



2021 ANNUAL REPORT



A MESSAGE FROM THE LELDF PRESIDENT

2021 IN REVIEW

Defending the noble profession of law enforcement and the men and women who protect and serve our communities every day is a great privilege. We are so grateful for the immense personal sacrifices that police officers and their loved ones make to keep us safe. That is why we take our responsibility to them and their profession so seriously. This last year, LELDF redoubled our commitment to defending law enforcement, its purpose, and personnel in the media, courtroom, and halls of power.

In 2021, LELDF advanced its mission through public policy research, expert commentary and analysis, new public education tools, and legal aid to police officers. After the unprecedented rise in anti-police sentiment and policies in the summer of 2020, LELDF's role as a reasoned, honest, and passionate advocate for policing is more critical than ever. We are pleased that our work has helped to shape the public discourse and policymaking and to ensure that due process is afforded to everyone – especially law enforcement officers. Next year presents more challenges but those only strengthen our resolve to stand up for law enforcement.

Our efforts would not be possible without your generous moral and financial support. We are immensely thankful and humbled by your faith in our work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason C. Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "C".

Jason C. Johnson
President, LELDF

LELDF'S MISSION

To support and defend the law enforcement profession and those law enforcement officers who have devoted their lives to upholding the Constitution and serving the United States and its citizens while enforcing its laws. We also seek to educate the public about the many risks and threats to law enforcement personnel in order to build a more informed, respectful, and appreciative society.

The Law Enforcement Legal Defense Fund (LELDF) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established in 1994.

CASE DEFENSE SUPPORT

The LELDF has experienced an exponential growth in case defense support since June 2020 – contributing over \$850,000 in legal aid costs in 2020 and 2021. We anticipate continued growth in defense support spending in 2022, as more prosecutors target law enforcement officers with unwarranted criminal prosecution.

The LELDF is proud to lead the donor-supported fight against wrongful, political prosecutions against America's brave law enforcement officers.

In 2021, 16 individual law enforcement officers received LELDF support, an all-time high.

STEPHANIE MOHR, Maryland police officer and K-9 handler, received an unconscionable ten-year sentence in 2001 in connection with a routine K-9 apprehension in 1995.



**PARDON GRANTED BY
PRESIDENT TRUMP**



ERIC DEVALKENAERE, a 20-year decorated Missouri police veteran, saved the life of a fellow-officer late last year. Unfortunately, he has been ensnared in the current anti-police movement and was charged with manslaughter.



CASE IN PROGRESS

GARRETT ROLFE, of the Atlanta Police Department, was charged with Felony Murder after Rolfe fatally shot a man who violently resisted handcuffing before wresting away an officer's taser and firing it at Rolfe.



CASE IN PROGRESS

Learn more at: www.policedefense.org/cases

"DEFENDING THE POLICE" PROJECT

DEFENDING THE POLICE

A PROJECT OF THE LAW ENFORCEMENT LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

After the success of LELDF's research reports and informational graphics in 2020, we launched our policy research and analysis project, *Defending the Police* in early 2021. Building on our original data-driven report, *Prosecutorial Malpractice*, examining the relative ineffectiveness of progressive prosecutors across major jurisdictions, we expanded our research efforts to examine how de-policing impacted rising homicide rates in the wake of the June 2020 Floyd unrest and the impact and scope of police attrition on major agencies staffing. The project also released numerous infographics dispelling myths about law enforcement and a public poll revealing how misinformed the public is on policing issues.

LESS POLICING = MORE MURDERS

Law enforcement pulled back after the May/June 2020 anti-police protests and violence soared.

US HOMICIDES (1996-2020)



DEFENDING THE POLICE

A PROJECT OF THE LAW ENFORCEMENT LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

10 FACTS

ABOUT LAW ENFORCEMENT

1 Standing down the police lets criminals step up.

When policing declined in New York City (2020), Chicago (2016), and Baltimore (2015), crime and violence increased. Good policing saves lives.

	ARRESTS	HOMICIDES
NEW YORK		
Anti-police protests (2020)	▼ -55%	▲ +45%
CHICAGO		
Court limits police stops (2016)	▼ -24%	▲ +59%
BALTIMORE		
Baltimore riots (2015)	▼ -28%	▲ +55%

Source: 1. NYU Open Data, Chicago Crime Statistics, June 2019-July 2020
2. Chicago Heat Map, Police Activity Dashboard, 2015-2016
3. Open Data Baltimore, Baltimore Police Department Crime Map, May 2014-April 2015

3 Police shootings are not racially biased.

"[W]hite police officers actually kill black and other minority suspects at lower rates...white officers do not kill black suspects at a higher rate compared with nonwhite officers."

Source: Charles Brinkley et al., "Do White Law Enforcement Officers Target Minority Suspects?" Public Administration Review, 2018

2 Inner-city and minority communities want more policing, not less.

94% of low-income urban residents
92% of low-income Black Americans
96% of low-income Hispanic Americans
want more or the same police presence in their area.

Source: Gallup, "The State of Opportunity in America Report 2020," Center for Advancing Opportunity, published November 4, 2020 January 7, 2021

4 Police shootings are rare, and getting rarer.

Police are discharging their weapons and involved in fatal shootings less often than before.

NEW YORK
1971 — 2019
NYPD officers fired their weapons 810 times and killed 93 individuals.
Police shot 57 times and killed only 11 individuals.

Source: New York Police Department, 2019 Use of Force Report

5 The vast majority of Americans of all races are satisfied with local police.

	SATISFIED	DISSATISFIED	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (Don't know)
Black Americans	72%	17%	10%
All Americans	71%	15%	14%

Source: Monmouth University Poll, "Do You Satisfied are you with the job your local police department does?" conducted May 18 - June 1, 2020

6 Good policing saves taxpayers' money.

Effective law enforcement is a budget-saver for local governments who can attract greater investment, spur more economic activity and job growth, and increase tax revenues.

For every \$1 spent on law enforcement...
...cities reap \$1.63 in additional revenue and budget savings.

Source: Aaron Chaffin and Justin McCarty, "New U.S. Cities Undergo Budget Theory and Evidence," The Review of Economics and Statistics, 2018

7 Attacks on law enforcement are rising.

Assaults and violence against police officers have risen by 33% since 2014 with more than 1 out of 9 officers being assaulted on the job. Assaults that resulted in officer injuries rose by 44% in that period.



Over 50 police officers are murdered every year.

Source: FBI, Law Enforcement Killed and Assaulted (LEKAL), 2014-2019

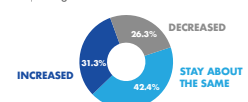
8 Most cops NEVER shoot.

95% of officers never fire their weapon on duty in their entire careers.

Source: Joseph Langlois and Kate Flinn, "Everything you know about police shootings is wrong," New York Post, October 21, 2017

9 The vast majority of Americans oppose defunding the police.

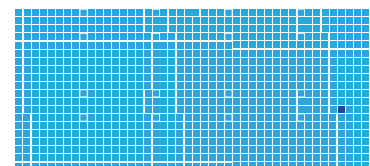
% of Americans who think that spending on policing should be...



Note: "Stay About the Same" and "Decrease" Source: Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults, conducted June 14-22, 2020

10 Police rarely use force.

Only a tiny fraction of police interactions with the public ever involve force, and rarely does that force result in bodily harm.



99.9% of POLICE CALLS are resolved peacefully.

LELDF
LAW ENFORCEMENT
LEGAL DEFENSE FUND
PoliceDefense.Org

Source: William E. Skarmer, M.D., "Injuries associated with police use of force," Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery, March, 2018

Learn more at: www.policedefense.org/projects

COMMENTARY AND COVERAGE

LELDF's 2021 research work and related commentary has been featured in numerous major local, national, and international news outlets including the Washington Post, ABC News, USA Today, Fox News, Chicago Tribune, the Washington Examiner, the Washington Times, the New York Post, Real Clear Policy, the Baltimore Sun, Voice of America News, the UK Daily Mail, and the Times of London.



Jason C. Johnson: Repealing the police 'Bill of Rights' was wrong – Don't follow Maryland's lead

THE  TIMES

US murder rate rose 29% last summer amid protests and Covid



The Washington Post

Local Opinions

Opinion: D.C.'s reaction to violent crime sends a troubling message

RealClear Policy

Promoting Myths About Police Won't Make Us Safer

By Jason Johnson
March 03, 2021



Why violent crime surged after police across America retreated

Even the most dedicated officers who now face a greater risk of being sued, fired or prosecuted for doing their job feel pressure to pull back.

DECISION

POINTS

POLICE SIMULATOR



POLICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT Published 1 day ago

“**Police group releases online law enforcement simulator to educate public on use-of-force decisions**”

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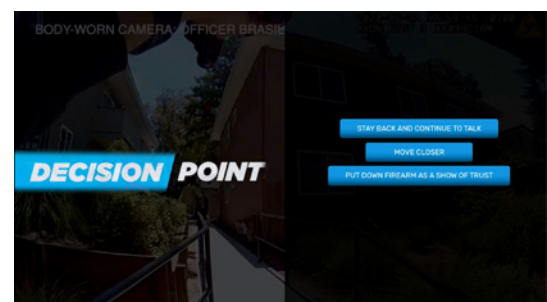
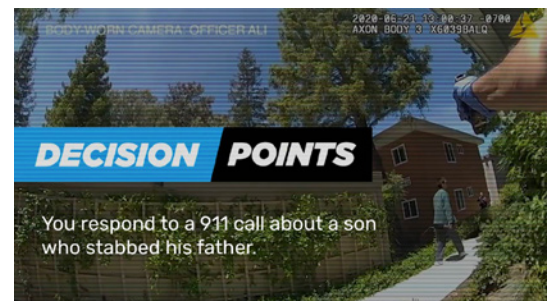
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DECISION POINTS – VIRTUAL POLICE EXPERIENCE TOOL

LELDF launched a new, first of its kind online experience tool, “Decision Points,” that will allow users to step into the shoes of real law enforcement officers in high-stakes situations. Using actual police body cam footage, the tool walks the user through the scenario in real-time, pausing to ask the user what decision they would or should make at the critical juncture. The tool then provides the user with an explanation why their choice was appropriate or not and continues the scenario, stopping repeatedly to engage the user on their preferred decision. It then provides analysis from a law enforcement “use of force” expert on how the scenario unfolded and why decisions were made. The tool offers the media, government officials, stakeholders, and the general public the ability to “walk in the shoes” of law enforcement and better understand how split-second, life and death decisions are made by police every day.

27,000

PLAYS IN THE FIRST WEEK



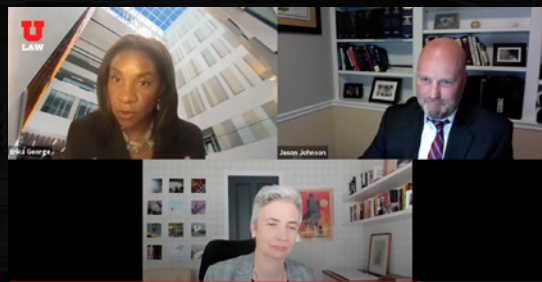
Try it out:

www.policedefense.org/decisionpoints

ANALYSIS. EXPERTISE. IMPACT. INFLUENCE.

LELDF's growing influence and impact can be felt from state capitols and Capitol Hill to American's living rooms as both our research and the expert analysis of LELDF president Jason Johnson reached tens of millions of Americans and high-level stakeholders and policymakers through numerous media interviews on television and radio including Fox News, the Sinclair TV networks (300+ stations), social media sharing, and direct briefings of stakeholders. Johnson was also invited by the editors of USA Today to provide the direct counterpoint op-ed to the main editorial on "qualified immunity" reform.

LELDF President Speaks to University of Utah Law School



LELDF President Jason Johnson was hosted by the University of Utah Law School as the featured speaker at a debate on qualified immunity.

LEAVE IT TO BEAVER ACTOR BOOK PROCEEDS DONATED TO LELDF LEGAL AID

DID YOU KNOW?

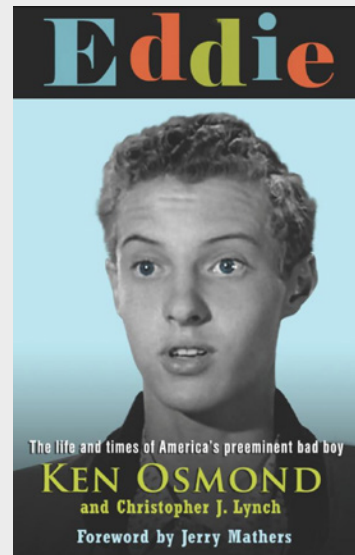
TV'S FAVORITE RASCAL EDDIE HASKELL WORE THE BADGE

That's right *Leave It to Beaver* actor Kenneth Osmond, who played the mischievous neighbor of the Cleaver family, served as a member of the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) from 1970 to 1988. Osmond, who worked as a motorcycle patrolman, grew a mustache to make himself less recognizable to the public. In 1980, Officer Osmond pursued a car thief on foot. The suspect shot Osmond three times, one deflected off his belt buckle and two other rounds hit him in the bulletproof vest, which saved his life. He retired from the LAPD in 1988. His autobiography, *EDDIE: The Life and Times of America's Preeminent Bad Boy*, was published in 2014. The actor-turned-cop passed away in 2020.

Osmond's widow, Sandy, and the book's co-author, Christopher Lynch, have donated all proceeds from *EDDIE* to LELDF's legal aid for wrongfully charged officers. Their generosity will help LELDF ensure officers are afforded their due process rights. We are deeply grateful.

**Eddie: The Life and Times of America's
Preeminent Bad Boy**

Available on Amazon and elsewhere



Osmond in LAPD uniform




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