



MUSLIM LEGAL FUND
of America

UNPRECEDENTED

Impact Report
2025

Table of Contents

04	CEO Address
08	Core Purpose
09	Our Team
12	Legal Division Highlights
20	Stories of Impact
24	The Gaza Impact
26	Events
30	Strategic Grant Support
32	Scholarships
33	Financial Summary
34	Giving Funds

LEADING THROUGH AN UNPRECEDENTED YEAR

Dear MLFA Family & Friends,

Assalamu Alaikum.

2025 was, without question, an unprecedented year. Not just in scale, but in what it has required of all of us.

We are living through a moment where the boundaries of law, policy, and power are being tested in real time. Decisions from the current administration are shaping how speech is treated, how communities are viewed, and how far government authority is allowed to reach.

For many in our community, this has become deeply personal.

What once felt distant is now part of daily life. People are being questioned for what they say. Scrutinized for what they believe. Detained, investigated, or silenced in ways that cannot be ignored. At the same time, the devastation in Gaza has brought both grief and pressure closer to home, as even the act of speaking out is met with consequence.

For many, this moment feels unprecedented. For MLFA, this is exactly the moment we were built for.

This year, our legal team managed 208 active matters, including 42 in active litigation, and responded to over 600 requests for legal assistance. Gaza-related cases more than doubled, rising from 67 to 138 (108%), while

active matters within our Civil Litigation Department increased from 16 to 54 (237.5%). But numbers alone do not capture what this year demanded.

We defended Ayman Soliman, a beloved member of our community, securing the restoration of his asylum after he was taken into ICE custody. We represented community leader Marwan Marouf in a case where the stakes were permanent, and stood alongside Yaa'kub Ira — a powerful photojournalist documenting the movement for a free Palestine. When journalist Sami Hamdi was detained at a U.S. airport, we stepped in to litigate for his rights.

At the institutional level, we filed federal lawsuits challenging attempts by state officials to label civil rights organizations as “terrorist” entities, including actions by Governor Abbott and Governor DeSantis targeting CAIR. We joined partners in federal litigation defending students at UT Austin who were punished for peaceful, pro-Palestinian speech. We did not step back. We expanded. We litigated. We built.

This year, our institutional capacity expanded, securing over \$500,000 in grants, launching the American Muslim Legal Ecosystem (AMLE), soft launching MLFA's National

Security Criminal Defense Center (NSCDC), and reaching thousands through legal education, training, and community defense. The NSCDC builds on MLFA's decades of federal criminal defense experience, advancing specialized expertise in national security cases, supporting attorneys nationwide, and working to rebalance a system that has long been tilted against Muslim defendants.

This growth reflects both strategic investment and the strength of the relationships we continue to build.

MLFA operates where the stakes are highest — in federal courtrooms, in national security cases, in immigration detention, and in constitutional challenges that shape what is possible for our community in this country. This is disciplined, long-term legal work designed to hold under pressure.

Unprecedented moments do not resolve themselves. They demand preparation, expertise, and a legal force capable of meeting them without hesitation. That is what we are building.

As CEO, I will continue to build and strengthen that force without pause. MLFA will not step back from this responsibility. We will continue to defend our community with clarity, discipline, and resolve.

In 2025, we proved what that looks like.

In solidarity and clarity,

Arshia Ali-Khan



CEO, Muslim Legal Fund of America



AT-A-GLANCE

208 Active Legal Matters

600+ Requests for Legal Assistance Received

\$500,000+ In Grants Secured to Expand Legal Impact

EMPOWERED OVER 5,000+ Community Members, Nonprofit Leaders, and Legal Professionals

GAZA-RELATED LEGAL RESPONSE

138 Active Legal Matters

58+ New Inquiries Handled

237.5% Civil Litigation cases grew from 16 to 54

LEGAL IMPACT

42+ Active Legal Matters

51.3% Criminal Defense caseload up 51.3%

47% Immigration caseload up by 47%

MEETING UNPRECEDENTED MOMENTS, HEAD ON!

INSTITUTION BUILDING

LAUNCHED AMLE with CAIR-Chicago

HOSTED inaugural Legal Summit

08 hired staff
11 interns onboarding

EDUCATION & COMMUNITY REACH

3,000+ Trained Across Community and Legal Sectors

07 CLE Panels

06+ Accredited Hours

1,920 Reached through Know-What-To-Do sessions

16 Governance, Risk & Compliance (GRC) Legal Screenings

270+ Directly Supported Through Compliance and Education

96 Board Members Trained

CASE SPOTLIGHT

AYMAN SOLIMAN RELEASED FROM ICE CUSTODY

ASYLUM RESTORED | DEPORTATION CASE DISMISSED



OUR CORE PURPOSE

We envision an America where constitutional rights and liberties are not mere promises on paper but lived realities, upheld fiercely and equally for everyone, irrespective of ethnicity, religion, or cultural heritage. At MLFA, we champion this vision and mission at the highest levels of our nation's legal system, relentlessly safeguarding and asserting the rights of American Muslims and their institutions. Our commitment is unyielding as we vigorously challenge injustice within constitutional and national security law at the federal level, empowering our communities to thrive with dignity, resilience, and equal protection under the law.

OUR LEGAL WORK

MLFA is the only Muslim organization protecting civil liberties through national security expertise in federal criminal defense, immigration and habeas litigation, constitutional civil actions, and principled nonprofit governance.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



DR. HATEM BAZIAN
Board Chairman



MOUFFA NAHHAS
Board Treasurer



JAMAL SULEIMAN, ESQ.
Board Secretary



ARSHIA ALI-KHAN, M.A.
Ex-Officio Board Member

LEGAL COMMITTEE

JAMAL SULEIMAN, ESQ.
Legal Committee Chair

FURQAN SUNNY AZHAR, ESQ.
Legal Committee

DR. HASSAN MIRZA, ESQ.
Legal Committee

WALEED NASER, ESQ.
Legal Committee

BOARD ADVISORS

- ZAINAB ELLAM
- MEHMOOD A. BHEDA
- LEE MERRITT, ESQ.
- MUNA HUSSAINI
- AKRAM N SYED

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

- MOUFFA NAHHAS - CO-CHAIR
- EAMAN SHEBLEY - CO-CHAIR
- GHAITH ALSAGGAF
- ARSHIA ALI-KHAN

BOARD OF DIRECTORS & LEGAL COMMITTEE

CEO



ARSHIA ALI-KHAN, M.A.
Chief Executive Officer

LEADERSHIP & DEPARTMENT HEADS



MARIUM UDDIN
Legal Director



CHRISTINA A. JUMP
Civil Litigation Department Head



CHARLES SWIFT
MLFA National Security Criminal Defense Center, Director



KATHRYN H. BRADY
Immigration Litigation Department Head



SANA SALEEM
Nonprofit Governance Department Program Manager & Staff Attorney

LEGAL TEAM

SUFIA KHALID

National Security Criminal Defense Center, Senior Staff Attorney

CHELSEA ESTES

National Security Criminal Defense Center, Appellate Attorney

SHAFEEN PITTAL

National Security Criminal Defense Center, Defense Staff Attorney

DAANESH JAMAL

National Security Criminal Defense Center, Defense Paralegal

HUMA KHAN

Federal Nonprofit Governance Department, Senior Staff Attorney

HAARIS MALIK

Federal Nonprofit Governance Department, Nonprofit Governance Paralegal

CHELSEA GLOVER

Civil Litigation Department, Senior Staff Attorney

SAMIRA ELHOSARY

Civil Litigation Department, Junior Staff Attorney

ALI BOYD

Civil Litigation Department, Junior Staff Attorney

JINAN CHEHADE

Civil Litigation Department, Junior Staff Attorney

RANA HAKIM

Civil Litigation Department, Paralegal

ISLAM ZEBI

Immigration Litigation Department, Paralegal

STAFF

MUHAJID RASUL

Donor Relations Account Manager

CATHERINE MCDONALD

Training and Development Manager

AISHA U-KIU

Training and Development Manager

RUHAMA BERTA

Marketing and Communications Manager

ADNAN AL-HABIAN

AMLE Project Manager

SYEDA SADIQA

Accounting & Finance Coordinator

NEHREEN AHMED

Development Coordinator

RACHEL SMITH

Client Service & Intake Specialist

LAW SCHOOL INTERNS

AYAH ABDEL RAHMAN

3L at SMU Dedman School of Law, Dallas, Texas

MARGARET VALENTÍN

December 2025 Graduate from Georgetown Law, West Chester, Ohio

JALISSAH STANTON

3L at SMU Dedman School of Law, Chicago, Illinois

NOUR KAZBOUR

3L at the University of Michigan Law School, Plymouth, Michigan

SARA HASAN

3L at the University of Richmond School of Law, Phoenix, Arizona

SAAD AKHTAR

2L at Texas A&M School of Law, Dallas, Texas

CAROLINE MANN

3L at Columbia Law School, Annapolis, Maryland

MARIAM AHMAD

Senior at Monta Vista High School, Cupertino, California

JOSUE RODRIGUEZ

2L at University of Colorado Law School, Denver, Colorado

HALA ISSA

May 2025 Graduate from SMU Dedman School of Law, Irving, TX

STAFF & INTERNS

CIVIL LITIGATION DEPARTMENT

223 Total # of intake cases

062 Total # of active cases

"I am grateful beyond words to MLFA for pursuing justice and helping me regain my job. They were the only organization that responded to my email and addressed my case immediately. Without MLFA, I wouldn't even know how to pursue legal action or how to get my job back. Thank you to the staff, leadership, and donors who support the tireless work of the org."

Professor Syed Ammar Ahmed

MLFA secured Professor Ahmed's reinstatement and legal accountability for his wrongful, Islamophobic termination, restoring his employment and protecting his civil rights.

LEGAL DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS



NATIONAL SECURITY CRIMINAL DEFENSE CENTER

171

Total # of
intake cases

115

Total # of
active cases

"MLFA is a source of hope and light in life's darkest moments, when it felt like no one was willing to help or stand up and fight for us. The work they have done for me as their client has been beyond anything I could have imagined, especially my attorney Mrs. Khalid and her team. They have truly changed my life and the lives of my children. Thank you"

Client A, Anonymous.

MLFA represented her in state and federal investigation and state prosecution with successful resolution.

**LEGAL DIVISION
HIGHLIGHTS**



National Security Criminal
Defense Department

2025 Numbers

IMMIGRATION LITIGATION DEPARTMENT

139

Total # of intake cases

025

Total # of active cases

“MLFA stood up, took my case, and challenged these decisions in court, and I don’t know what I could have done without them. ... They were there for me, they provided the needed legal representation as pro bono without asking me for any money and, Alhamdulillah, our work was successful because of Allah’s help and the representation of the MLFA team. ... They were there for me, and they showed me what justice looks like when we stand together. I don’t think it is an option for the Muslim community to have an organization like MLFA; I think it is a necessity.”

Ayman Soliman

MLFA secured USCIS’s immediate reinstatement of Ayman’s asylum status, reversing its prior unlawful revocation, and his immediate release from ICE custody, concurrent with DHS’s termination of its immigration court removal proceedings against him.

LEGAL DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS



Immigration
Litigation Department

2025 Numbers

FEDERAL NONPROFIT GOVERNANCE DEPARTMENT

074

Total # of
intake cases

006

Total # of
active cases

LEGAL DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS



Federal Nonprofit
Governance Department

“We recently had MLFA conduct a comprehensive Governance Risk Compliance (GRC) Legal Screening for our organization, and we were thoroughly impressed from start to finish. What stood out most was the nuance of their approach. The team examined our organization from every legal angle and handled every question with clarity and expertise. ... For organizations like ours that need to ensure legal integrity and minimize risk, MLFA’s screening was invaluable.”

Client B, Anonymous.

2025 Numbers

Federal Criminal Defense Litigation

Challenging Entrapment: Defending Justice in United States v. Wadi

Imad Eddin Wadi is a 68-year-old Syrian-American father of six with no prior criminal history. In 2024, he was convicted and sentenced to 13 years in federal prison following a five-year FBI sting operation. The government alleged that Mr. Wadi conspired to provide material support to terrorism through a proposed halal meat business. In reality, the case raises serious concerns about entrapment. Over the course of years, a trained FBI agent cultivated a relationship with Mr. Wadi, leveraging his financial hardship and aspirations as a small business owner to steer him toward an agreement he would not have otherwise made.

At trial, the most critical evidence was compromised. The lead FBI agent destroyed the original iPhone used throughout the investigation, despite multiple court orders prohibiting its destruction. No forensic copy was preserved. The defense was left without the ability to verify the integrity of the government's evidence, and the jury was never informed. In 2025, MLFA's Criminal Defense Litigation team continued to advance this case at the highest levels. After the Fifth Circuit denied Mr. Wadi's appeal in September, MLFA filed a Petition for a Writ of Certiorari to the Supreme Court of the United States, focusing on the government's destruction of evidence and the court's refusal to provide any remedy.

This case carries consequences far beyond one individual. It raises urgent questions about accountability, digital evidence, and the expanding use of entrapment in national security prosecutions. MLFA continues to fight, ensuring that due process is not optional, and that the truth is not erased before it can be heard.

Defending against Political Prosecutions: MLFA's National Security Criminal Defense Center

In 2025, MLFA initiated the soft launch of MLFA's National Security Criminal Defense Center (NSCDC), a specialized center building on decades of federal criminal defense experience. With unparalleled expertise in national security cases involving Muslim communities, the NSCDC is designed to strengthen and centralize this work, support attorneys navigating complex prosecutions, and serve as a resource for defendants, media, and the broader community seeking clarity and defense in these cases.

The Center is led by Charles Swift as Director, with Sufia Khalid serving as Senior Staff Attorney. MLFA anticipates a broader rollout in early Summer 2026.

STORIES OF IMPACT

FBI

Civil Litigation

Defending Dissent: Securing Justice for UT Austin Students

In April 2024, students at the University of Texas at Austin organized a peaceful protest in support of Palestinians. What followed was a coordinated crackdown.

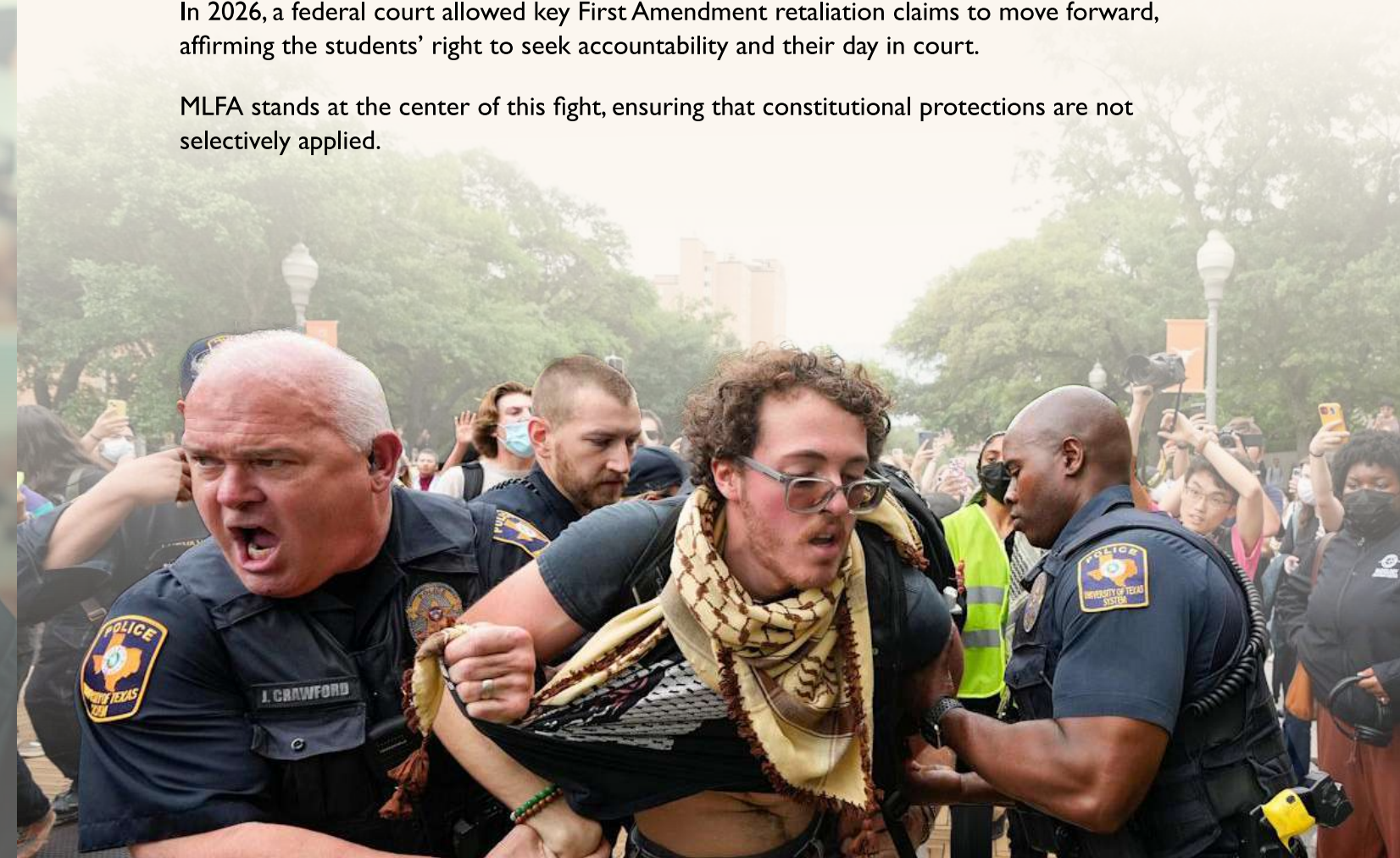
Law enforcement, acting under state direction, moved in with force. Students were tackled, restrained, and arrested despite no clear evidence of unlawful conduct. Internal accounts later revealed officers themselves questioned the legality of the arrests in real time. Charges were ultimately dismissed for lack of probable cause, but the consequences did not end there. The university imposed disciplinary measures, including deferred suspensions, placing students' academic and professional futures at risk.

MLFA joined the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), Project TAHA, and co-counsel to lead federal litigation on behalf of these students. Together, we challenged unlawful arrests, retaliatory discipline, and violations of the First Amendment and federal civil rights law.

This case sits at the center of a larger question: whether the government can punish speech it disagrees with.

In 2026, a federal court allowed key First Amendment retaliation claims to move forward, affirming the students' right to seek accountability and their day in court.

MLFA stands at the center of this fight, ensuring that constitutional protections are not selectively applied.



Immigration Litigation Department

Restored Protection: MLFA Secures Freedom for Ayman Soliman

Ayman Soliman's case reflects how quickly legal status can unravel without a serious legal defense. A longtime U.S. resident, Ayman had been granted asylum after facing credible threats to his safety abroad. Yet in July 2025, he was taken into ICE custody during a routine check-in, his status abruptly terminated, and his future placed in immediate jeopardy.

MLFA's work on Ayman's case did not begin there. Our legal team has represented him for years, beginning in 2019, when he first sought help to challenge an FBI flag placed on his record. Since then, MLFA has provided ongoing pro bono representation across multiple federal and immigration matters, including lawsuits against federal agencies and continued advocacy around his status.

When Ayman was detained, MLFA moved immediately. Our attorneys filed urgent motions, challenged the government's actions, and navigated complex immigration and national security frameworks where delays can carry life-altering consequences.

Through sustained legal pressure and strategic litigation, MLFA secured a reversal of the termination. In September 2025, Ayman's asylum status was reinstated, and he was released from ICE custody, allowing him to return to his community after months of unjust detention.

This case underscores a hard truth: legal protection is not self-executing. It must be defended. It also reflects MLFA's role in taking on high-stakes cases over the long term, providing consistent, expert legal defense when it matters most.

Because of your support, Ayman is home, with his status restored and his future protected.

Nonprofit Governance Department

Protecting Civil Society: Defending the Right to Pursue Justice

In 2025, our country saw an unprecedented wave of executive orders and policy memorandums targeting the nonprofit sector. These ranged from attempting to dismantle DEI protections, to reformulating the meaning of domestic terrorism. The effect of these executive orders and memorandums cannot be understated, and many seem to target constitutionally protected speech. The haze created by these executive orders gave rise to much confusion among nonprofit leadership and their donors. MLFA's Nonprofit Governance Department mobilized alongside a national coalition of legal and civil society organizations to meet this moment. Our mandate is straightforward: educate and protect nonprofits. That has meant delivering emergency compliance support and corrective measures to organizations operating under exigent circumstances in Texas, Virginia, and across the country. On the state level, these organizations found themselves targeted by state regulatory enforcement, and many were understaffed and without the internal resources or legal guidance needed to effectively respond. The Nonprofit Governance Department was able to fill that void — providing hands-on expertise and follow-up training to ensure organizations not only survived the immediate threat but emerged better equipped to protect themselves going forward.

MLFA's Nonprofit Governance Department also conducts general trainings for nonprofit leaders and organizations across the country. These trainings include both in-person presentations and virtual webinars focused on critical governance topics, such as fiduciary duties, internal controls, financial oversight, risk management, and sanctions compliance. We aim to make compliance accessible and practical. Our screenings and trainings help nonprofits build strong internal processes, ultimately reducing legal and operational risk and building resilient organizations capable of weathering an increasingly complex environment.

We are experiencing volatile times, where core legal principles and practices essential to our country are being challenged. Civil society and lawyers have historically held the line against the degradation of the rule of law.

MLFA will continue to hold that line, strengthen the institutions that stand with us, and demand the constitutional protections that are our inheritance, and our bequest to future generations.

STORIES OF IMPACT

SANCTIONED
RESTRICTED
UNDER REVIEW

Case File: CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION

CONFIDENTIAL
0087-21

✓ The Gaza Impact

The crisis in Gaza did not remain confined overseas. In 2025, its impact reshaped the legal landscape here in the United States.

As the devastation unfolded, so did a parallel escalation at home. Advocacy for Palestine became a point of scrutiny. Travel was disrupted. Individuals were detained. Speech was questioned in ways that signaled a broader shift in how Muslim identity and political expression are treated.

MLFA saw this shift in real time.

We represented **Marwan Marouf**, a respected Dallas community leader and longtime U.S. resident, who was taken into ICE custody under circumstances that raised serious constitutional concerns. His case escalated from detention to denial of bond, ultimately requiring a federal habeas petition to challenge his prolonged detention and the government’s justification for it. At the center were troubling questions about whether protected speech was being used as a basis for enforcement.

Despite a full legal effort, Marwan was ultimately deported.

We are deeply pained by that outcome. Our legal team pursued every available avenue, challenging the government at each stage. His case remains a stark example of how far enforcement can go, even in the face of serious constitutional questions.

We backed **Yaa'kub Ira Vijandre**, a DACA recipient and photojournalist, who was detained by ICE after publicly documenting and speaking about issues connected to Palestine. His case raised urgent First Amendment concerns, as his social media posts, reporting, and even online engagement were cited in the government’s actions against him. What began as expression escalated into detention, prolonged custody, and the threat of deportation.

MLFA filed and advanced federal habeas challenges on his behalf, arguing that his detention was unconstitutional and rooted in protected political speech. His case became a critical test of whether expression, particularly around Palestine, could be recast as grounds for enforcement.

And when British journalist **Sami Hamdi** was detained at a U.S. airport, MLFA intervened to ensure his rights were protected, reinforcing that even entry into the country is not immune from this expanding scrutiny.

These cases are not isolated. They reflect a pattern where global events are used to justify increased surveillance, enforcement, and legal action tied to Palestine advocacy. The result is a chilling effect that extends far beyond those directly impacted.

MLFA continues to respond at the level required, navigating immigration, national security, and constitutional law to protect individuals facing these pressures. Because when global crises reshape domestic policy, the consequences are not theoretical, they are personal, and they are here.

Gaza-Related Matters

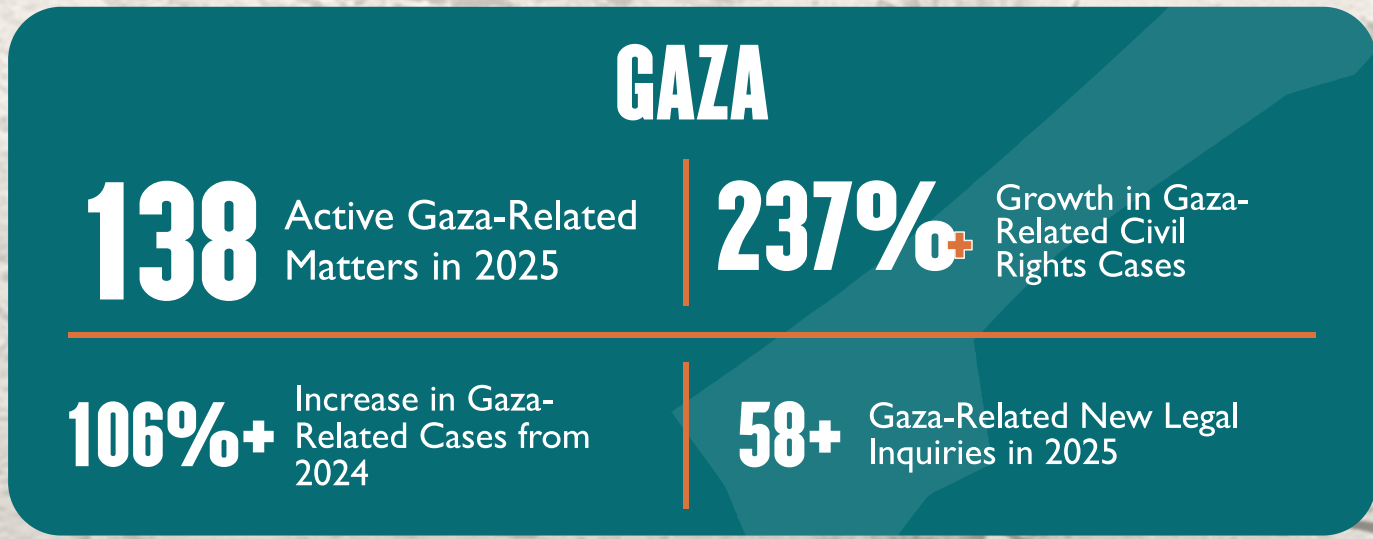
What began as a surge has now become sustained legal pressure.

In 2025, MLFA handled over 58 new Gaza-related legal inquiries while actively managing 138 matters tied to the ongoing crisis and its domestic impact. This marks a significant increase from 2024, where active Gaza-related matters stood at 67. In just one year, that number more than doubled.

This growth was not isolated to a single area of law. It spanned immigration, civil rights, national security, and nonprofit governance, reflecting the breadth of impact Gaza-related advocacy has had across the legal landscape.

Notably, civil rights matters saw a sharp rise, from 16 to 54 active cases, a 237% increase. These cases often involved retaliation, speech-related concerns, and institutional pressure tied to Palestine advocacy.

Behind each number is a person, an institution, or a moment where legal protection became necessary. MLFA responded with the full weight of its legal infrastructure, expanding capacity, coordinating across departments, and ensuring that individuals and organizations were not left to navigate these pressures alone. This is no longer a temporary surge. It is a sustained reality. MLFA will continue to meet it with the seriousness it demands.



The Constitutional Breaking Point

MLFA's 2025 Nonprofit Governance Summit

In August 2025, MLFA brought nonprofit leaders, attorneys, and policy experts into one room at Southern Methodist University's Dedman School of Law to confront a question that is no longer abstract: What happens when the Constitution is tested in real time?

Led by keynote speakers Lee Merritt, Esq. and MLFA CEO Arshia Ali-Khan, the summit centered on the growing pressure facing Muslim institutions and those speaking on Palestine. Conversations moved quickly from principle to practice, examining how free speech, national security, and nonprofit governance are being redefined through enforcement.

Sessions like Government Overreach & the Expanding Criminalization of Speech and Immigration Rights & Free Speech made clear that the line between expression and liability is narrowing.

MLFA's legal team led working sessions and provided direct legal screenings for nonprofits navigating federal scrutiny, from Treasury compliance to investigative risk. Attorneys earned CLE credit. Organizations left with clarity on what they are facing and how to respond.

Supported by Islamic Relief USA, the summit reflected the level of seriousness this moment demands.

We do not take this work lightly, and we remain humbled by the trust and support of the community we serve.



Lee Merritt, Esq.



SMU Dedman School of Law



Charlie Swift, NSCDC
Director Mentors
Summit Attendees

ICNACON 2025

At ICNACON 2025, MLFA showed up where it matters. Through high-impact sessions and free legal clinics, our attorneys addressed the realities Muslims face in the legal system, from criminal defense to civil litigation and digital expression, bringing clarity to issues too often misunderstood.



MASCON25

At MAS Convention 2025, MLFA brought legal clarity to the frontlines. CEO Arshia Ali-Khan led sessions on surveillance, online expression, and national security, while Legal Director Marium Uddin addressed asylum and the realities of political persecution. These panels translated complex legal threats into practical knowledge for the community.



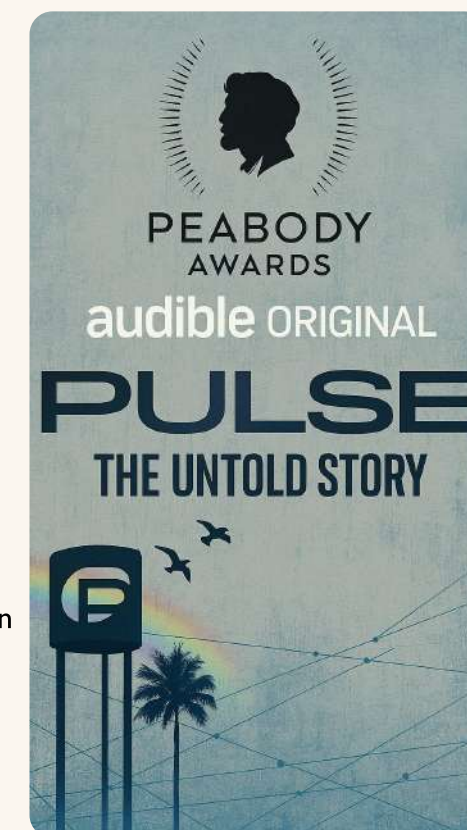
Unprecedented Recognition

Pulse: The Untold Story, a Peabody Award—winning series by journalist Trevor Aaronson, revisits the 2016 Pulse nightclub shooting and challenges the official narrative shaped in its aftermath. The series raises critical questions about how public narratives are formed and how institutional failures are obscured.

First released in 2024, the series continues to influence how this case is understood today.

The series features MLFA's Criminal Defense Department Head, Charlie Swift, alongside attorney Linda Moreno, bringing listeners inside the defense of Noor Salman. In a landmark case, MLFA's legal team dismantled a coerced confession and secured a full acquittal, restoring a mother to her child after more than a year in detention.

This recognition reflects the enduring impact of MLFA's work, as well as its role in confronting false narratives and defending the truth when it matters most.



UNPRECEDENTED A BANQUET EVENT

From Fiction to the Frontlines of Law

On October 18, 2025, something different happened.

From the moment guests entered the Westin Stonebriar, it was clear this was not a typical evening. The room was transformed. Red. Black. Stark white. Visual cues that felt familiar, almost unsettling. What once lived in fiction now mirrored something closer to home.

Because we are in unprecedented times. And no one is untouched.

The night unfolded not through speeches alone, but through immersive storytelling. Real cases. Constitutional breaches. Legal realities that are no longer theoretical. Guests weren't just told what was happening; they were brought into it.

At the center of the evening was keynote speaker Noura Erakat, Scholar and Human Rights Attorney, whose clarity and command grounded the moment in both law and lived reality.

The night expanded from there.

Adil Abbuthalha, founder of Boycat, introduced a different dimension, showing how resistance is evolving through technology. With a platform that turns everyday decisions into acts of accountability, he offered a glimpse into how power can be redirected in real time.

Then came a conversation that held the room.



A panel on Law, Conscience, and Resistance in Unprecedented Times, featuring Anthony Aguilar, a retired U.S. Army Special Forces Green Beret and whistleblower, and Josh Paul, former State Department official and co-founder of A New Policy. Their perspectives brought a rare honesty to the intersection of policy, power, and personal accountability.

And throughout the night, the experience remained interactive.

Through MLFA's "Tap In: Experience Unprecedented," attendees engaged in real-



time legal quizzes, testing their legal instincts. Teams formed. Conversations sparked.

Even the lighter moments carried meaning.

At The Unprecedented Post, a Washington Post-inspired installation, guests stepped into the headline. A photo, a moment, a reminder that what we are witnessing is not distant.

The evening was anchored by community.

Muhammad Abdullah, imam and national spokesman, led the fundraising with a presence that was both grounding and galvanizing. The room responded. A silent auction followed, featuring artwork generously donated by Ruby Jaffrey, with all proceeds supporting MLFA's Justice Fund.

By the end of the night, the room had not only reached its goal; it surpassed it. The event sold out. The response was immediate, and it was collective.

Closing remarks from board advisor Zainab Ellam brought the evening back to its core.

Supported by partners including Islamic Relief USA, Zakat Foundation of America, American Muslims for Palestine, and many others, the evening reflected the strength of a community that understands what is at stake.

MLFA will always be there, and we know our community is with us. Thank you.



STRATEGIC GRANT SUPPORT

In 2025, MLFA secured critical grant funding to expand its legal work, strengthen institutional protection, and deepen community impact. These investments supported efforts across federal litigation, nonprofit governance, legal education, and infrastructure development.

Each grant reflects a shared recognition: The need for serious legal defense and institutional resilience has never been greater.

	Anonymous American Muslim Giving Circle	\$133,333	Expanding federal nonprofit governance efforts, equipping leaders to navigate emerging legal risks, including legislative threats.
	Zakat Foundation of America	\$100,000	Supporting the pursuit of justice for American Muslims through litigation and community education.
	Women Donors Network	\$75,000	Advancing MLFA's Nonprofit Governance Fund to protect and strengthen Muslim-led institutions.
	Peace Development Fund	\$75,000	Supporting the development of resilient financial infrastructure for movements facing de-platforming and systemic risk.
	Private Family Foundation	\$50,000	In support of MLFA's Nonprofit Governance work to protect and strengthen Muslim-led institutions.
	Islamic Relief USA (IRUSA)	\$30,000	Funding "Justice Through Knowledge," a legal literacy and leadership initiative addressing systemic discrimination.
	Crossroads Fund	\$30,000	Supporting research and resource development on watchlists and national security-related impacts.
	Proteus Fund (RISE Together)	\$25,000	Providing essential general operating support to sustain MLFA's core legal work.

Total: \$518,333

Together, these investments strengthen MLFA's ability to respond with precision, scale, and seriousness in a rapidly shifting legal landscape.

In 2025, MLFA launched the **American Muslim Legal Ecosystem (AMLE)** in partnership with CAIR-Chicago, supported by a \$200,000 grant through the Tides Foundation's Community Collaboration Initiative. AMLE is designed to close the legal access gap by building a national network of trusted attorneys and resources for Muslims navigating surveillance, travel restrictions, and legal threats.



INVESTING IN THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEGAL LEADERSHIP

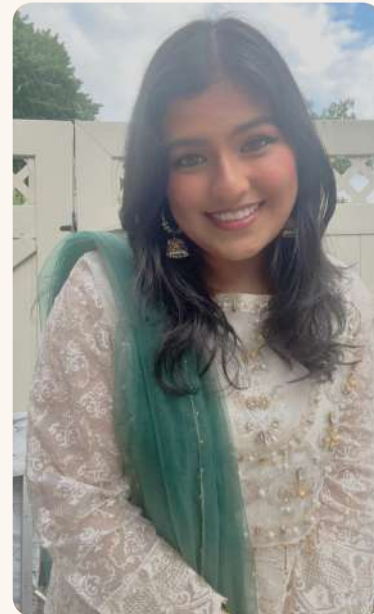
Mariam Darsot Woman in Policy & Government Scholarship

We believe the fight for justice begins with investing in people. That's why MLFA continues to support and partner with institutions like the Islamic Scholarship Fund (ISF) to help develop the next generation of American Muslim leaders in law, policy, and government.

One of our most meaningful investments is the Mariam Darsot Women in Policy & Government Scholarship, created in honor of a woman whose legacy of generosity and commitment to women's empowerment continues to guide this work.

In 2025, we are proud to support Amber Alirahi as this year's judicial intern, continuing that legacy through the next generation of legal leadership.

A Pakistani-American law student at the Haub School of Law at Pace University, Amber's work explores identity, displacement, and representation, grounded in her studies at NYU's Gallatin School.



The Tarek Al-Kadri Social Justice Leadership Scholarship

We are proud to announce Jenna Shalash as the 2025 Tarek Al-Kadri Social Justice Leadership Scholarship Judicial Intern.

A law student at Washington University, Jenna represents the next generation of advocates stepping into the work of justice with clarity and purpose.

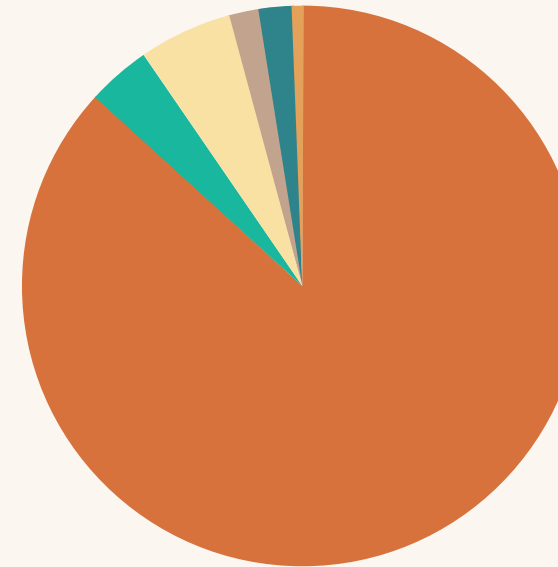
This scholarship was established in honor of MLFA's former President and Co-Founder, Tarek Al-Kadri, whose humility, leadership, and lasting impact continue to shape this work. Through the Islamic Scholarship Fund (ISF) Endowment, his legacy lives on by supporting those committed to advancing justice.

Through this scholarship, that legacy continues in the next generation of leaders committed to justice.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2025

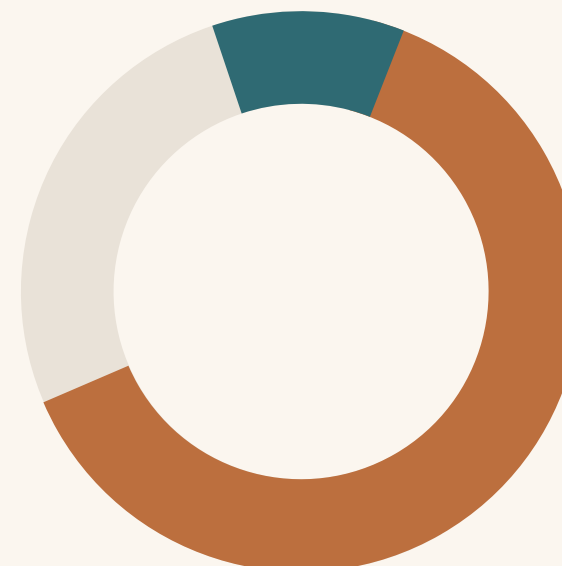
REVENUE 2025



Individual Donations	\$6,300,000	88.1%
In-Kind Services	\$213,700	3.0%
Accrued Grant Amount To Date	\$350,800	4.9%
In-Kind Contributions	\$109,700	1.5%
Corporate Matching	\$119,600	1.7%
Sponsorships	\$55,000	0.8%
Total Donations	\$7,148,800	100%

- Individual Donations
- In-Kind Services
- Accrued Grant Amount To Date
- In-Kind Contributions
- Corporate Matching
- Sponsorships

FUNCTIONAL EXPENSE ALLOCATION 2025



Program	\$3,200,000	82%
Fundraising	\$454,000	12%
Administrative	\$239,500	6%
Total Expenditures	\$3,893,500	100%

- Program
- Fundraising
- Administrative

MLFA GIVING FUNDS

Each fund is designed to uphold your giving principles while strengthening the legal defense our community depends on.

Justice Fund

Our unrestricted fund powering MLFA's full legal work, from federal litigation to rapid-response defense, wherever the need is greatest.

Donate Today



Federal Nonprofit Governance Fund

Protects and strengthens Muslim nonprofits through expert Governance, Risk, and Compliance support, including legal reviews, clinics, and leadership training.

Donate Today



Zakat Fund

Aligned with the Qur'anic category of "for Allah's cause," these funds are strictly allocated to eligible legal defense, supporting Muslims facing unjust prosecution, discrimination, and violations of their rights.

Donate Today



Volunteer

Volunteering with us is a chance to shape the future of justice in your community. MLFA offers tangible benefits, including the potential to earn credit, receive letters of recommendation, and gain invaluable experience.

Reach out to us via volunteer@mlfa.org to start your journey toward justice today.

UNPRECEDENTED WORK REQUIRES UNPRECEDENTED COMMITMENT

A legal force like MLFA is not incidental. It is built, sustained, and strengthened by those who choose to stand behind it. Thank you for carrying this work forward.



Your monthly gift sustains our work and provides a lifetime of liberty.

PILLAR
\$1,000 /MO

You empower and protect American Muslim institutions and organizations against the injustices done in the name of national security.

MOBILIZER
\$500 /MO

You defend Muslims facing legal challenges in federal courtrooms.

CATALYST
\$350 /MO

You work to restore justice for innocent American Muslims and their families by providing one hour of legal work.

ADVOCATE
\$100 /MO

You provide legal education to protect yourself and others around you.

PATRON
\$50 /MO

You are dedicated to ensuring that the constitution applies to even the most marginalized communities.

ALLY
\$25 /MO

You remain steadfast in your pursuit for justice. Every dollar counts.

SUSTAINERS FOR JUSTICE



**“INJUSTICE BRINGS ABOUT
THE RUIN OF CIVILIZATION.”**

(Ibn Khaldun)