CIR has sought to ban affirmative action legislation, including California’s Proposition 209. Its funding network filed amicus briefs in favor of the plaintiffs. Groups that receive either direct funding from Koch entities or are linked to the brothers’ political causes. They have announced they intend to spend $900 million on the 2016 elections.

The decline of union membership has mirrored exactly the division of the middle class. Strong unions mean a strong middle class, which means a stronger economy.

WHAT IS FAIR SHARE?

Fair Share is about the right of working people to have a voice in the workplace. It is about workers having a fair shot at security, quality of life and opportunity. It is about all workers enjoying the rights and protections that the union negotiates, it is only fair that all workers have to contribute to the costs of representation they receive.

WHAT IS FAIR SHARE? A FAIR SALARY THAT SUPPORTS A FAIR LIFE

WHO IS SPEAKING UP FOR WORKING FAMILIES?

The brothers are associated with the American Legislative Exchange Council, which has pushed for right to work for less laws (more accurately “right to work for less”) and other anti-worker legislation.

STATE AND LOCAL GOVT. & STATE GOVT. SCHOLARS & UNIONS

WHAT IS FAIR SHARE?

Working people have been on the receiving end of a vicious assault in recent years by right-wing think tanks, conservative law firms, and the Koch brothers. Groups like the Center for Individual Rights, Libertacia Foundation, a major force behind the National Right to Work Legal Defense Fund, Friedrichs, and the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation have spent millions to undermine the strength of labor in America.

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Why Is This Case Important?

Collective bargaining is a treasure worth protecting. Our Constitution and our laws guarantee the right of workers to organize, negotiate, and bargain collectively for better wages and benefits that can sustain their family and community.

A rich history of court decisions and legal arguments supports the idea that collective bargaining is a fundamental right. In 1939, the Supreme Court held in National Labor Relations Board v. Jones & Laughlin Steel Corporation that the workers' right to engage in collective bargaining is a constitutional right protected by the First Amendment. The Court explained that workers have a “fundamental interest” in ensuring they receive “the fruits of their labor.” The right to engage in collective bargaining is a right “essential to the support of the democratic form of government.”

In subsequent cases, the Court has reaffirmed workers’ right to engage in collective bargaining, and has consistently ruled that this right is protected by the First Amendment.

The decline of union membership has diminished much-needed protections for the rights of working people. Strong unions mean a strong middle class, which means a strong economy.

What Are the Impacts of This Case?

The fate of the nation’s largest and most effective labor movement is at stake. Board members and union leaders are fighting to protect the right of workers to negotiate for a fair salary that ensures employees can support their families, retire with dignity, and have the time and resources to care for their loved ones.

Strong unions mean a strong middle class, which means a strong economy. Strong unions means that our nation’s largest, most productive workers can make ends meet and save for retirement. Strong unions mean a strong middle class is more likely to buy cars, create new businesses, and pay their mortgages. Strong unions mean a strong middle class can take the risks of innovation and entrepreneurship.

Strong unions mean every worker can count on a solid paycheck and job security, which means a strong middle class. Strong unions mean workers can take pride in their jobs and the products they make, which means a strong middle class.

The rights of working people have come under attack many times over the last century. The ACLU and other civil rights organizations have fought to protect the rights of workers to organize, negotiate, and bargain collectively for better wages and benefits. We have prevailed in court after court after court.

Strong unions mean a strong middle class, which means a strong economy.
Fridovich v. CTA and the Case for Fair Share

THE ISSUE

The case raises complex questions about the nexus of political power and judicial appointment in the Supreme Court. At the center of the case is the issue of fair share fees and their impact on public sector unions. The case has far-reaching implications for the future of public sector labor relations and the balance of power in American politics.

WHAT IS FAIR SHARE?

Fair share fees, also known as representation fees, are required by law for public sector union members in 21 states and the District of Columbia. These fees are used to support union activities and are deducted from the paychecks of all union members, regardless of whether they are union supporters or not.

WHAT ARE THE FACTS?

The Center for Individual Rights (CIR) is a Washington, D.C.-based public interest law firm that seeks to advance constitutional, legal, and policy reform. CIR has filed more than 200 cases in federal and state courts.

THE TIMELINE

2016

On Jan. 11, 2016, the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the case.

2016

Awaiting the Decision

The Supreme Court is expected to issue its ruling in the case by the end of June 2016.

WHY IS THIS CASE IMPORTANT?

The case is significant because it touches on the very issue of whether the First Amendment protects public sector workers from being compelled to join or support a union against their will. The outcome of the case could have far-reaching implications for the future of public sector labor relations and the balance of power in American politics.

WHO IS SPEAKING UP FOR WORKING FAMILIES?

With you and our partners, we are a potent force to defend our schools and our students, and to negotiate for better public services — smaller class sizes, quicker response times in emergencies, and better staffing for schools — and more robust protections.

ROBERT REICH

E Pluribus Unum

The decline of union membership has meant not only a loss of good jobs for working people, but also a loss of voice for students and educators in the country that has helped to give our children a solid foundation for a better future.

$5,971

Average annual cost that public employees who don't want to belong to a union must pay to support union activities.

The Facts

No one is required to join a union, and no one is required to pay any fees that go to political candidates.

By law, unions must represent and bargain for every worker, whether they join the union or not.

25

States that allow “fair share” fees (also called union security or “right to work”) for non-members.

AARON HALL

E Pluribus Unum

The right of working people to have a voice over what matters to them and to safeguard the common good is fundamental to our American way of life. The federal Constitution is one of the strongest and most successful instruments ever created for protecting individual liberty while safeguarding the common good. With our civic partners, we are determined to defend our narrative, our values and our way of life.

E Pluribus Unum

This case is about a basic principle and a basic right: the right of every worker to have a voice in the workplace. The Supreme Court should reject this attempt by wealthy special interests in the Forbes case to make it even harder for working people to come together, bargain for a fair contract, and get ahead. It is a basic concept of fairness that everyone has access to the American Dream and a fair shot at success in this country.

LEGAL SCHOLARS & UNIONS

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