

ABOUT THE

StandWithUs Saidoff Legal Department



The StandWithUs Saidoff Legal Department empowers students and community members through a legal response to

antisemitism. Utilizing a team of expert staff attorneys, intake management, and hundreds of pro bono lawyers, StandWithUs analyzes each reported incident through a legal lens and brings all StandWithUs resources to bear. A relentless force in the legal fight against antisemitism, we have resolved thousands of incidents since our founding.

NEW CRIMINAL JUSTICE DIVISION

After a decade of leading the legal fight against antisemitism in the U.S., StandWithUs has now added criminal expertise to its legal team: criminal justice support and advocacy for victims of antisemitic hate crimes; criminal defense; and a rehabilitative justice alternative for judges sentencing perpetrators of antisemitic hate crimes. StandWithUs Saidoff Legal Department is one of the only groups in the U.S. now to provide criminal justice services to the Jewish and Zionist communities. Learn more [HERE](#).



STANDWITHUS CENTER FOR LEGAL JUSTICE

The StandWithUs Center for Legal Justice (SCLJ) is a tax-exempt membership

organization that partners with the StandWithUs Saidoff Legal Department. Comprised of students, professors, and community members, SCLJ fights antisemitism and supports Israel by representing its members as plaintiff in impact litigation and as legal consultants in legal actions fighting antisemitism.

LEGAL ACTIONS AND SUCCESSES

JULY TO DECEMBER 2024



HELPING IN OUR TIME OF NEED

With the exponential increase in antisemitism since October 7, we have received an unprecedented influx of requests for help to our legal hotline. This latest report details highlights of our work for the six-month period from July-December 2024. For more information on our work from October 7, 2023-June 2024, see our previous legal actions report.

BY THE NUMBERS

OCTOBER 7, 2023 TO
DECEMBER 2024



lawsuits filed against
Columbia/Barnard, MIT,
and protestors who
blocked entrance to a
synagogue— in which
the StandWithUs
Center for Legal Justice
is a plaintiff.



Title VI complaints filed with the
Department of Education's Office
for Civil Rights (OCR).



of our intake responds to
antisemitic hate crimes and other
criminal issues.



of our intake requests with
college campus issues.



incidents handled by our legal
team since October 7.



reports received across all
StandWithUs departments
since October 7.



legal matters resolved since
the StandWithUs Saidoff Legal
Department's founding.



ONGOING TITLE VI CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLAINTS FILED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS (OCR)



SUNY Purchase, State University of New York

INVESTIGATION OPENED

StandWithUs Saidoff Legal Department **filed a federal Title VI complaint** with the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) against SUNY Purchase on behalf of Jewish students. Student government leaders led an effort to ostracize, excommunicate, and retaliate against Hillel—the sole campus group dedicated to Jewish life at SUNY Purchase and its student members. Our complaint alleges that the administration ignored or encouraged antisemitic harassment and refused to enforce its own policies. Read [HERE](#).

Hunter College

COMPLAINT RESOLVED

OCR has **resolved StandWithUs' federal Title VI complaint** filed in November 2021 against Hunter College's Silberman School of Social Work, part of the City University of New York (CUNY) system. The investigation looked into the administration's failure to address virulently anti-Israel content in a Zoom class, despite ample knowledge of what transpired. StandWithUs applauds the courageous students who held Hunter accountable for unaddressed antisemitism. Read [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).

Dallas Independent School District (High School)

INVESTIGATION OPENED

OCR has **opened an investigation into StandWithUs' Title VI complaint** against the Dallas Independent School District (DISD) in Texas. In tandem, StandWithUs sent a follow-up letter to DISD concerning allegations of retaliation by teachers against Jewish students since the Title VI was filed. We urge the district to proactively address ongoing retaliation concerns. Read [HERE](#).

StandWithUs also has an ongoing Title VI filing open for investigation at **Ohio State University**. Read [HERE](#).

LAWSUITS FILED IN FEDERAL COURT AND TITLE VI FILINGS WITH OCR BY THE STANDWITHUS CENTER FOR LEGAL JUSTICE (SCLJ)



Organizers of Violent Protest at Los Angeles Synagogue Sued for Violating the FACE Act

Jewish individuals, through their membership in the StandWithUs Center for Legal Justice, filed a federal lawsuit on July 24, 2024, against Code Pink, Palestinian Youth Movement, and WESPAC Foundation, which organized a riot to block Jews from entering a synagogue in Los Angeles. Many rioters were armed with weapons. The lawsuit alleges a violation of the federal Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) Act and the corollary California Law, which impose penalties against those who block entry into a place of worship. Read [HERE](#).

Lawsuit Filed Against Massachusetts Institute of Technology

StandWithUs Center for Legal Justice (SCLJ) and member students filed a federal lawsuit against **Massachusetts Institute of Technology** (MIT) over the university's condoning of antisemitism in violation of the students' rights under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. SCLJ commends the student plaintiffs for being brave enough to stand up for themselves and their peers. We are also grateful to the team of pro bono lawyers who helped us bring this case and handling the appeal, after the lower court erroneously granted a motion to dismiss. Read [HERE](#).

Amended Federal Lawsuit Filed Against Columbia-Barnard

Kasowitz Benson Torres LLP filed an amended federal lawsuit against Columbia and Barnard alleging pervasive antisemitism. The lawsuit represents StandWithUs Center for Legal Justice (SCLJ) and over 45 Jewish student plaintiffs. It seeks injunctive relief and monetary damages for violations of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, breach of contract, and conspiracy under KKK laws. SCLJ and StandWithUs thank the courageous students who came forward to file this lawsuit. Read [HERE](#).

Title VI Investigation Opened at Middlebury College

OCR opened an investigation into SCLJ's federal Title VI complaint detailing how Middlebury College showed deliberate indifference to its Jewish students' complaints of a hostile, antisemitic campus environment. Read [HERE](#).

SCLJ also has ongoing Title VI filings open for investigation at:

- **UC Davis**, read [HERE](#).
- **Lehigh University**, read [HERE](#).
- **Middlebury College**, read [HERE](#).



StandWithUs Assists Students in Defeating Antisemitic Student Government Resolution

The StandWithUs Saidoff Legal and Campus Departments assisted students at a Northeast university to defeat an antisemitic student government resolution that would have banned funding to a Jewish organization on campus, simply because that organization supports Israel. StandWithUs guided students in bringing this matter to the university administration. As a result, the university acknowledged the antisemitism, committed to nullifying the resolution, and promised to discipline its proponents for discriminatory conduct if they approved it. Additionally, the student government abandoned the resolution and the Jewish organization can continue to receive funding for its activities.

StandWithUs Leads Stony Brook to Investigate Hostile Environment and Compelled Speech

StandWithUs sent a letter to Stony Brook University asking its leadership to address a discriminatory anti-Israel lecture in conjunction with a possible violation of the First Amendment, where a professor potentially compelled student speech and contributed to a hostile environment. The school responded that they were taking the matter seriously and investigating. Read [HERE](#).

StandWithUs Helps Student Defend Herself Against Harassment

StandWithUs helped a Jewish student in Florida take action against student who repeatedly harassed her for her Jewish identity, including cursing at her and wishing her a “Happy October 7th” on the anniversary of the October 7 attacks. With StandWithUs’ guidance, the Jewish student successfully navigated her university’s disciplinary process and persuaded a panel of peers and administrators to sanction for harassment, violating disciplinary probation, and violating a no-contact directive. We commend the remarkable student who stood up for herself and all Jewish students at her university.

StandWithUs Achieves Justice for Students Harassed by Professor

The StandWithUs Saidoff Legal Department assisted three University of Pittsburgh students in pursuing a bias complaint against a math professor who targeted them for harassment while they tabled at a religious Jewish campus event with Chabad. The students filed a complaint against the professor with legal guidance. The university investigated the students’ complaint and as a result, the professor’s contract with the university was not renewed for 2024-2025 academic year. The professor left the U.S. Read [HERE](#).



StandWithUs Organizes Coalition Letter to Universities That Allowed Unlawful Encampments

The StandWithUs Saidoff Legal Department sent a letter to over 100 U.S. universities on behalf of a broad coalition of national Jewish and Christian campus organizations, reminding them of their legal responsibilities to Jewish and Israeli students in light of unlawful protests and encampments. This letter highlights the flaws in university actions and calls for specific remedies. Read [HERE](#).

StandWithUs Enables Student to Graduate After Double Standard at UCI

StandWithUs Saidoff Legal Department represented a Jewish student at UC Irvine who, while walking around the campus anti-Israel encampment, picked up a piece of cardboard depicting a hooknose, religious Jew holding a bloody knife over the Palestinian flag. An administrator falsely charged the Jewish student with theft and failing to identify himself, while nearby protestors unlawfully occupied university property with impunity. UCI threatened to withhold the student's diploma unless he wrote an essay admitting guilt to theft. StandWithUs' legal team challenged the sanction based on the constitutional right against self-incrimination, and by pointing out that the university was holding Jewish students to standards of conduct that it waives for anti-Israel protestors. As a result, UCI reduced the sanction and the student graduated. Read [HERE](#).

StandWithUs and Zachor Urge U.S. Attorney General to Enforce the KKK Laws and Open Investigation at Columbia University

StandWithUs and Zachor Legal Institute urged the U.S. Attorney General (Department of Justice) to investigate the coordinated actions of five anti-Israel campus groups at Columbia. These actions deprived Jewish and Israeli students of their civil rights and should trigger enforcement of the KKK Laws, an investigation, and, if applicable, prosecutions under the law. Read [HERE](#).

StandWithUs Urges Northwestern University Trustees to Nullify Unlawful Agreement Giving in to Encampment Agitators

StandWithUs, through the legal counsel of Kasowitz Benson Torres LLP, sent a legal letter to Northwestern's Board alleging that the administration's agreement, signed with encampment agitators, is unlawful. The agreement shielded and rewarded violators instead of taking control of the campus and protecting Jewish and Israeli students, it violates university policies and Board of Trustee bylaws. The letter argues that it should be nullified by the Board of Trustees to prevent further institutional harm. Read [HERE](#).



HIGH SCHOOL SUCCESSES

StandWithUs Helps Expose Institutional Antisemitism in CA School District

In September 2023, StandWithUs supported a lawsuit filed against the Santa Ana Unified School District (SAUSD) in California, partnering with the ADL, AJC, LDB Center, Potomac Law Group, and Covington & Burling. The discovery period exposed deep antisemitic bias amongst the district's leadership and staff, including revelations that its ethnic studies committee claimed that "Jews are the oppressors," referred to their Jewish colleague as a "colonized Jewish mind," and suggested that "we may need to use Passover" [when Jewish members are not present] to get courses approved without input from the Jewish community. StandWithUs' involvement in this case stemmed from our original alerting of the local Jewish community in April 2023 that the SAUSD board had antisemitic courses on their agenda for approval. Read [HERE](#).

StandWithUs Supports Student in Speaking Up Against Biased Teacher

An anti-Israel teacher in a southeast school district had been openly sharing her biased views about Israel and Judaism. A StandWithUs Kenneth Leventhal High School Intern, subjected to her offensive remarks during class and targeted because of his Zionism, continued to speak up about her harmful rhetoric. As a result of the student's tireless advocacy and consistent reporting to school leadership, the teacher was recently placed on administrative leave.

StandWithUs Jointly Launches Helpline for Students Facing Antisemitism at School

StandWithUs, LDB Center and ADL together with leading law firms, launched a helpline in K-12 schools to provide pro bono legal assistance to parents whose children are experiencing antisemitism in Massachusetts and New York. The helpline follows a successful pilot program in California.

StandWithUs Urges Action in Washington State, Bellevue School District, for Ignoring Antisemitism in Violation of District Policy and State Law

In April 2024, StandWithUs contacted the Bellevue School District in Washington State about antisemitic incidents at their schools and the district's ongoing failure to remedy the hostile environment, particularly after October 7. Although the district completed an official investigation, it failed to take any substantive actions to protect Jewish and Israeli students. StandWithUs' multiple attempts to collaborate with the district's attorney were rebuffed and/or ignored. As a result, StandWithUs is pursuing further legal action against the district. Read [HERE](#).



StandWithUs Succeeds in Getting Employee Reinstated at School After Retaliatory Reassignment

A school employee came to StandWithUs after he experienced antisemitic discrimination and retaliation. He noticed that at one of the schools at which he worked, a wall displaying flags of every country had the Israeli flag painted over; there was anti-Israeli graffiti. He raised his concerns with the administration, which ignored his complaints and reassigned him from that school. StandWithUs guided him through the grievance process and found him a local labor attorney to represent him. The school district ruled in his favor, he was reassigned back to that particular school, the Israeli flag was restored on the flag wall, and the graffiti was removed.

StandWithUs Opens Door to Lawsuits Against Hostile Antisemitic Workplace at Hospital

A Jewish medical resident experiencing dangerous, severe, and pervasive antisemitism in their Michigan children's hospital came to StandWithUs for help. The hospital ignored reports of physicians screaming about "Israel's genocide" and antisemitic tropes in the breakroom and identity-based bullying by a coworker, including cancelling their orders of a vaccination for patients. StandWithUs sent a letter to the hospital putting them on notice of the problem so that any current Jewish residents could have proof of the administration's awareness if they choose to later sue for a hostile work environment.

StandWithUs Supports Physician at University Hospital Facing Creep of Larger Campus Antisemitism

A Jewish physician at a university hospital brought to light that the antisemitic environment on campus has crept into the hospital building, including antisemitic stickers and fliers. Some medical students were scared to enter the hospital. StandWithUs assisted by putting the employer on notice of the hostile environment. The physician was able to return to work feeling supported and empowered.

StandWithUs Compels Agency to Administer Trainings for Its Intake Representatives

A Jewish community member tried reporting anti-Israel and antisemitic behavior to a federal government agency (the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission), however instead of taking down the complaint and helping the victim seek justice, the government's intake representative argued that "Israel is killing civilians" and "Israel is apartheid according to the United Nations." StandWithUs contacted the government agency about this and the agency confirmed that this conduct is not acceptable. The agency will be disciplining the intake representative and administering refresher trainings to the division to ensure the intake representatives' own personal biases do not impact their ability to objectively and neutrally conduct intake and help people explore their legal remedies after experiencing antisemitism.

StandWithUs Helps Protect Professor Afraid of Antisemitic Student

A professor experiencing antisemitism directed from their PhD student came to StandWithUs to seek help. The student has posted about how she wishes Jews were dead and how she wants to help finish Hitler's work, making the Jewish professor feel reasonably threatened and putting them in a difficult position to continue to educate sufficiently in the classroom. StandWithUs and a pro bono attorney coached the professor on how to put the police and the university on notice of this dangerous student. StandWithUs' actions put the professor in the best position to later pursue litigation if necessary.

Supporting a Jewish Public Defender Against Viewpoint Discrimination by an Employer

A Jewish public defender, who had served in the IDF, displayed a photo of herself during her IDF service in her office for over 15 years. After October 7, her employer told her to remove the photo. StandWithUs filed an amicus brief in Illinois federal court in support of the Jewish public defender's right to have the photo displayed. The amicus brief argues that the employer's actions in censoring the Jewish public defender constituted unconstitutional viewpoint and content-based discrimination. Read [HERE](#).

Advocating for Employees' First Amendment Rights at U.S. Supreme Court

City University of New York ("CUNY") professors learned that CUNY's union issued an antisemitic resolution after October 7. Though six of the professors are no longer union members, they are forced to still accept the union's representation under New York law. StandWithUs' brief to the Supreme Court in support of the lawsuit discusses examples of Jewish students forced to adopt antisemitic viewpoints and speech, and teachers subjected to antisemitic harassment. The professors' lawsuit seeks to vindicate their First Amendment rights so that they will not be required to be exclusively represented by a union that they believe discriminates against Jews. StandWithUs gives tremendous thanks to pro bono attorney Yisrael Gelb, an accomplished appellate lawyer, who took the lead on drafting and filing this amicus brief. Read [HERE](#).

Seeking to Hold UNRWA Accountable for October 7 Terrorism

The StandWithUs Saidoff Legal Department filed an amicus brief in the Southern District of New York along with the Raul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights, the Endowment for the Middle East Truth, the National Jewish Advocacy Center, Inc., and Temple Beth El of Boca Raton. The brief supports a lawsuit recently filed against UNRWA by Israelis, alleging UNRWA's aiding and abetting the October 7 Hamas attack on Israel. The amicus brief argues UNRWA is not entitled to immunity because UNRWA and its activities are outside the scope of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations ("CPIUN"), and, alternatively, even if UNRWA is protected by the CPIUN, such immunity would not extend to the UNRWA employees' participation in the October 7 massacre. StandWithUs expresses tremendous gratitude to the law firm of Heideman Nudelman & Kalik, PC, which represented the amici and played an instrumental role in drafting and filing the amicus brief. Read [HERE](#).

ARTICLES & ANALYSIS BY STANDWITHUS STAFF ATTORNEYS



How Districts Can Avoid an Investigation by the Department of Education

JENNA STATFELD HARRIS, SENIOR COUNSEL AND K-12 SPECIALIST

The U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) opened an investigation into the Dallas, TX Independent School District (DISD) in response to StandWithUs' Title VI complaint that a student was subjected to years of "severe, pervasive and persistent harassment" solely because of his Jewish identity. Despite StandWithUs' efforts, DISD and the high school allowed the hostile, antisemitic environment to continue. StandWithUs Attorney Jenna Statfeld Harris explains in the *Algemeiner* how school districts can avoid an OCR Title VI investigation. Read [HERE](#).

Many Universities in the U.S. Have Changed Their Policies But Now Must Enforce Them

GADI DOTZ, ASSISTANT LEGAL DIRECTOR

Many U.S. universities changed their policies over the summer to avoid the type of disruptions that occurred in the last academic year, including protests, encampments, and other activities targeting and marginalizing Jewish and pro-Israel students. While these policy changes are encouraging, their efficacy will depend largely on the next, just as important, step – their enforcement. Learn which universities changed their policies over the 2024 summer and how these will impact students in the Jerusalem Post [HERE](#).

Reply to FIRE'S Analysis of StandWithUs Letter to Santa Monica College

The Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression (FIRE) published an analysis of StandWithUs letter to Santa Monica College (SMC). While some of the positions expressed in FIRE's response are correct in a general sense, as applied to the assignments addressed in the StandWithUs letter, FIRE mischaracterized and oversimplified the legitimate concerns raised in our letter—namely that universities must safeguard their students' freedom of speech and should not tolerate academic freedom being used as a cloak to promote indoctrination and harassment that threaten students' educational rights. Read the StandWithUs response [HERE](#) and our original letter [HERE](#).

StandWithUs Expands Its Legal Education in High Schools

Alongside the rise of antisemitism nationally, we have seen a sharp rise in legal intake in middle and high school, coupled with the need for parents to be educated and supported when antisemitic misinformation disseminates and antisemitic conduct occurs in their children's schools. StandWithUs is now offering new legal rights presentations for parents of public-school students and for all high schoolers, educating and training them about their rights and remedies, and how StandWithUs can help. To learn more, contact highschool@standwithus.com.

Legal Fact Sheets

StandWithUs Legal has released over a dozen new fact sheets in our signature "Know Your Rights" series, empowering students and parents to stand up against antisemitism and better understand how to utilize laws and policies to do so.

[Anti-Israel Assignments from Professors](#)
[Disciplinary Meetings and Bias Complaint Investigations](#)

[Employment Law: Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964](#)

[Encampments & Protests: Violations of University Policy](#)

[Evidence of Zionism in Daily Life](#)

[Hate Crimes: How to File a Police Report and Navigate Criminal Issues](#)

[Hosting Pro-Israel Speakers and Events on Campus](#)

[Tough Questions in International Law](#)

[Online Antisemitism: Legalities and Strategies](#)

[Out of Bounds: Antisemitism in K-12 Sports](#)

[Planned Walkouts or Disruptions in High Schools](#)

[Post-October 7 Antisemitism on Campus: Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Preparing for Anti-Israel/Antisemitic Speakers Coming to Campus](#)

[Recording and Photography Permissions on Campus](#)

[Reporting Antisemitic Incidents to Public K-12 Administrations](#)

[Reporting Antisemitic Incidents to University Administrations](#)

[The IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism: Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Title VI of the Civil Rights: Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Unlawful Disruptions of Pro-Israel and Jewish Events on Campus](#)

