

## What is the Rule of Law?

The rule of law is a durable system of laws, institutions, norms, and community commitment that delivers:

### ACCOUNTABILITY

The government as well as private actors are accountable under the law.

### JUST LAW

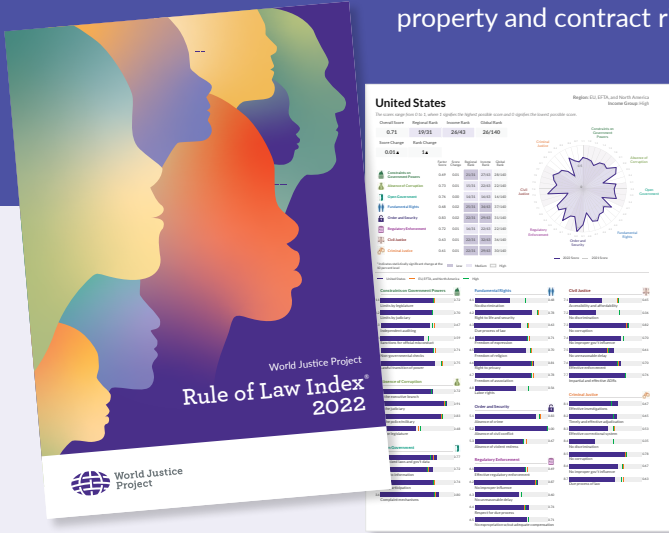
The law is clear, publicized, and stable and is applied evenly. It ensures human and procedural rights as well as property and contract rights.

### OPEN GOVERNMENT

The processes by which the law is adopted, administered, adjudicated, and enforced are accessible, fair, and efficient.

### ACCESSIBLE AND IMPARTIAL JUSTICE

Justice is delivered timely by competent, ethical, and independent representatives and neutrals who are accessible, have adequate resources, and reflect the makeup of the communities they serve.



## World Justice Project Rule of Law Index®

- › Measures rule of law in 140 countries and jurisdictions.
- › Draws on surveys of 154,000+ households and 3,600+ experts.
- › Captures people's experiences and perceptions.

## Rule of Law in the United States

### KEY AREAS OF CONCERN

Out of 140 countries, the United States ranks...

- 103<sup>rd</sup>** for absence of discrimination
- 106<sup>th</sup>** for impartiality of the criminal justice system
- 115<sup>th</sup>** for accessibility and affordability of civil justice
- 121<sup>st</sup>** for absence of discrimination in civil justice

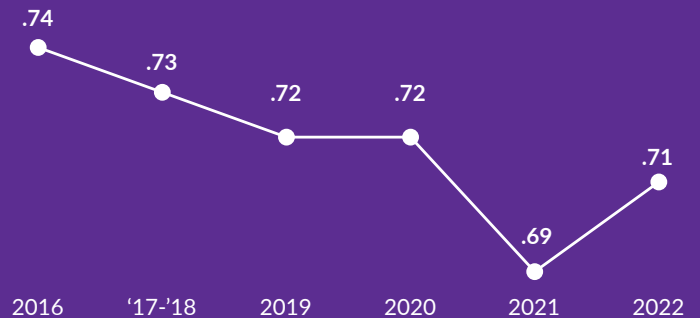
### DECLINES IN THE U.S. RULE OF LAW SINCE 2016

- Factor 1: Limits on Government Powers** ↓ **15%**
- Factor 4: Fundamental Rights** ↓ **9%**
- Factor 8: Effective Criminal Justice** ↓ **10%**

### OVERALL RANKING: 26<sup>th</sup> OUT OF 140



### U.S. RULE OF LAW SCORE 2016-2022



Sign Up to Receive the **U.S. Rule of Law Toolkit** and Updates

<http://eepurl.com/ivnyuc>



## Actions and resources for bar leaders and lawyers

**Engage bar members about rule of law challenges in the U.S. and their professional responsibility to uphold the rule of law and advance the quality of justice**

**Conduct outreach to wider audiences via social media, bar leader communications, and potential collaboration with civic and cultural institutions (libraries, theaters, and museums)**

**Identify rule of law priorities in your region by assessing the local dimensions of the Rule of Law Index, which could be issues such as:**

- › Access to justice
- › Election integrity and voting rights
- › Trust in government institutions, especially fair and impartial courts
- › Discrimination in the civil and criminal justice systems

**Take action to address specific rule of law issues, such as:**

- › Create a task force of bar and judicial leaders to issue recommendations
- › Expand legal aid efforts for low-income individuals
- › Engage public and private sector leaders in promoting public understanding of the justice system and the importance of the rule of law
- › Collaborate with community groups to address rule of law gaps through policy reform
- › Partner with law schools on education and action

### Resources

- › **NEW RESOURCE** – Sign up to receive WJP Toolkit for rule of law outreach and programming <http://eepurl.com/ivnyuc> (or scan QR code)
- › **Non-partisan election monitoring** – Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights coalition [bit.ly/3q07uce](http://bit.ly/3q07uce); The Carter Center [bit.ly/3OjAipM](http://bit.ly/3OjAipM)
- › **Access to justice** – Consult your state’s Access to Justice Commission [bit.ly/44wZZsk](http://bit.ly/44wZZsk); ABA Resource Center for Access to Justice Initiatives [bit.ly/3Q0MFrJ](http://bit.ly/3Q0MFrJ)
- › **Fair and impartial courts** – Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts (constitutional resources and videos) [bit.ly/3rsYi0t](http://bit.ly/3rsYi0t); National Constitution Center [bit.ly/44LSIEJ](http://bit.ly/44LSIEJ)
- › **Civics education in schools and beyond** – Street Law (rule of law curriculum) [bit.ly/3ryD819](http://bit.ly/3ryD819); U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation (The Civic Trust) [bit.ly/46P2Y0R](http://bit.ly/46P2Y0R)
- › **Civility and bridging division** – ABA Cornerstones of Democracy [bit.ly/44qqYpu](http://bit.ly/44qqYpu); OSU Moritz College of Law Divided Community Project [bit.ly/3Q0ut1J](http://bit.ly/3Q0ut1J)



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