

## THE BRENNAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE

### Our Mission

The Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law is a non-partisan public policy and law institute focusing on fundamental issues of democracy and justice. Our work ranges from voting rights to redistricting, from access to the courts to presidential power in the fight against terrorism. A singular institution—part think tank, part public interest law firm, part advocacy group—the Brennan Center combines scholarship, legislative and legal advocacy, and communications to win meaningful, measurable impact in the public sector.



### Democracy Program

The Brennan Center's Democracy Program seeks to improve the means by which citizens participate in their government, addressing the systems that foster responsible administration of elections and equitable representation of the public. Our program collaborates in this endeavor with grassroots groups, advocacy organizations, and government officials alike. We strive to ensure that public policy and public institutions reflect the diverse voices and interests that make for a rich and energetic democracy.

### Redistricting Work

The Brennan Center is a leader in the fight for just and equitable redistricting procedures, counseling legislators and advocates across the country on how best to achieve diversity, accountability, and equitable representation through the redistricting process.

Based on our extensive studies of redistricting practices and reform initiatives nationwide, the Brennan Center offers expertise at every stage of the process: strategic consultation concerning the benefits and detriments of the status quo, analysis of the reform environment, facilitation for building consensus on policy goals, drafting assistance for legislation or ballot measures to shape and advance the conditions under which redistricting is conducted, and written and oral testimony before bodies considering specific proposals. We have also regularly filed friend-of-the-court briefs in the major cases addressing the use and abuse of redistricting procedures, particularly when redistricting is conducted at the expense of minority voters.

The Center's public advocacy furthers this work, with a clear public call for counting the population and redrawing the district lines in a way that is equitable, transparent, and sensitive to diversity. This advocacy includes publications like *A Citizen's Guide to Redistricting*, an overview of the redistricting process for novices and experienced practitioners alike; *The Real Y2K Problem*, an accessible analysis of the technical and legal issues facing legislators and reform advocates in redrawing the nation's legislative and congressional districts; and *Beyond the Color Line?*, reviewing the ramifications of redistricting, and the litigation that often results, for race and representation. Brennan Center attorneys have also authored numerous law review articles, public briefing papers, magazine pieces, and opinion columns detailing the promises and challenges of redistricting in the public interest.