

New Jersey Firearm Owners Syndicate
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Strengthening Freedom: Our First Year Summary

Atlantic Highlands, NJ, December 23, 2025 ---- As we approach the beginning of the holiday season, we wanted to take a moment and look back on our first full year of operations and extend our gratitude to our members and donors. Without you, none of this would have been possible.

So, without further ado, here are the highlights of our first year:

In just the first 12 months, we filed three separate lawsuits against the state. Those included [*Hague v. Platkin*](#), a challenge to NJ's restrictions on the rights of 18-20 year olds to possess and carry handguns in public for self-defense. A month later, we filed [*Padua v. Platkin*](#), a challenge to NJ's ban on suppressors. And then early this fall, we filed [*Aliaj v. Fort Lee*](#), a unique case that seeks to end abusive gun confiscation policies by county prosecutors' offices.

Court battles take a long time, and in our two statewide cases, we are well underway in pre-trial and discovery proceedings. Both of those cases have tentative dates for the completion of the discovery phase by the spring and deadlines for dispositive motions for summary judgment set for as early as June of 2026.

In *Aliaj v. Fort Lee*, relief may come sooner than usual when compared to larger constitutional challenges. In that case, both the Borough of Fort Lee and the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office have begun the process of settling the case. While we will accept nothing short of complete declaratory and injunctive relief preventing the Bergen County Prosecutor from ever again abusing its authority, we are happy to report that the BCPO has abandoned its effort to strip our plaintiff of his FID card and has returned his lawful and constitutionally protected property.

That, in and of itself, is a legal victory... in our first year of operation.

In addition to court cases, we are also happy to report that we filed an [amicus brief with the U.S. Supreme Court](#) in the case of *Wolford v. Lopez*, which will be argued in 2026. That brief points out the critical errors that the three-judge panel in the consolidated cases of *Koons v. Platkin* and *Siegel v. Platkin*. Those cases were filed in response to NJ's so-called Carry Killer bill that was signed into law in December of 2022. Our brief in *Wolford* points out the twisted logic of the three-judge panel in *Koons/Siegel* and asks the court not just to decide the *Wolford* case in favor of the pro-2A plaintiffs and end the "vampire rule" nationally, but to correct the critical error that lower courts are making in applying *Bruen*.

Our brief should impact not just the Supreme Court's decision in *Wolford*, but help influence the full Third Circuit, which has now granted the motion to rehear *Koons/Siegel*.

Outside the courtroom, this year, we lobbied the NJ legislature on over 10 gun control bills. And while those bills progressed through the lower house and through a senate committee, we did achieve substantial amendments to those bills that reduce their impact on the peaceable people that are represented by our membership. And outgoing Governor Phil Murphy's threat to increase firearm permit fees and levy excise taxes on firearms and ammunition was killed in the budget process this year.

We are under no illusions that we can fully stop a near Democratic super-majority that is hell bent on passing every bill that Giffords and Everytown ask for. If we can achieve incremental legislative gains, that is the best outcome we can hope for. For the bills we can't stop in the State House... well, we'll see them on the steps of the Courthouse.

On the election, while we were supremely disappointed with the outcome, we are proud of the grassroots effort we led. Voting participation rates amongst gun owners were higher than we could have hoped for. Over the course of the year, we led a massive statewide effort to register gun owners to vote, in close partnership with Scott Presler and our friends at [Early Vote Action](#). While flipping the state will have to wait another cycle, over 160,000 more votes came in this year for NJFOS-endorsed candidate Jack Ciattarelli than he received in 2021. Our base grew, the GOP voter base grew, and the level of ballot harvesting by our opponents will be hard to repeat. We will be back in 2027, stronger than we were in 2025.

At the grassroots and local level, we are pleased to report that, as of the date of this newsletter, 13 towns across the state in 7 counties have passed resolutions refunding all or substantially all of the local fees mandated by the state for carry permits. This effort garnered national attention, and the momentum has continued. Over \$200,000 per year in unconstitutional fees have been eliminated so far, and nearly 300,000 people in the state live in towns that have rejected the high fees imposed by the state.

We want to now take a moment to thank all of our media partners who have helped highlight our work both across the state and across the nation. NJFOS's work has featured this year on [News2A](#), [Bearing Arms](#), [Cam & Co.](#), [Armed American Radio](#), [Gun For Hire Radio](#), [Washington Gun Lawyer](#), [Gun Owners Radio](#), [Ammoland](#), [America's First Freedom](#), ANJRPC, [Liberty Doll](#), the [Four Boxes Diner](#), [Shooting News Weekly](#), [the Truth About Guns](#), [The Gun Writer](#), [USA Carry](#), and so much more. We are humbled by the attention that we received, and our media partners play an important role in achieving our advocacy goals.

And finally, we are especially proud of the coalitions that we built for all of our core litigation and advocacy projects. We are especially thankful for the support and partnership with the [Second Amendment Foundation](#), the [National Rifle Association](#), the [Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms](#), the [American Suppressor Association](#), [Safari Club International](#), and [ANJRPC](#).

We encourage all of our members to support and join these organizations.

We are in a fight with a well-funded and extremely well-coordinated adversary. While the anti-rights movement is a collection of organizations in lock step, we, too, must build strong partnerships to match those efforts. We are going to continue to build a bigger tent for ourselves and our members, and we look forward to strengthening our partnerships in the coming year.

We are looking forward to building on the momentum we created this year. We are now preparing to establish a new legislative action committee to expand our advocacy resources and recruit and directly involve more activists. And in the coming year, we will be hosting new events to increase our membership engagement and outreach. And finally, heading into the end of the year, we have relaunched our “[Shuttlesworth Letter](#)” program. This was an incredibly effective initiative started by NJFOS board member Jay Factor to directly intervene when towns delay the issuance of firearms permits and licenses.

To all our members, donors, and sponsors, including R.O.C. Training Center, Union Hill Gun Club, Middletown Arms, and Gun For Hire: Thank you again for your incredible generosity and support.

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and all the best wishes for a Happy, Healthy, and Free New Year!

Sincerely,

Mark Cheeseman, President

Jay Factor, Executive Vice President

Joe LoPorto, Director of Legal Operations

Jason Kleinman, Communications Director

Ray Rodriguez

Matt Bartkey

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