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Gibson Dunn, ADL Debut National Pro Bono Network to Combat Antisemitism

By Dan Roe

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What You Need to Know

- Gibson Dunn has partnered with the ADL and more than 40 large law firms to launch a national pro bono legal network to respond to antisemitic incidents.
- Reports will be made via an app, and users can expect to hear from an attorney within 24 hours.
- The effort follows a hotline created by Gibson Dunn, the ADL and others to address campus antisemitism in 2023.

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher has partnered with the Anti-Defamation League to launch a national pro bono network aimed at combating incidents of antisemitism wherever they occur, the law firm announced Wednesday.

The ADL Legal Action Network includes more than 40 large law firms across the country that have agreed to receive client referrals or support clients as co-counsel.

The network builds on the Campus Antisemitism Legal Line, or CALL—a partnership between Gibson Dunn, the ADL, Hillel International, and the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law—which has received almost 1,000 reports of antisemitism on campus since launching in November 2023.



Courtesy photo

“We would get complaints outside of the university context, and it was frustrating because we didn’t have a system ready for K-12 or just folks on the street or otherwise because our focus was on universities,” said partner Orin Snyder.

Amid a national uptick in antisemitism, the ADL Legal Action Network will provide victims of antisemitic incidents with access to attorneys through an app, Snyder said. From there, an artificial intelligence-powered system managed by the ADL will assign reports to members of a six-firm steering committee composed of Covington & Burling; Cooley; Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer; Morgan, Lewis & Bockius; and Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein.

Lawyers at steering committee firms will respond within 24 hours of a report's filing, Snyder said, to conduct in-depth interviews and compile incident summaries. The steering committee firms will meet on a weekly or biweekly basis to decide how to proceed. "That could include a referral to law enforcement, follow-up discussions and calls with the individual, or a referral to a firm in the network who's best suited to handle the case from a geographic and subject matter expertise perspective," Snyder said.

The ADL identified nearly 10,000 anti-Jewish incidents in the U.S. in 2024, per a Gibson Dunn press release, which also cited FBI hate crime data indicating that Jews are victims of more than 70% of religiously motivated hate crimes.

The network seeks to support Jewish Americans following antisemitic incidents, including harassment, physical harm, prevention of religious exercise and others. It may also target "antisemitic extremist organizations or individuals," as well as discriminatory employment or business practices, per the release.

Not all reports are expected to be actionable, said Gibson Dunn partner and pro bono chair Katie Marquart. But as the firm learned through CALL (which is being folded into the new network), those interactions can also be valuable. "Sometimes all we can say is, 'I'm so incredibly sorry that happened to you. It's probably not an actionable incident, but that doesn't make it OK,'" Marquart said. "I think even that is a really valuable service to this country and the people who are being subject to antisemitic incidents."

The list of participating firms includes four of the nine law firms—Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom; Latham & Watkins; Milbank; and Willkie Farr & Gallagher—that made deals

with the Trump administration to complete pro bono work in causes of mutual agreement, including combating antisemitism.

Participating law firms include:

- Akerman
- Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld
- Alston & Bird
- Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer
- Barrasso Usdin Kupperman
Freeman & Sarver
- Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan & Aronoff
- Bernstein, Shur, Sawyer & Nelson
- Chiesa Shahnian & Giantomasi
- Cooley
- Covington & Burling
- Crowell & Moring
- Duane Morris
- Fraser Stryker
- Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson
- Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher
- Goulston & Storrs
- Greenberg Traurig
- Jones Day
- Katten Muchin Rosenman
- Latham & Watkins
- Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein
- Mayer Brown
- McDermott Will & Schulte
- Milbank
- Morgan, Lewis & Bockius
- Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough
- Nixon Peabody
- Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler
- Reed Smith
- Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom
- Sullivan & Cromwell
- Vinson & Elkins
- Willkie Farr & Gallagher