

The Liberator



WHERE THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS, THERE IS LIBERTY. 2 COR 3:17



FIGHTING FOR LIBERTY, LIFE, AND FAMILY

Mat Staver

SPLC: A Dangerous Threat to Freedom

The Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) is targeting Christian, pro-family, and conservative people and groups with the objective to “completely destroy” them. The SPLC has its sights on Liberty Counsel. SPLC’s president recently said that “[Values voters] are people and groups who harbor extreme beliefs that are antithetical to the very foundations of our democracy.”

The SPLC is coming after Liberty Counsel and other groups with the goal to destroy us. Because we believe marriage is between one man and one woman and support Judeo-Christian values regarding human sexuality, the SPLC labels Liberty Counsel as a “hate group.” This label is false, defamatory, and dangerous. We know for a fact that some have used the SPLC list to attempt mass murder against pro-family groups. The SPLC rhetoric has created a volatile situation that puts the lives of innocent people at risk.

The SPLC jumped into a frivolous lawsuit and now serves as as lead counsel representing lesbian activist Janet Jenkins against Lisa Miller and Liberty Counsel. Liberty Counsel represented Lisa Miller until she disappeared in 2009 with her daughter, Isabella. Despite having no evidence, the SPLC alleges Liberty Counsel was responsible for Lisa’s fleeing the country. Of course, this is false. But the SPLC is flush with money and wants to distract us from our mission. This will not happen!

Liberty Counsel is leading a coalition of groups to implement a strategic offensive

to fight back. But these efforts will require much prayer and funding.

It is no surprise that George Soros is funneling billions of dollars into his radical "Open Society" foundation that serves as the backbone for his far-left ideological crusade. Soros' group has already committed \$10 million to fight so-called "hate groups" while openly citing the work of the SPLC. Armed with \$18 billion in new funding, we expect Soros to greatly expand its involvement in the SPLC-led "fake hate" crusade that is gaining momentum about certain major media and tech and social media companies.

This battle is a direct attack on every person who hold Judeo-Christian values on life, marriage, human sexuality, and liberty.

Fighting for Life

Planned Parenthood: Baby Body Parts

Our fight against Planned Parenthood (PP) and the death culture is more intense than ever. Since the horrible 1973 abortion decision in Roe v. Wade, an estimated 60 million children have been brutally killed by abortion. Any abortion is wrong, but many of those abortions took place after

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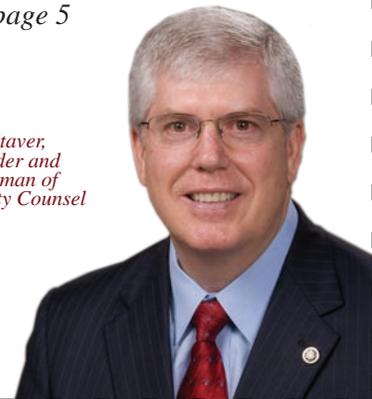
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*Mat Staver,
Founder and
Chairman of
Liberty Counsel*



ADVANCING RELIGIOUS LIBERTY, LIFE, AND FAMILY

This list below is a mere sample of the many cases we have handled in 2017.

Religious Freedom

Continued our federal suit on behalf of Tom Parker, Associate Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court, challenging several speech-restrictive provisions in the Alabama Canons of Judicial Ethics and the automatic removal provision in Alabama's Constitution. The Court of Appeals and the lower District Court issued major favorable opinions. The case is set up for the final victory in 2018. The radical Southern Poverty Law Center unsuccessfully tried to remove Justice Parker from the bench, but now this case is on the verge of setting a major precedent for Justice Parker, who recently declared his candidacy for the Chief Justice seat.

Defended Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore, who was unlawfully suspended from the bench for the rest of his term ending in January 2019. In a travesty of justice, the court ruled against Chief Justice Moore, but with that door closed another door opened.

Won a victory on behalf of Rowan County, Kentucky Clerk Kim Davis against the ACLU in which the court ruled that neither Kim Davis nor Rowan County are liable for attorney's fees over the marriage license issue that began in 2015. The Kentucky legislature passed a law in 2016 to accommodate Kim Davis and other clerks to protect their religious freedom.

Accompanied Kim Davis to Romania on a nine-day speaking tour to discuss the impact of same-sex "marriage" on religious liberty and freedom of conscience. Kim and Harry Mihet, our Vice President of Legal Affairs, who was born in Romania and lived through the revolution in 1989, met with high-ranking religious leaders and spoke to tens of thousands of people. Over three million Romanians signed a referendum affirming natural marriage.

Defending ninth-grade students in a Tampa public school where the pro-LGBT teacher bullied them by removing their small cross necklaces, placing rainbow stickers on their books, displaying a large button that read, "I Love My LGBT Students," and punishing those who objected.

Won an appeal on behalf of North Carolina Magistrates who can now opt out of marriage licenses or ceremonies for same-sex couples. The court of appeals dismissed the challenge to the religious liberty accommodation law.

Provided testimony in the Pennsylvania legislature, Massachusetts, and many other state and local governments against proposed LGBT laws that would restrict religious freedom.

Filed an amicus brief on behalf of Little Sisters of the Poor's legal challenge to the ObamaCare requirement that religious organizations must provide contraceptive and abortion-inducing drugs and devices at no cost to the employees. The Trump administration dismantled ObamaCare and overturned this egregious mandate.

Won a similar challenge against the ObamaCare contraception and abortion drug mandate on behalf of Ave Maria School of Law.

Successfully represented Child Evangelism Fellowship and the Good News Clubs in many school districts throughout the country (including Hawaii) regarding equal access and equal treatment for the after school Christian clubs.

Won major court cases on behalf of Child Evangelism Fellowship in Indiana and Ohio to secure the same access and benefits for the Good News Clubs that non-religious groups enjoy.

Filed an amicus brief in the Supreme Court to end discrimination against churches. The Court ruled that Trinity Lutheran Church could not be excluded from a public grant program to benefit children.

Continued to defend Levy County, Florida, where an atheist group claims that the Ten Commandments next to the county courthouse violates the Establishment Clause.

Provided legal counsel to many school districts and local government bodies regarding prayer to open the public meetings.

Provided legal counsel to many school districts about the Obama LGBT directive seeking to force K-12 schools to impose a "gender identity" ideology on the students. We continue to work with school districts after President Trump overturned this lawless directive.

Successfully represented the Zavala family and their seven-year old son in California regarding the elementary school banning their child from sharing Bible verses and encouraging notes with classmates during non-instructional time, including during lunch time.

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Successfully defended Pastor Scott Lively in a case filed by Sexual Minorities Uganda (SMUG) and financed by George Soros in which SMUG tried to silence and impose financial penalties against Lively for speech about homosexuality in Uganda in 2002 and 2009.

Continue to lead a large coalition of legal and policy groups to fight back against the SPLC “hate group” label.

Provided consultation to Prager University (PragerU) in its federal lawsuit against Google and YouTube for censoring its educational videos. The suit charges that YouTube (which is owned by Google) “use their restricted mode filtering . . . as a political gag mechanism to silence PragerU.”

Won a legal fee judgment against the owner of a strip club in St. Helena Parish, Louisiana, for our defense of Pastor Richard Sandberg regarding a frivolous suit brought by club owner to silence him.

Represented Camp Constitution in a discrimination case against the City of Boston regarding the city’s censorship of Christian viewpoints on an open public form at the Boston City Hall Plaza.

Filed an amicus brief to the Supreme Court in support of Jack Phillips, the owner of Masterpiece Cakeshop in Colorado, who is being forced to use his artistic talents to create a wedding cake celebrating a same-sex ceremony.

Successfully represented Fort Benning Army Base military members and private contractors demanding compliance to provide religious accommodation and exemption from so-called “transgender” directives.

Sanctity of Human Life

Defending crisis pregnancy centers in California regarding a law that forces them to post notices that provide information for low cost options for abortion. The Supreme Court has now decided the matter with a decision expected by the end of June 2018.

Continued defense of Sandra “Susan” Merritt against the pro-abortion California Attorney General, who filed 15 felony charges because of her undercover videos that revealed Planned Parenthood harvesting baby body parts.

Continued to defend a pro-life sidewalk counselor against a lawsuit by the New York Attorney General designed to shut down the pro-life speech of Christians who counsel and pray on public sidewalks outside a Planned Parenthood abortion facility in Jamaica, NY.

Filed an amicus brief on behalf of Little Sisters of the Poor’s legal challenge to the ObamaCare requirement that religious organizations must provide contraceptive and abortion-inducing drugs and devices at no cost to the employees. The Trump administration dismantled ObamaCare and overturned this egregious mandate.

Won a similar challenge against the ObamaCare

contraception and abortion drug mandate on behalf of Ave Maria School of Law.

Continue to defend a pro-life advocate for peaceful speech for unborn children outside a Planned Parenthood abortion clinic in between an elementary and a middle school in Washington, D.C.

Won a major federal appeal ruling against the city of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, because its ordinance created unconstitutional buffer zones on public sidewalks and property in order to keep pro-lifers away from women nearing the clinic.

Successfully defended Carmel Teens for Life in Indiana when the student club’s pro-adoption poster was ripped from the approved location by school officials and thrown away. The School District reversed its censorship and allowed the poster to be displayed. The president of the club then testified at the Indiana legislature in support of a religious freedom and speech bill protecting students, which later passed and was signed into law.

Continue to work through our Washington office with the administration and Congress to provide resources for laws and policies that protect the pre-born and stop state and federal funding of abortion.

The Family

Partnered with a coalition of many nonprofits and sent an open letter to the media warning that the SPLC list of so-called “hate groups” is false and dangerous. Leading a coalition of legal and policy groups to fight back against the SPLC defamatory and dangerous “hate group” label.

Filed suit against GuideStar over the false and defamatory “hate group” label.

Successfully demanded that Norton Security Software, the anti-virus company owned by Symantec (which also owns LifeLock), unblock the Liberty Counsel website. The website was unblocked and Norton’s independent review concluded it is not a hate site.

Continued to challenge the School Board of Fairfax County, Virginia, for illegally changing its nondiscrimination policy and adding “sexual orientation” and “gender identity.”

Helped defeat proposed laws in several states and local governments that sought to ban counselors and pastors from providing counsel to clients seeking to overcome unwanted same-sex attractions, behavior, and identity.

Filed suit against a Tampa ordinance that bans counselors from providing and clients from receiving counsel to reduce and overcome unwanted same-sex attractions, identity, and behavior.

Involved in more than half of the states supporting religious freedom laws and opposing radical and dangerous LGBT “gender identity” laws.

Provided testimony and legal opinions before numerous states, school boards, and local government bodies opposing “gender identity” and so-called “bathroom” laws.

Filed a brief on behalf of the Gloucester County School Board in Virginia regarding an ACLU suit demanding a girl who wants to “identify” as a boy should be able to use the boy’s restroom. The U.S. Supreme Court blocked the federal court of appeals decision, and the case was dismissed since the plaintiff graduated.

Provided model language to churches to protect their programs from LGBT challenges regarding use of facilities, staffing, school operations, weddings, and community programs.

Filed a brief in the High Court of Romania opposing same-sex marriage in which the court sided with our arguments. Harry Mihet, our Vice President of Legal Affairs, along with Kim Davis, rallied Romanians and met with high ranking officials for 9-days providing assistance to the marriage ballot initiative signed by over three million Romanians to affirm natural marriage.

Filed a comprehensive response in federal court to the lawsuit backed by the Southern Poverty Law Center in the case of Jenkins v. Miller, et al. While living in Virginia, Lisa Miller and Janet Jenkins entered a Vermont civil union. Lisa gave birth to her biological child, Isabella. Lisa became a Christian and left the lesbian relationship. A visitation battle ensued between the laws of Vermont (which recognized the civil union) and Virginia (which did not). Liberty Counsel represented Lisa from late 2004 until she disappeared in September 2009. The court dismissed Mat Staver from the suit but not Liberty Counsel. That portion of the case is on appeal.

Successfully represented soldiers and private contractors at Ft. Benning who sought a religious exemption from the “transgender” policy imposed by the Obama administration.

Other Activities

Supported Neil Gorsuch’s nomination to the U.S. Supreme Court filling the seat of the late Justice Antonin Scalia.

Launched the third year of Covenant Journey experiential tours of Israel for Christian college-age students who have leadership potential. Students from over 230 colleges and universities have participated, including Christian, private, public and Ivy League schools. Trips included January, May, June, July, and August.

Launched the original 13-episode TV series, *Why Israel Matters – Past, Present and Forever*; that began airing on TBN in February 2017. It became one of the top viewed action programs on TBN and was re-aired through the summer. To view past episodes, visit CIDIsrael.org/Israel.

Appeared as a guest on Trinity Broadcasting Network’s Praise program, hosted by Matt and Laurie Crouch, to

discuss Israel and Liberty Counsel’s 13-part original series, *Why Israel Matters*.

Released the new 240-page full color book called *Why Israel Matters*. Visit CIDIsrael.org/Israel to order a copy of this beautiful and informative book.

Released the new *Covenant Journal* book that provides informative information about the Biblical sites in Israel. Visit the online stores at CIDIsrael.org or LC.org to order a copy.

Hosted the Liberty Ambassador Counsel VIP Tour of Israel October 2-11, 2017, during the Feast of Tabernacles and the 50th year of the unification of Jerusalem, the 70th year since the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, and the 95th anniversary of the League of Nations Mandate providing legal ownership of the land to Israel.

Celebrated Israel’s Independence Day at the White House, where Vice President Mike Pence spoke. This is the first time in history the White House honored Israel’s Independence Day.

Attended Jerusalem’s 50th Anniversary Commemoration in the U.S. Capitol Building, where Speaker Paul Ryan, U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman, Israeli Ambassador to the U.S. Ron Dermer, and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke during the historic event.

Met with Vice President Mike Pence at the White House to discuss the repeal of ObamaCare and defunding Planned Parenthood.

Attended the Christian Solidarity with Israel event at the Israeli Embassy in Washington, DC.

Supported persecuted Christians by providing humanitarian relief, shelter, training and Bibles through our ministry, Liberty Relief International. Also supported humanitarian relief efforts for those affected by the hurricanes. www.LibertyReliefInternational.org.

Hosted 13 interns in Florida, Virginia, Washington, D.C., and Israel from Liberty University Law School, Liberty University, Antonin Scalia Law School, John Hopkins University, Taylor University, and Southeastern University.

Launched the fifteenth annual “Friend or Foe” Graduation Prayer Campaign to protect religious viewpoints at graduation.

Launched the fifteenth annual “Friend or Foe” Christmas Campaign to protect religious viewpoints during the Christmas season.

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20 weeks gestation, when a preborn child has pain receptors and reacts to external stimuli by recoiling and emitting stress hormones. An abortion after twenty weeks gestation is particularly inhumane and barbaric. We must not remain silent in the face of such evil.

Our client, Sandra Merritt, exposed the unspeakable horror that goes on behind the doors of Planned Parenthood's abortion mills. These innocent and helpless children are being harvested for their body parts. StemExpress was one of the companies that procured baby body parts and then this company created a catalogue that listed hearts, lungs, liver, and more. StemExpress ran "specials of the month" just like you would see in a auto parts or home décor catalogue. Trying to silence Sandra Merritt, PP filed a multimillion dollar lawsuit against her in San Francisco. Planned Parenthood argues that Sandra should be responsible for the tens of millions of dollars it lost from state and federal funding due to the undercover videos. We are devoting hundreds and hundreds of hours to defend Sandra.

We also are defending Sandra against 15 felony charges filed by the pro-abortion California Attorney General over these videos. Sandra did not break any laws. Even Cecil Richards, PP's president, admitted under oath before Congress that the videos were made in public places where there was no expectation of privacy.

Fearing even more loss of taxpayer money from the fallout over the videos, PP lobbied to kill the ObamaCare repeal. But PP is not hurting for money. George Soros and his family have contributed millions of dollars to PP's political arm in the past two years, including a recent contribution of \$500,000 from Soros' daughter.

Warren Buffet's philanthropic organization, the Susan Thompson Buffet Foundation, has channeled an incredible sum of money into organizations such as PP, the National Abortion Federation Hotline, the National Network of Abortion Funds, and several international pro-abortion groups. And, PP reports in 2016, it received over \$1.1 billion dollars in revenue and donations, including \$554.6 million in taxpayer dollars.

PP is a wicked organization and will stop at nothing to continue its death culture.

Pro-life Advancements and Opportunities

With so much bad news, there is much to celebrate. Here are a few highlights.

In the Courts -

The U.S. Supreme Court agreed to review the California law that forces crisis pregnancy centers to inform clients about low cost abortion options. The law requires the crisis pregnancy centers to post abortion options at the entrance, in the lobby, on printed material, and online. One of the four cases at the Supreme Court is Liberty Counsel's case. This is a much-celebrated development. A decision will be released by June 2018.

We have several major pro-life cases in court in which we

represent pro-life sidewalk counselors. In Pennsylvania, Planned Parenthood provided a "buffer zone" ordinance to the City of Harrisburg to keep pro-lifers away. The Court of Appeals issued a major decision in our favor, and now we are back in the lower court to remove this buffer zone.

In the Trump Administration and Congress -

President Donald Trump has become the most pro-life President in history. From our office in Washington, we are very involved working to advance life. Here are some highlights:

- Reinstatement of the Mexico City Policy — Trump broadened the scope of the Mexico City Policy to restrict funding to any international health organization that performs or gives information about abortions, expanding the amount of money affected from \$600,000 to nearly \$9 billion
- Defunded the UN Population Fund because it supports, or participates in the management of, a program of coercive abortion or involuntary sterilization.
- Reversed the Obama administration's HHS contraceptive mandate for employers with religious and moral objections.
- Enactment of the Congressional Review Act H.J. Res 43 to allow states the option to prioritize Title X funding away from Planned Parenthood.
- The House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed the Pain-Capable Unborn Child
- Protection Act and delivered it to the Senate for consideration. This bill prohibits abortions after 20 weeks.
- Trump support the repeal of Obamacare and redirecting taxpayer funding from Planned Parenthood to community health centers.

Notable Appointments:

- Confirmed Justice Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court
- Appointments to key positions of pro-life leaders, including: Vice President Mike Pence, Attorney General Jeff Sessions, Cabinet Members Scott Pruitt, Rick Perry, and Dr. Ben Carson, Counselor to the President Kellyanne Conway, and many federal judges.
- Appointed my friend Dr. Charmaine Yoest, assistant secretary of public affairs for HHS.
- Appointed my friend Shannon Royce, to the HHS Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships.
- Appointed Teresa Manning to be the HHS deputy assistant secretary for population affairs.
- Appointed religious liberty defender Roger Severino to head HHS's Office for Civil Rights.
- Appointed Valerie Huber, a longstanding advocate of value-based sex education, as chief of staff to the assistant secretary for HHS.
- Appointed the most pro-life Cabinet in history.

We will not rest until a culture of life returns to America. We must make the womb safe again for precious children. Abortion kills children and destroys mothers. Everyone suffers. Abortion is a direct attack on God who created each person in His image.

KIM DAVIS REVEALS INSIDE STORY



Kim Davis, the Kentucky County Clerk, who went to jail rather than violate her conscience by issuing same-sex “marriage” licenses, tells her story for the first time in a brand-new book from Liberty Counsel. Her behind-the-scenes account, *Under God's Authority*, introduces you to the real Kim Davis — a kind and committed follower of Jesus Christ.

And someone who refused to cave, as others did, under the collective weight of pro-homosexual opposition, the media, Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear, and U.S. District Court Judge David L. Bunning.

Despite threats, mockery and coercion, she stood firm and would not violate her religious conscience by issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples. To do so was, for her, a heaven and hell decision. And having bent her knee to Jesus Christ in 2011, she would not bow to Caesar four years later.

Her stand provoked a collision watched by the world. One that sent her to jail, led to a meeting with Pope Francis, helped elect only the third Republican governor in Kentucky since World War II, and made Kim Davis a household name.

In her easy-to-read memoir, Davis takes you back to the moment her life changed forever in 2011. She discusses her past marriages, the pivotal event that led her to run for county clerk in 2014, and how she knew, shortly after taking office in 2015, that jail was likely in her future. Davis also reveals the shocking moment when Judge David Bunning ordered her to jail, her six days behind bars, and her triumphant release at a rally televised nationwide.

Plus, Kim gives you a moment-by-moment report of her private visit with Pope Francis — an encounter that opened like a spy novel when she took a satellite phone call from a man with a thick, Italian accent.

“It’s a great read, and I heartily recommend it to you,” says Mike Huckabee, in the book’s foreword.

Request *Under God's Authority* today!



YOUR LEGACY GIFT CAN MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE



Over the years since our founding in 1989, Liberty Counsel has relied upon tens of thousands of friends to help us with financial support. We are a faith-based ministry.

Every day, we trust God anew for the resources to continue our vital mission. By including us in your estate planning, you can leave a lasting legacy that will impact many lives, supply significant tax benefits and current income for a term or for life, and help Liberty Counsel continue the calling to restore our culture by advancing religious freedom, the sanctity of human life, and the family.

Planned Gifts

- Simple Bequests
- Charitable Trusts
- Annuities

“Every generation must yearn for liberty and fight to preserve it!” — Mat Staver

For more information on how to make a legacy gift to Liberty Counsel, contact Liberty Counsel’s Office of Constituency Affairs at 800-671-1776 or email Liberty@LC.org

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