

BRENNAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE – NEW YORK

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Reform the Insurrection Act

This week, the Brennan Center submitted a proposal to the January 6 committee on ways to reform the Insurrection Act, which allows the president to deploy the military domestically to quell civil unrest or enforce the law in a crisis.

The dangerously vague and outdated law is ripe for abuse by a future president. Congress must update the law so that it guards against power grabs while preserving the ability to deploy troops in a **true crisis**.

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What's Behind the SCOTUS Legitimacy Crisis

Major decisions last term have given the public ample reason to think that the Supreme Court is not saying what the law is, but rather what the majority of justices simply prefer it to be.

An assessment of the recent overreach, unexplained orders, and ethical lapses clearly shows a legitimacy crisis of the Court's own making.

If the institution is to regain public trust, the justices must prove willing to uphold the law **without serving their personal preferences**.

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A Missed Opportunity for Fresh Starts in New York

For the second time, New York's legislature has failed to pass the Clean Slate Act, which would automatically seal old criminal records.

The bill would remove barriers to housing, employment, and education for New Yorkers whose lives remain affected by convictions long after serving their sentences, and it would provide a significant boost to the state's economy.

With as many as 1.4 million people poised to benefit directly – not to mention society at large – lawmakers should make it a **priority to pass the bill next year**.

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