



A public education and mobilization campaign

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Leonard Leo's Dark Money Is Bankrolling Project 2025

Investigation Shows Leo Links to 60 of 80 Project 2025 Advisors

New York – A detailed financial investigation of the groups behind Project 2025, the conservative party's 877-page 'Mandate for Leadership' blueprint to reshape America, reveals the shadow kingmaker role being played by Leonard Leo, the wealthy neo-conservative Catholic lawyer who is credited with putting six conservative justices on the US Supreme Court.

Armed with a \$1.6 billion slush fund Leo was given by Chicago industrialist Barre Seid in 2022, Leo has moved quickly to fund a tight knit, overlapping network of nonprofits run by close friends, Christian Right activists, and strategic allies, including GOP lawyers at The Heritage Foundation, the Federalist Society, Congress, and, unexpectedly, members of the Catholic sect Opus Dei, including ex-Trump officials. A close look at their activities reveals how the money is bankrolling critical GOP fights and campaigns now against "wokeism," federal agencies, abortion, LGBTQ equality, DEI initiatives, climate protections, the media -- while blurring the lines separating church and state, and promoting Christian over secular public education.

The investigation into Leo's links to Project 2025 was done by longtime journalist and author Anne-christine d'Adesky, Founder of the **Stop The Coup 2025** campaign, a nonpartisan public education and mobilization campaign. It launched last November to call urgent attention to Project 2025's threat to America's democracy.

The report is available at www.stopthecoup2025.org. It details Leo's financial links to sixty nonprofits, including key leadership, funding, partnerships, and activities, as related to Project 2025's agenda. It consolidates years of reporting on Leo and the Christian Right by media and right-wing watchdogs, while presenting the unfolding big picture. **The results are startling.**

"While The Heritage Foundation is the official face of Project 2025, Leonard Leo is the shadow king who's using his dark money and connections to fund and organize the extremist wing of the conservative movement," said d'Adesky. "Project 2025 is very much Leo's world. His network is weaponizing religion for political gain, and seeding hate to divide America, while focusing on key court battles that seed the legal ground for Project 2025. While Project 2025 represents a roadmap for autocracy – a future theocracy -- it's definitely a *Leocracy*."

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