

ABOUT THE

## StandWithUs Saidoff Legal Department



The [StandWithUs Saidoff Legal Department](#) protects and empowers through a legal response to antisemitism.

Utilizing a team of specialized staff attorneys and hundreds of pro bono lawyers, StandWithUs' legal team analyzes each reported incident 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 in 2014.

### OUR LEGAL STAFF ARE EXPERTS IN

First Amendment and free speech; religious freedom; employment; litigation; compliance and retaliation; campus hearings; K-12 and special education law; and intake management.

### OCTOBER 7 INTAKE

StandWithUs' legal team saw a 300% increase in intake of antisemitic incidents after October 7, with the majority from college students and an unprecedented influx from middle and high school students; workplace antisemitism; and victims of antisemitic hate crimes.



### 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 and enhances StandWithUs' mission. SCLJ represents its members in the fight against antisemitism through impact litigation and other legal filings.

# LEGAL ACTIONS AND SUCCESSES SINCE OCTOBER 7

*This is a moment in time when we cannot tolerate the normalization of blatant forms of antisemitic discrimination and harassment. Through the legal fight, we are setting precedent and creating new models so that universities and secondary schools realize that if they continue to allow hostile environments for Jewish, Zionist, and Israeli students, they will run the risk of public exposure and legal liability.*

*On the following pages are examples of our work and successes since October 7.*

# STANDWITHUS LEGAL SUCCESSSES AT UNIVERSITIES



## FALSE CHARGES AND RETALIATION CASES AGAINST JEWISH AND ZIONIST STUDENTS

### **StandWithUs Obtains Exoneration for Student Falsely Accused by SJP**

StandWithUs won a matter involving a student in the Northeast barred from entering a building by protesters and physically assaulted by a Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) demonstrator. SJP posted the victim's photo on social media and filed a complaint falsely accusing the student of attacking the SJP member. StandWithUs and pro bono counsel represented the student, documented the administration's violations of due process rights, and sent a legal demand letter objecting to his mistreatment. As a result, the administration called off all disciplinary action against the student.

### **StandWithUs Obtains Exoneration for Another Student Falsely Accused by SJP**

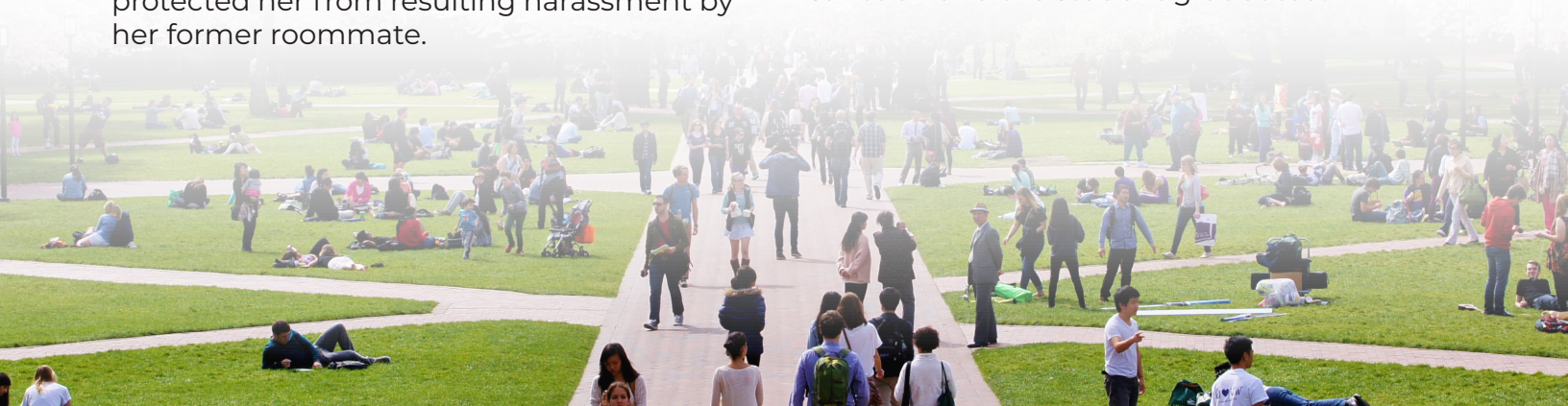
A freshman in the Northeast sought StandWithUs' legal help when SJP filed a complaint against her for "threatening" them when her social media post condemned SJP's use of "Long Live the Intifada" and "Intifada Revolution." StandWithUs represented the student in the investigation, which resulted in the administration dropping all charges against her.

### **StandWithUs Vindicates Jewish Student Facing Eviction After False Allegations**

A Jewish student in the Northwest was maliciously accused by her Muslim roommate of threatening to kill her with a knife. Forced by the university to vacate the shared apartment, StandWithUs connected the Jewish student with pro bono counsel, who cleared her from all false charges and protected her from resulting harassment by her former roommate.

### **Success! StandWithUs Enables Student to Graduate After Double Standard at UCI**

StandWithUs represented a Jewish student at UC Irvine (UCI), who walked past an encampment and 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 required the student to write an essay admitting guilt to theft in order to receive his diploma – which would have impacted his future career. StandWithUs Legal 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. The *Washington Examiner* made it public. As a result, UCI reduced the sanction and the student graduated.



# STANDWITHUS LEGAL SUCCESSSES AT UNIVERSITIES



## **StandWithUs-Trained Student Holds Assailant Accountable for Harassment**

A StandWithUs Emerson Fellow in the Southeast received training on her legal rights. She then posted positive content about Israel on her social media and began to be harassed and stalked by a male acquaintance on campus. Knowing her legal rights, she filed a bias complaint with her university, and they took immediate action: the student was suspended for his antisemitic harassment.

## **StandWithUs Helps Students Hold Professor Accountable, Leading to Resignation**

Multiple students and faculty alerted StandWithUs to the head of a department at a Midwest law school posting countless pro-Hamas and antisemitic screeds on social media accounts, where he often held himself out as representing the school. StandWithUs sent a legal letter and aided students in filing complaints and testifying in investigations. The professor ultimately resigned.

## **StandWithUs Secures Scholarship for Israeli Victim of Antisemitic Harassment**

StandWithUs assisted an Israeli student in the Midwest who was subjected to months of physical and verbal antisemitic harassment from his roommate and teammate, which he initially feared to report so as not to jeopardize his athletic scholarship. StandWithUs helped the student prepare for the university's investigation, represented him during the investigation, and assisted him in submitting supporting evidence. As a result, StandWithUs secured a written commitment from the university guaranteeing the full amount of the student's scholarship and restoring the student's place on the sports team.

# STANDWITHUS LEGAL SUCCESSSES AT HIGH SCHOOLS



## **StandWithUs Ensures Safe Return for Jewish Student Attacked by Classmate**

A Southwest Jewish girl was physically attacked in a classroom by a much larger male student who called her a “dirty Jew” while he pelted her face and neck, all while a teacher was present and indifferent. The assailant was disciplined, but the school returned the Jewish victim to her classroom alongside her attacker and the indifferent teachers. The mother refused to send her daughter back to school until they could guarantee her safety. The girl had been home for almost a month when the family reached out to StandWithUs for help. StandWithUs utilized special education law to force the administration to provide a viable safety plan. Soon after, the student safely returned to school.

## **Settlement Obtained for High School Victim of Antisemitic Assault**

A Northeast Jewish ninth grader at a public high school with no other known Jews faced relentless antisemitic bullying, Holocaust jokes, slurs and curses, and a violent physical attack at school requiring medical attention. The school district was indifferent. StandWithUs partnered with pro bono counsel to file a civil rights complaint with the state’s Department of Justice and obtained a settlement on behalf of the Jewish student: the district agreed to pay for the student to complete high school in a nearby district that has a substantial Jewish population.

## **StandWithUs Helps Student Stand Up to Online Harassment**

A Southeast Jewish high school student reached out for legal help after pro-Hamas students posted a defamatory video of her on social media. The edited video showed a heated exchange at school between the Jewish student and classmates endorsing Hamas, yelling “F\*\*\* Israel, F\*\*\* the Jews, and calls to “gag [the Jewish student].” The school refused to take action. After intervention from StandWithUs’ legal team, the student prevailed in getting the video taken down— which was her sole objective.

## **StandWithUs Obtains Settlement for Student with Special Needs Targeted for Antisemitic Bullying**

A Southwest high school student with special needs faced antisemitic bullying that was so hostile, his family had to remove him from school for his safety. StandWithUs helped the family file a formal complaint and obtain a settlement that the school district would pay to transfer the boy to a new district where he would be safe.



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

StandWithUs

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**Legal**

## **StandWithUs' Title VI Complaint at Hunter College (CUNY) Resolved!**

– June 17, 2024

StandWithUs was pleased to learn that OCR is holding CUNY responsible for allegations in our Title VI [complaint](#), filed in November 2021 against Hunter College. StandWithUs' complaint alleged a pervasively hostile environment for Jewish students in Hunter's Silberman School of Social Work. It focused on the administration's failure to address virulently anti-Israel content in a Zoom class, despite ample knowledge of what transpired. Learn about [OCR settlement](#).

## **Dallas Independent**

### **School District** – April 10, 2024

StandWithUs filed a Title VI complaint with the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) against the Dallas Independent School District for indifference to a hostile environment for Jewish students at Hillcrest High School, including harassment, intimidation, marginalization, and discrimination. See [press release](#).

## **Ohio State University** – April 9, 2024

StandWithUs, ADL, and the Brandeis Center submitted a Title VI complaint with OCR against Ohio State, alleging that Jewish students faced a litany of antisemitic incidents, verbal taunts and threats, and antisemitic graffiti in university facilities, including physical assault of Jewish students. See [press release](#).

## **Lehigh University** – April 2, 2024

The StandWithUs Center for Legal Justice (SCLJ) filed a Title VI complaint against Lehigh with OCR, alleging that the administration showed disparate treatment toward Jewish students by applying double standards to complaints of campus antisemitism. See [press release](#).

## **UC Davis** – April 1, 2024

SCLJ filed a Title VI complaint with OCR detailing extensive examples of antisemitic hostility and harassment targeting Jews, Israelis, and Zionists, including physical assaults with no known police investigation or administrative action, and no known compliance with federal hate crime law reporting. See [press release](#).

## **Middlebury College**

– February 16, 2024

SCLJ filed a Title VI complaint with OCR showing how Middlebury showed deliberate indifference to Jewish students' complaints of antisemitism, including disparate treatment, retaliatory disciplinary proceedings, instructions to Jewish students to downplay Jewish symbols, and failure to enforce policies to protect Jews. See [press release](#).

## **George Washington University**

– January 2024 (Title VI Complaint filed January 2023)

Professor Lara Sheehi—the subject of StandWithUs' January 2023 Title VI Civil Rights complaint against George Washington University—has resigned from the university and fled to Qatar after the outcry resulting from StandWithUs' filing. See [complaint](#).



## LEGAL DEMAND LETTERS

Since October 7, StandWithUs has sent legal demand letters to universities and high schools reminding them of their legal obligations after specific incidents, including the following that are public, in chronological order, and hyperlinked:

[Bellevue School District](#)

[University of Pittsburgh](#)

[UC Santa Cruz](#)

[UC Santa Barbara](#)

[UC Regents](#)

[Ohio State University](#)

[Northwestern University](#)

[Lehigh University](#)

[Santa Monica College #1, #2, and #3](#)

[Yale University](#)

[City College of New York](#)

[Northeastern Illinois University](#)

[Carnegie Mellon University](#)

[Tufts University](#)

[University of Illinois-Chicago](#)

[Montclair State University](#)

[University of Michigan](#)

[UC Berkeley Police Department](#)

[Pomona](#)

[UCLA](#)

[Stanford](#)

[George Mason University](#)

[Mitchell Hamline School of Law](#)

[Art Institute of Chicago](#)

[Michigan State University](#)

[Middlebury](#)

[NYU](#)

[UC Davis](#)

[Columbia](#)



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