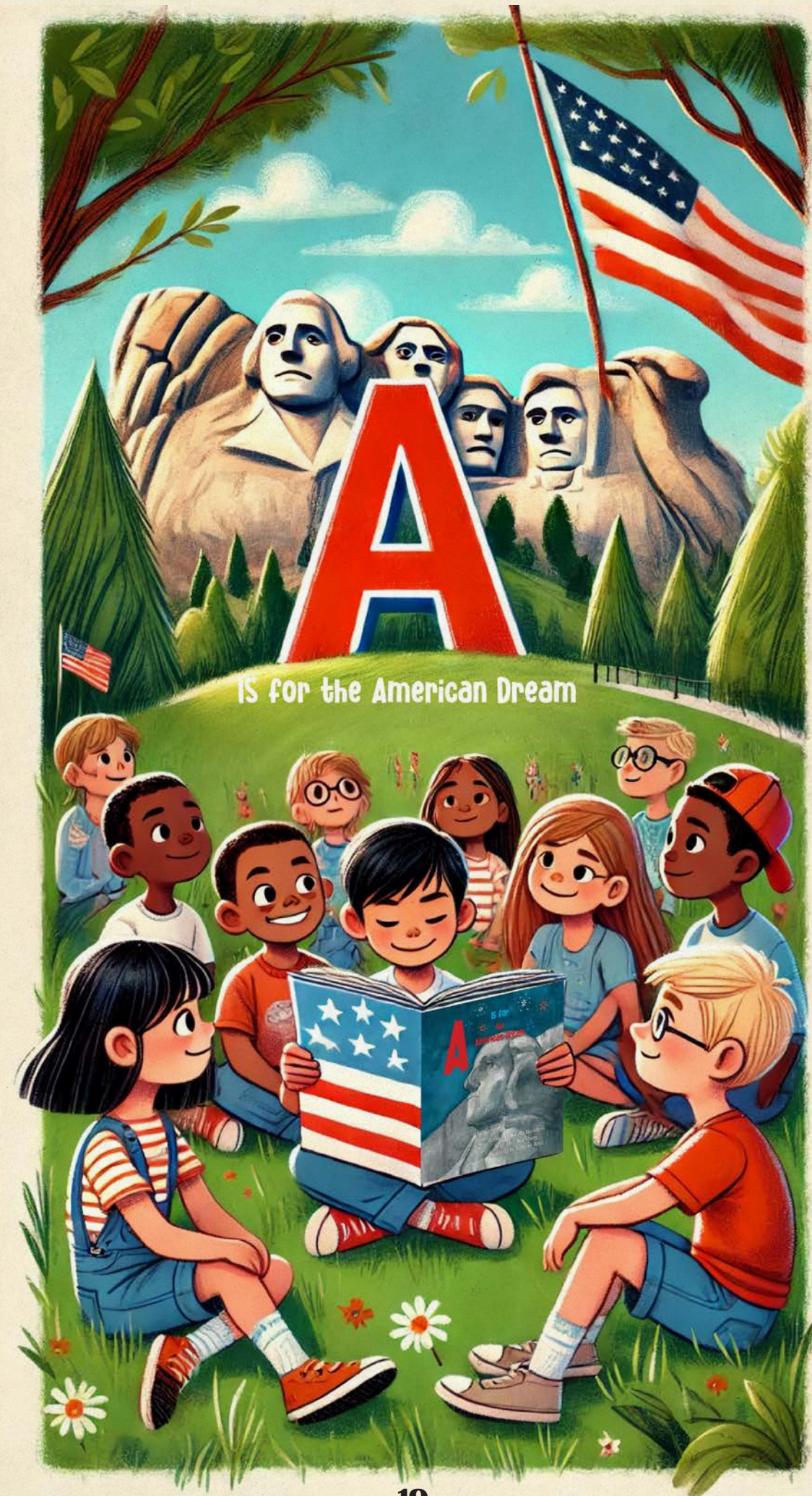
The Goldwater Institute is working across the country to change all that with its Van Sittert Center for Constitutional Advocacy, which is dedicated to defending our founding principles and instilling those values into our next generation of Americans.

That starts with teaching our nation's history to our students—and not the woke, leftist ideology that has been poisoning classrooms. Last year, the Center embarked on a project to develop a U.S. history high school curriculum under the direction of Dr. Wilfred McClay, author of the textbook, "Land of Hope: An Invitation to the Great American Story." The curriculum

will provide a comprehensive, uplifting, and meaningful study of the American experiment. For younger children, the Center will engage with schools, libraries, and other organizations to promote and disseminate additional Van Sittert-developed content, such as our new children's book, "A Is for the American Dream."

Last year, we also launched professional development and training workshops for teachers to equip them with the tools to teach students about the Constitution, the First Amendment, the American Revolution, and the contrast between life under the American republic and regimes such as the Soviet Union.

We also researched and uncovered the toxic teaching of DEI in public universities across the country, including in Kansas, Texas, and Arizona, which is fueling our legislative efforts to eliminate DEI bureaucracy in public universities and the forced indoctrination of our students with DEI courses.





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PATIENTS DESERVE THE RIGHT TO TRY

Goldwater's Groundbreaking Law Is Saving Lives Nationwide

Imagine hearing devastating news about your child's health—and knowing that a potentially lifesaving treatment exists—but that the government is keeping it just beyond your reach. That's a tragic reality for too many Americans, and it's why the Goldwater Institute is fighting for the Right to Try for Individualized Treatments (Right to Try 2.0).

You've probably already heard of our original Right to Try law, which we enacted in 41 states and federally in 2018. That law protects terminally ill patients' right to seek potentially lifesaving treatments without begging the federal government for permission, and it has already saved countless lives. But here's why we need Right to Try 2.0.

In a few short years, medicine has evolved at a rapid pace. Today, the latest treatments are tailor-made for one individual, based on their genetics. Because of that, these treatments can't go through the clinical trial process in time to save lives, and the FDA is standing in the way. This is bureaucracy at its worst. Goldwater's Right to Try for Individual Treatments solves this problem by creating a new pathway for patients to safely access the care they need.

Beginning in 2024, we launched our effort to enact this reform across the country. It's now law in 16 states, and we won't rest until it is the law of the land, protecting every American's right to try cutting-edge, lifesaving treatments.

“AT AGE 6, I WAS DIAGNOSED WITH A FATAL DISEASE. AT AGE 11, I LOST MY ABILITY TO WALK. TODAY, I’M 23 AND AM FIGHTING FOR MY LIFE — AND FOR ALL OF THOSE WHO ARE DESPERATE FOR A CURE. WHY SHOULD I HAVE TO BEG THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR PERMISSION TO TRY TO SAVE MY OWN LIFE?”

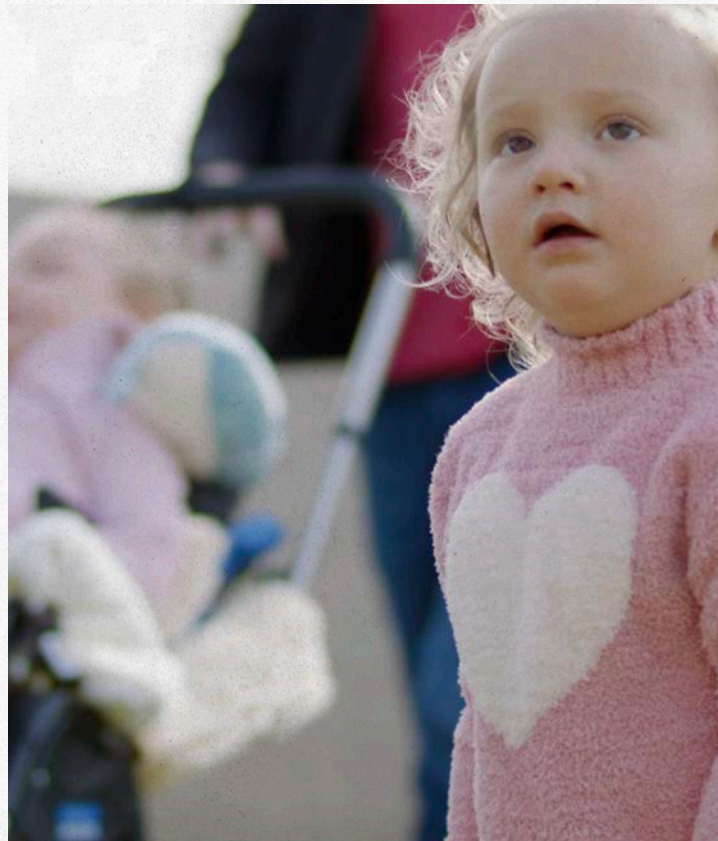
Elijah Stacy

Bestselling author, nonprofit founder, and Right to Try advocate.

KEIRA'S FIGHT WASN'T OVER. SHE JUST NEEDED THE RIGHT TO TRY.

Kendra Riley's daughter Keira was diagnosed with metachromatic leukodystrophy, a rare and fatal genetic disorder. There was one chance to save her life—a genetic treatment that wasn't unavailable in the United States due to FDA regulations. The family had to raise a half-million dollars to move to Italy and pay for the therapy. It saved Keira's life.

"As genetic and personalized medicine advances at a rapid rate, I fear more and more parents and families will face similar situations. Patients like my daughter do not have time to waste. Luckily, there is a solution that policymakers can implement to give patients hope now: the Right to Try for Individualized Treatments." - Kendra Riley, a mom of three who faced a heart-wrenching race against time to save her infant daughter Keira.



ELIJAH HAS NO TIME TO WASTE. BUT HE HAS HOPE FOR A CURE.

Elijah Stacy was only six years old when he was diagnosed with Duchenne muscular dystrophy, a fatal and incurable disease. At age 11, he lost the ability to walk. But Elijah didn't let that stop him. At 15, he founded a nonprofit organization called Destroy Duchenne, and he went on to write a bestselling book. Today, he's 23, and he is fighting for his life—and for all of those who are desperate for a cure.

"Somebody that doesn't even know me has written in a law which is stopping me from being able to take a drug today, that could potentially totally change the course of my life."

"I support anything that gives people medical freedom. I support anything that allows us to accelerate. I'm glad to see that we have a Right to Try 2.0, which allows even more medical freedom, which I think is great."

“**THERE'S NO BLUE DISEASE.**
THERE'S NO RED DISEASE.
THERE'S ONLY HUMAN DISEASE.
AND THAT'S WHY WE NEED
TO CURE THEM.”

-ELIJAH STACY





GOLDWATER BREAKS DOWN BARRIERS TO WORK ACROSS THE NATION, EMPOWERING COUNTLESS AMERICANS TO PURSUE THEIR DREAMS.



Imagine dedicating years of your life to mastering your profession—only to move to a new state and find your qualifications unrecognized. That’s been the reality for millions of hardworking professionals, and for decades, there wasn’t much they could do about the red tape. But now the tide is turning as the Goldwater Institute’s national movement to free workers to work sweeps the nation.

About one in four jobs nationwide requires an occupational license—a government permission slip to work. And when a worker moves to a new state, they often must go through the costly, time-sucking licensing process again. For military families, who move every few years, the burden is particularly heavy. That’s why Goldwater’s universal recognition reform allows skilled workers to use their out-of-state experience to quickly obtain a license to work in their new state.

Goldwater first passed this law in Arizona in 2019—where it helped more than 10,000 Americans get to work within the first few years after passage. Since then, we have enacted our Breaking Down Barriers to Work law in more than half the states in the country. It’s truly a bipartisan, national movement, with more states joining every year, including Florida, Louisiana, and Nebraska in 2024.

We’ve empowered countless workers to pursue their American Dream, and we’ll keep working to ensure economic opportunity for all is not merely a promise, but a reality.

GOLDWATER INSTITUTE ATTORNEYS: A NATIONAL FIGHTING FORCE FOR LIBERTY

The Goldwater Institute doesn't just pass laws. Our Scharf-Norton Center for Constitutional Litigation defends our laws in court, and we ensure that constitutional rights are respected. We advocate for freedom before state supreme courts, federal courts of appeal, and even the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Goldwater Institute has scored hundreds of victories, and we are currently involved in over 60 lawsuits nationwide.

We have stood up for parents' rights in Massachusetts, Maine, Michigan, and Pennsylvania. We fought for free speech in Oregon, and Tennessee. We defended the right to earn a living in Arkansas and Louisiana. We upheld the Second Amendment in Illinois. We protected property rights in Massachusetts, California, and Virginia. And we shut down censorship in Arizona and Florida.

Joining us in the fight are nearly 1,000 attorneys in all 50 states who volunteer their time and expertise for our American Freedom Network. They are working closely with the Institute on 90 cases and projects that advance liberty around the country, on matters ranging from free speech to taxpayer rights to government transparency.

Top row: Goldwater staff attorney Adam Shelton with client Amber Lavigne in Boston. Bottom row: Goldwater Senior Attorney Scott Day Freeman argued at the Oregon Supreme Court. Goldwater Vice President for Legal Affairs at the U.S. Supreme Court.





ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

PROTECTING PROPERTY RIGHTS: DEMANDING ACTION ON HOMELESSNESS

If government got in the way of your American Dream, would you risk it all to take a stand? Phoenix small business owners and 2024 Goldwater Freedom Award recipients Joe and Debbie Faillace spoke out and fought back when government's refusal to enforce the law amid a rampant homelessness crisis turned their lives upside down.

Joe and Debbie ran their successful sandwich joint, Old Station Sub Shop in downtown Phoenix, for nearly 40 years—until Phoenix officials started shunting homeless people into a massive open-air encampment called “The Zone” with zero regard for the law-abiding taxpayers who would suffer.

“Many days we would arrive to find our shop broken into and vandalized, people passed out or overdosed on our patio, urine and feces scattered across our parking lot and entryway,” Joe and Debbie said. Meanwhile, a Goldwater investigation revealed that even as the city spent over \$180 million to address the crisis, the number of homeless people in Phoenix rose 92%.

So, Joe and Debbie sprang into action. Joined by other fed-up business and property owners—and aided by the Goldwater Institute—the Faillaces sued the government for maintaining a “public nuisance.” They won a groundbreaking decision when a trial court ordered the city to clean up The Zone -- proving that you can fight city hall and win.

Joe and Debbie's advocacy was also instrumental in Arizona's overwhelming adoption of Prop 312, a first-in-the-nation Goldwater-designed reform that gives property owners their tax dollars back when cities fail to use those funds for their intended purpose: to protect residents from crime. And thanks to their story, we're poised to bring this groundbreaking reform to the rest of the country.

The Faillaces are bravely helping to hold government accountable for forcing law-abiding businesses and residents to pay the price for a crisis they didn't create. They're sending politicians a wake-up call: Do your job. Enough is enough.

Fighting Administrative State Tyranny

GOLDWATER TAKES THE FIGHT TO UNELECTED BUREAUCRATS

Most of us learned how laws should be made in grade school: proposed legislation goes to Congress first, then the president, who can sign it into law.

In reality, most of the rules we obey today are created by unelected employees of the regulatory agencies often called the “Administrative State,” and due to a legal theory called “deference,” courts have typically gone along with whatever these bureaucrats want. So, for instance, imagine that bureaucrats on a regulatory board refuse to approve a barber’s permit to cut hair. Because of deference, that barber would have no legal recourse—no matter how qualified he is or how many customers want the services he provides.

That’s unconstitutional. But over the summer, the Supreme Court struck down “deference” at the federal level after the Goldwater Institute urged the justices to do so—just our latest action in a long, successful history of reining in the Administrative State. Goldwater has already helped numerous Americans beat the bureaucratic bullies, and we’ve passed our landmark law to end state-court deference in multiple states around the country, including Idaho, Indiana, and Nebraska in 2024.

We won’t rest until all states have taken up the charge of restoring accountability, rationality, and the rule of law across America.



Attorneys Jon Riches, Vice President for Litigation, and Stacy Skankey, Director of the American Freedom Network lead Goldwater's efforts to defend freedom in courtrooms across the country.

THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION TARGETED GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY. GOLDWATER INSTITUTE ATTORNEYS TOOK ACTION.

Why did the Biden Administration target one of the nation's most successful private colleges? Goldwater took the federal government to court to uncover the answers.

In late 2023, the Biden Administration's Department of Education launched an unprecedented assault on Phoenix-based Grand Canyon University, complete with a record \$37.7 million fine and a threat from the Secretary of Education to "shut down" the school. The school's "crime": The feds essentially claim GCU's most highly educated students can't read tuition brochures. But Goldwater's lawsuit against the federal government revealed an ideological vendetta: that Education Department bureaucrats and the White House carefully coordinated the attack on a school that refuses to bend the knee to progressive politics.

Indeed, most universities charge sky-high tuition rates to indoctrinate students with radical politics and fail to protect their free speech rights, even as those same schools face declining enrollment. By comparison, GCU has a track record of graduating students into high-demand and good-paying jobs, all without raising tuition in over 15 years.

It's time to restore higher education as a domain of innovation and student achievement—not a fiefdom for ideological conformity and bureaucratic rule.





Defending the American Dream

2024 GOLDWATER FREEDOM GALA

At the 2024 Goldwater Institute Freedom Gala in Phoenix, one thing was clear: the American Dream is real, it's for everyone—and it must be defended. Hundreds of Goldwater's supporters came together to support that mission and to celebrate a year of victories.

During his keynote address, former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Dr. Ben Carson opened the night by personally testifying to the American Dream, one that saw him rise from the rough streets of Detroit to become one of the greatest surgeons in the world.

"The American Dream really does exist. But you've got to work for it. It's critical that we have institutions like Goldwater that preserve the values that are fundamental to this country," he said. "You have to be able to stand up for your principles. And Goldwater does that."

Defending that dream often means standing up when government fails. That's what Phoenix small business owners Joe and Debbie Faillace did when local officials ignored lawlessness driven by a homelessness crisis—and it's why they were honored with the 2024 Goldwater Institute Freedom Award.

Their victory spurred Prop 312, a landmark reform that allows property and business owners to get their tax dollars back when local government refuses to enforce laws related to homelessness.

From courtrooms to capitol buildings, Goldwater is advancing liberty—fighting DEI mandates, promoting school choice, backing the Right to Try, and defending freedom whenever and wherever it's at risk.

"Tomorrow's agenda is being set by the Goldwater Institute," said Americans for Tax Reform President and Goldwater Board Member Grover Norquist.

We're doing this for one reason: because the American Dream belongs to us all, and we couldn't defend it without your generous support.



THANK YOU

FOR SUPPORTING THE GOLDWATER INSTITUTE

**OUR VICTORIES AREN'T ACCIDENTS.
YOU MAKE THEM POSSIBLE.**



Keeping the United States the Land of the Free is a responsibility that can never be taken lightly. Everyday, Americans work hard to maintain the flame of liberty, and at the Goldwater Institute, we couldn't do it without your support.

You stand with us—and because of that, we stand firm in courtrooms and capitols, in classrooms and communities across our great country. You help us uproot DEI mandates, expand Right to Try, restore curriculum grounded in our founding principles, and push back against activist officials determined to dismantle the very liberties they swore to uphold.

Our victories aren't accidents—you make them possible.

Your financial support gives voice to a principle we must never forget: liberty is not granted by government, but secured through vigilance, sacrifice, and resolve.

We are not blind to the obstacles ahead. Throughout government, entrenched interests will stop at nothing to maintain power and control over our lives. But the Goldwater Institute is not deterred—because we do not fight alone.

Last year, we showed how the American Dream is not an abstraction—it's real and makes our lives better. This year, we're standing tall and declaring one abiding principle: America is the Land of the Free.

Thank you for believing in us. Thank you for standing with us. And, most of all, thank you for believing that American exceptionalism begins with the freedom of its people.

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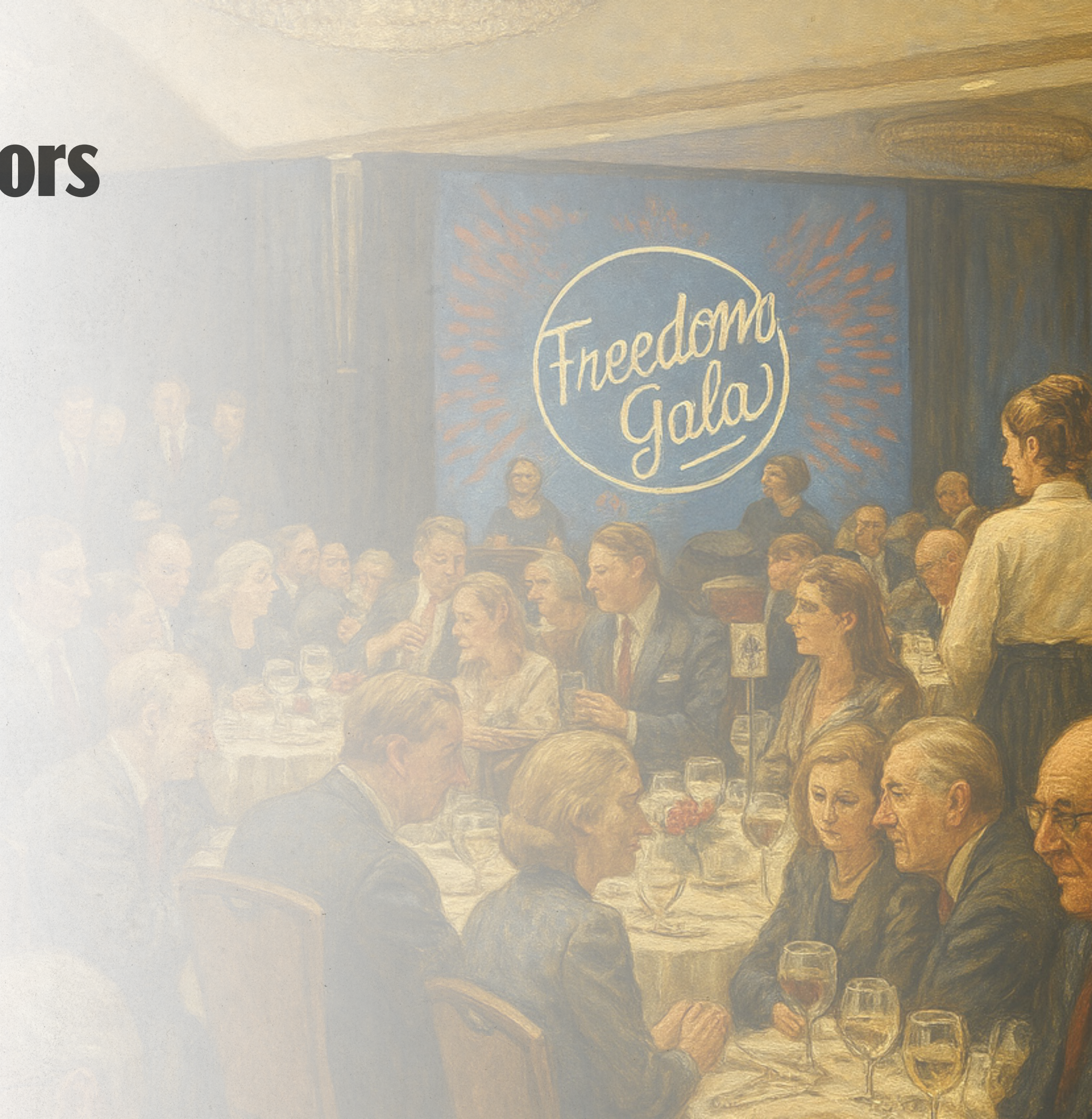
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Board Member





Remembering Lester Weindling: An American Success Story

By Victor Riches
President & CEO

When I originally came to work at the Goldwater Institute, Lester Weindling was one of the first supporters that I met. His rise from childhood adversity to become a successful property investor and philanthropist in New York City continues to inspire me today.

Now, Lester has left a legacy as one of Goldwater's most generous benefactors with an estate gift that will fuel our mission to defend and strengthen freedom for future generations.

Lester's story is truly remarkable. He was only seven years old when his family was stripped of their German citizenship by the new Nazi regime in 1933. The Weindlings fled Berlin to seek refuge in London. Then, they moved to New York just as World War II began.

Tenacious and intellectual, Lester earned admission to New York's prestigious Horace Mann college preparatory school. As an adult, Lester took over his family's growing real estate enterprise that bought and managed rental apartments. Lester eventually owned 1,200 apartments in Manhattan and another 1,800 in Queens.

But Lester became frustrated with New York City's rejection of free markets and its growing reliance on rent control. In 1969, Lester sold all of the apartments and used the proceeds to buy commercial real estate anchored by a historic office building called 1775 Broadway. This 26-floor building was the original headquarters of General Motors and would become the home of Newsweek magazine and MTV Networks at their peak.

He sold the building 30 years later with a handshake deal for \$130 million.

Lester was enthusiastic about opera, dinner parties, and collecting paintings by 17th-century Dutch artists. And he was passionate about standing up to government abuse of power. He abhorred government trampling of private property rights, including any taking of property without proper compensation and the use of civil forfeiture to seize someone's assets.

A friend of the Goldwater Institute for nearly 15 years, Lester joined our Barry Goldwater Legacy Society to make sure his philanthropy would help us to continue fighting for liberty after he passed on.

Lester's legacy now will come to fruition after he died in late December 2024 at age 97. His wife, Liana, died in 2018.

I will miss hearing Lester's stories, and I will miss his passion for the American Dream. But all of us at the Goldwater Institute are deeply grateful for his friendship and for his vision of a better future.

In his memory, we pledge to continue empowering all Americans to live freer, happier lives.



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