

Equal Justice

10 Columbus Circle
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Equal Justice is a quarterly publication of the **NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.** It is mailed to contributors and friends of the Fund, and to the media.

Since its inception in 1939, the Legal Defense Fund has been the principal legal arsenal of the civil rights movement and of the poor.

It works to secure true racial equality and constitutional freedoms for all Americans. LDF represents members of civil rights groups as well as those unaffiliated with any group.

Though it retains the initials for traditional reasons, the Fund became independent of the parent NAACP in the 1950's. It had always enjoyed its own staff, budget, board of directors, and policies.

The Legal Defense Fund maintains a current docket of approximately 1,200 cases, distributed among its New York and San Francisco headquarters legal staff of 25 lawyers and some 400 cooperating attorneys in 30-odd states around the country.

Frederick Koyle Director of Public Information

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Was LDF Ellsburgled?

LDF lawyers returning to their offices at 10 Columbus Circle in New York after the Labor Day weekend, 1971, were surprised and disturbed to find that the suite had been broken into over the weekend. *4:56 SEP*

What they didn't know was that earlier that weekend two of the subsequently convicted Watergate conspirators, G. Gordon Liddy and E. Howard Hunt, had disembarked from a jet in New York after having reportedly masterminded the burglary of the offices of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist in California. *

"The burglary was a very strange one at the time," Jack Greenberg, Director-Counsel of LDF, said recently. "We didn't understand what it was all about. Nothing was stolen, but some files were broken into."

The Fund was then involved in the defenses of Black Panther leader Bobby Seale, in the contempt aspect of his Chicago conspiracy trial, and Earl Caldwell, the New York Times reporter who resisted subpoenas issued by a San Francisco grand jury investigating the Panthers.

During the Watergate inquiries before the Ervin Committee, testimony alleged that Bernard L. Barker, Eugenio Martinez, and Felipe De-Diego had burglarized the Beverly Hills offices of Dr. Lewis Fielding, Ellsberg's psychiatrist. One day later, the trio were said to have flown to New York. With them went Hunt and Liddy, reportedly under assumed names.

On May 2 of this year, Greenberg wrote to U.S. Attorney Earl J. Silbert, who was presenting the Watergate evidence to a grand jury in Washington, to Ervin Committee majority counsel Samuel Dash, and to Dade County (Florida) State Attorney Richard E. Gerstein, for assistance in investigating possible links between the Watergate figures and the LDF break-in.

* Night of 3-4 Sep 71 (MIT 4 May 73)