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Legal

OVERVIEW

Through development of litigation strategy and legal policy analysis, Surfrider Foundation's Legal Department is focused on furthering Surfrider's mission of protection and enjoyment of the world's oceans, waves and beaches for all people. Through the combined efforts of volunteer attorneys, legal interns, the Legal Issues Committee of the Board of Directors and staff attorneys, Surfrider Legal is engaged in the following activities:

- Litigation Management and Strategy Development
- Chapter Legal Assistance
- Legislative Strategy Development and Advocacy Efforts
- General Counsel Duties

LEGAL ISSUES TEAM (LIT)

The role of the Legal Issues Team (LIT) is to provide pro-bono services to the Chapters and Surfrider Foundation as a whole (through the global headquarters) on a case-by-case, issue-by-issue basis. LIT participants are talented and accredited attorneys from various geographic locations, representing a vast range of legal expertise. The list of volunteer attorneys is maintained in the LIT database. The LIT is managed and directed by the Managing Attorney and the Legal Issues Committee of the Board of Directors.

To join our LIT, just send your resume and short note of interest to Angela Howe at ahowe@surfrider.org.

LEGAL VICTORIES

Other legal victories are listed on the "Victories" page.

1995 - The Surfrider Foundation settled a lawsuit against the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC), which stipulated that IBWC research the feasibility of using environmentally sensitive ponding systems rather than chemical wastewater treatment for the Mexico-California border area.

2006 - The Surfrider Foundation won a lawsuit over blocked beach access points in Ponte Vedra, Florida where the number of beach access sites is adequate, but their use was severely limited by a lack of nearby parking spots.

2009 - On March 3, 2009, Surfrider Foundation, by and through the Palm Beach County Chapter, set precedent to reform beach management practices, not only within the state of Florida, but throughout the nation. After an in-depth trial that lasted several, Administrative Law Judge Robert E. Meale ruled in favor of Plaintiff Surfrider Foundation and denied the town of Palm Beach a Joint Coastal Permit for the REACH 8 beach fill project because of the potential to harm environmental and recreational resources.