

America's colleges were once a marketplace where students could exchange ideas freely without fear of censorship. Today, too many colleges coerce students into silence. They tell students that they can't say anything offensive, let alone political. They force students to stand in faraway speech zones. And worst of all, they threaten official discipline like suspension and expulsion against students who simply want to exercise their First Amendment rights. As a result, students stay silent, because facing discipline isn't worth the risk to them.

Southeastern Legal Foundation believes that thoughts should be shared, because only through discourse can we learn and grow as a society. That's why we launched the 1A Project (formerly, the Student Freedom and Safety Project). For over five years now, SLF has lent its support to conservative and religious students who face these issues on college campuses. Sometimes the only way to defend students' First Amendment rights is through courtroom litigation. But many students don't know that there are other solutions available outside of the courtroom. To facilitate these solutions and equip students with the tools they need to protect their First Amendment rights, SLF provides resources like our student handbook. It is the only one of its kind, designed specifically to guide students as they navigate their own campus policies.

Some of the ways SLF champions students' First Amendment rights include:

- Counseling students who need to locate or understand their campus speech policies
- Providing students with options for contesting policies
- Forging connections with administrators who can aid students
- Guiding students as they express concerns to administrators or student government leaders
- Writing demand letters when colleges go too far
- Sending open records requests to clarify administrative stances on issues
- Litigating if and when issues cannot be resolved outside of the courtroom
- Writing amicus briefs in support of other groups who defend students' First Amendment rights in court
- Testifying before legislatures about the impact of proposed legislation on students' First Amendment rights