

**SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL POLICE: *AND KEEP THEM INDEPENDENT!***

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## **TO PROTECT AND SERVE**

SPECIAL REPORT

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**ALSO:** Loyal Americans Targeted by the SPLC



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# SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL POLICE

## AND KEEP THEM INDEPENDENT!

by Arthur R. Thompson  
CEO of The John Birch Society

We are happy to send this special report to you as part of our *Support Your Local Police* campaign. Local police have long been in the frontline of the American justice system, working “To Protect and Serve” their local communities. Our system of local police, responsible to the local citizens, is unique in the world. Most countries have a system of national police whose first loyalty is to the national government.

Our system is one of the cornerstones of liberty.

America is great due to our system of liberty and the fact that our government is more localized and closer to the people, including police authority. In the United States, the power comes from the bottom up, from the people. Elsewhere it is more from the top down, from the bureaucrats, controlling nearly every aspect of the citizens’ lives, work, industry, and law enforcement.

Actually, the United States is one of the last countries, if not the last, to have widespread local police power instead of the types of national systems that exist elsewhere. No country can become totalitarian as long as the local citizens have direct responsibility for and control of local police departments. It is one of our essential checks and balances.

There are those who want to change our American system into something resembling the rest of the world. In the process, they want to remove responsibility from the citizens and the ability of the local police departments to answer to the local citizens through their city government, becoming nothing more than units in a national police force.

The freedom Americans enjoy is impossible without a system of local police. The John Birch Society (JBS) has always understood this concept and for almost 50 years has said: Support Your Local Police — *and Keep Them Independent!*

In the 1960s and into the 1970s, there was a war against the police by a variety of organizations and the national media. The issue was so intense that a former FBI official and chief of police of Salt Lake City, Cleon Skousen, wrote a book, *The Communist Attack on U.S. Police*, detailing the coordinated vicious campaign against law enforcement nationwide.

Police intelligence squads, congressional investigative committees, and The John Birch Society had already come to the same conclusion as Cleon Skousen, that the attack on police emanated from communist cadres and that the goal was a national police force — or, at the minimum, national *control* over local police. This was confirmed by research and documentaries produced by the Western Goals Foundation, which included on its board promi-

nent national security experts such as Adm. Thomas Moorer, Gen. Lewis Walt, Gen. George S. Patton, III, and Congressman John Ashbrook. The foundation was founded and headed by Congressman Larry McDonald, a urologist from Georgia who was also president of The John Birch Society.

A widespread program of violence in the streets was perpetrated by the Left. Part of this program was a systematic strategy of committing acts of violence against the police. When the police would react, the media would take pictures that were then used to make the police look vicious and draconian. This set the stage for the Left’s call for federal control over police departments, as well as leftist-inspired local police review boards.

Review boards were appointed but wielded the power of elected officials. The Left was able to gain appointments on these boards and used them to curtail police activity and call into question the actions of the police departments as well as the individual policemen. It caused a great deal of second-guessing in the field when policemen had to make split-second decisions and lowered police morale overall. The boards usurped the responsibility of not only the city councils, but several other legitimate agencies as well.

Invented invectives were used as semantic weapons to turn the people against the police as part of this campaign. One of the invectives injected into the vernacular of



AP Images

**Keep them local, keep us free:** America's system of local police, responsible to the local citizens, is unique in the world, and is one of our essential checks and balances against tyranny.

the hippie generation was the term “pig,” meaning a police officer. Such terms and attitude among leftist youth organizations worked to separate the police from some elements of the local population, and to create a “them versus us” attitude. While the media did not use these terms, they did nothing to dispel the opinion.

When enough “evidence” was published in the media and enough adverse publicity broadcast, the communists — through their allies and front groups — put pressure on Congress, which led to the establishment of the federal Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA).

Another major assault by the Left was the creation of the aforementioned civilian police review boards at the local level to destroy morale and the effectiveness of the working policemen. This twin assault — by the LEAA and local review boards — amounted to pressure from above and pressure from below.

Nationally, JBS members were finally successful in having the LEAA abolished, and many local civilian police review boards were either stopped before they got started or done away with where they existed. In some cases, the local battles

were heated, and the effort gained huge media coverage. JBS members won the more heated campaigns despite the fact that more often than not the media favored the communist, pro-review board position. The controversy helped expose what was going on, even though the media outlets sought to portray the JBS as the villain.

Meanwhile, The John Birch Society, with its Support Your Local Police committees across the nation, was educating people about this war on the police and who was behind it. This was done with reprints, movies, filmstrips, articles, and speakers’ tours, reaching millions of people. “Support Your Local Police — and Keep Them Independent!” bumper stickers became a popular item.

As a result of the work of local police officials, responsible citizens, and the JBS, the communists retreated. Since then Americans have been convinced by the media that communism is dead, so they have not been as vigilant as to what the Left has been doing. Over the past 20 years, the Left has done all it can behind the scenes to convince people of the need for more of a national police system, as opposed to local control.

In the name of a crisis, change can be made. As a result of bureaucrats wanting more power, there have been several crises that have been used to increase national control over our local police. The two most obvious have been the federal government’s so-called War on Drugs and War on Terror.

In the 1960s and 1970s, the main tactic used at the local level to try to nationalize the police was the establishment of civilian police review boards, which aimed at crippling and demoralizing the police. At the national level, the main attack came from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration.

Today the primary tactic being used to transform our law enforcement is the use of crises to outfit, train, and fund local police by the federal government. There is not now and never has been federal help that did not lead to federal control.

This has happened to local law-enforcement agencies. Local taxes still account for most of the budgets, but federal aid and mandates have usurped control over many of the policies and programs of local police and sheriff’s departments.

Another very dangerous aspect of fed-

eral help today is one of injecting political bias into the training of local police. There is an ongoing campaign to have the natural allies of our local police (ex-military personnel, religiously based citizens, constitutional-conscious political activists, JBS members, etc.) appear to be the enemies of the local police.

This is being accomplished through seminars and publications discussing possible domestic terrorism. While some of the information is sound, too much of it has a political slant that favors the Left and condemns the so-called Right.

The accompanying article details this problem and at first reading will seem incredulous. Keep in mind that there are people who have gone into the federal government who have a different agenda from the average American. These people have been masters at slanting the debate in their favor while appearing to want to help the police.

Part of the training of local police conducted by the federal government and/or leftist private entities has a tendency to drive a wedge between the natural allies within the body of local citizens and the local police. This in the long run will cause a gulf between the local people and their own police force.

You will see in the accompanying article that some of the very people who were the enemies of the local police in the 1970s are now friends of those disseminating information to police departments about potential threats from organizations across the country. Again, some of it is real, but too much of it is what is known as a sandwich smear: placing a legitimate organization or person between two unsavory ones to suggest to the reader that all three are problems.

The drive to nationalize the police is far more subtle than before. From behind the scenes, federal programs are being imposed on the states and local governments via the programs of the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security. In addition, the Obama administration is trying to establish a

national police system by enlarging the U.S. Marshals Service into a “stability police” force. That term itself is ominous.

During President Obama’s campaign, he called for such a force in July 2008, saying: “We cannot continue to rely on our military in order to achieve the national security objectives that we’ve set. We’ve got to have a civilian national security force that’s just as powerful, just as strong, just as well funded.”

There are ample clips of this on YouTube to verify the statement.

We have to not only question the growth of federal police power as a result of the foregoing, but also ask the question why the federal government has not lived up to its responsibility relative to our borders.

Increasing numbers of police have been killed lately partly due to the fact that illegal aliens are creating a problem with drug gangs. Criminal activity due to illegal aliens is high all across the board, making the job of the local police much more difficult. Once here, for all practical purposes, illegal aliens are given *de facto* sanctuary by the policies of the U.S. government. In addition, the bungled Justice Department program known as “Project Gunrunner” — sending guns across our border supposedly to catch drug lords — has been responsible for the deaths of law-enforcement personnel, with some of these guns coming back to our side of the border.

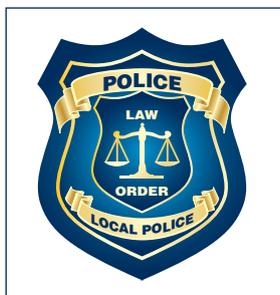
It is bad enough that local police function in a dangerous atmosphere, but to have it compounded by the policies of the federal government is unconscionable. It seems strange that these policies of the federal govern-

ment help create the very problems that the local police have to solve, yet they propose solutions and help to the local police that will ultimately lead to federal control over local police.

Ask yourself why and how it is that there is so much money and help available when what we see is huge deficits in the federal government. Also, mailings are being sent out to police departments all over the country on a regular basis by leftist private organizations. It took a great deal of effort on our part to raise the necessary funds to send this out on a one-time basis. They do it regularly. Where does the money come from?

The following article on the attack against the natural allies of the police is important reading not only for the police, but for all citizens. If the police lose the support of the very people that would normally be behind them, it will only make their job that much more difficult.

We ask all police and citizens to keep an open, but discerning mind as to what is going on. ■



# SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL POLICE

## AND KEEP THEM INDEPENDENT!

Visit JBS.org or call 800-527-8721

**To protect and serve:** The John Birch Society launched its “Support Your Local Police — and Keep Them Independent!” campaign almost 50 years ago to head off the trend toward a nationalized police force and to maintain our constitutional checks and balances on police power.



# PROTECTING RIGHTS

## Loyal Americans Targeted by the SPLC

Law-enforcement agencies rely on the Southern Poverty Law Center to keep them abreast of hate groups, and the SPLC has been using its clout to stigmatize and slander conservatives.

*by William F. Jasper*

“Carol Swain is an apologist for white supremacists.” That was the jarring claim of a front-page article that greeted Dr. Swain in her local paper on October 17, 2009. The claim was a quote from Mark Potok, a top spokesman for the Southern Poverty Law Center, the self-anointed “watchdog” that presumes to be the preeminent monitor of “hate groups and racial extremists throughout the United States.”

Carol Swain, then, must be a very bad person, no? Probably joined at the hip to the neo-Nazis, KKK, and Aryan Nations, right? After all, the folks at the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), and especially the organization’s founder, Morris Dees, have acquired sainted reputations as heroic crusaders against these nefarious groups and other purveyors of hatred, bigotry, and violence. Dees, Potok, and their colleagues at SPLC are regularly paraded as the go-to “experts” on all the various extremists that threaten the realm.

Surely, they must know something dark and sinister about Dr. Swain’s collaboration with these forces.

Undoubtedly, Professor Swain was not the only one shocked by the SPLC allegation; many of her academic peers and students, as well as the many fans of her books and published columns, would have considered her to be one of the last persons to fall under such loathsome accusations. In fact, on the surface, she would appear to be a natural ally of the SPLC, since she is a certified

academic expert on the subject of white nationalism and racism in the United States. Her two books on the subject — *The New White Nationalism in America: Its Challenge to Integration* (2004) and *Contemporary Voices of White Nationalism in America* (2003), both published by Cambridge University Press — were critically acclaimed.

Dr. Carol M. Swain is a professor of political science and law at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. In 2007, she was appointed to the Tennessee Advisory Committee of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission. In 2008, the U.S. Senate confirmed her nomination to the National Council on the Humanities, which is the advisory board of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Professor Swain also happens to be black, which, in itself, makes her an odd choice, to say the least, for Potok's claim of being "an apologist for white supremacists."

In fact, Carol Swain would seem to be the perfect poster child for the kind of racial harmony and tolerance the SPLC claims to be aiming at. Moreover, her life is a "bootstrap" success story that serves as inspiration to many aspiring black scholars. Dr. Swain relates this biographical information:

I am one of 12 children raised in rural poverty by parents who had little education. Our poverty was so great that one by one all 12 of us dropped out of school at around the 8th or 9th grade. Three of us earned high school equivalencies. I dropped out of school after completing the 8th grade, married at 16, and had three children before becoming the first in my family to reach college.

She not only "reached" college, she graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, while also making the National Dean's List and membership in the Phi Beta Kappa and Alpha Chi national academic honor societies. She went on to receive her master's degree in political science at Virginia Polytechnical, her Ph.D. in poli-sci from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a master's degree in law from Yale Law School.

Her childhood, curriculum vita, professional *oeuvre*, and ethnicity certainly don't fit the profile of the typical "apologist for white supremacy." What is going on here?

### Derided for Dissenting

According to Professor Swain, it's fairly simple: She is being smeared as "payback" for her beliefs regarding immigration and illegal aliens, as well as her criticism of the SPLC's methods, especially its virulent attacks on former CNN news anchor Lou Dobbs, which she describes as shameless vilification.

In a March 2010 panel discussion entitled "Immigration and the SPLC" at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., sponsored by the Center for Immigration Studies (CIS), Swain stated her belief that Potok's attack on her "was really about immigration."

"I had edited a book in 2007 called *Debating Immigration*, in which I tried to bring diverse voices into the conversation," she explained. One of those was the voice of Peter Brimelow, a British-American immigrant, former financial writer for *Forbes*, *Fortune*, and the *Wall Street*

**For advocating enforcement of our immigration laws, Brimelow and Vdare were added to the SPLC's list of "haters," alongside Ku Kluxers and Aryan skinheads.**

*Journal*, and currently the editor of *Vdare.com*, a website that opposes our ongoing open-borders policies and amnesty for illegal aliens. For advocating enforcement of our immigration laws, Brimelow and Vdare were added to the SPLC's list of "haters," alongside Ku Kluxers and Aryan skinheads. Swain says she also wanted to include in her book "the voice of Christians that were not open-borders Christians, that believe that the state has a right to enforce the laws of the land, and that we can expect immigrants — people who come here illegally — to obey the laws — and [that we] are a nation of laws and not a nation of just total chaos."

"Well, because of that book, which has been well received, I think they wanted to shut my voice down on the immigration issue," said Swain.

But it was not only her immigration

**Smear victim:** Prof. Carol Swain was defamed by the SPLC as "an apologist for white supremacists" after she spoke out in favor of enforcing our immigration laws.



Newscom



**No tolerance for morality: Prominent black pastors, such as Rev. James Meeks of Illinois (pictured), are under attack by SPLC because of their opposition to homosexuality and “gay marriage.”**

AP Images

views that stirred the SPLC’s wrath. She noted at the CIS panel discussion at the National Press Club:

The Southern Poverty Law Center tries to silence people on a range of issues. It’s not just immigration. It’s also people that are pro-life; it’s people that are concerned about racial preferences, people that are concerned about same-sex marriages, gun control, immigration and patriots.

She made the same point in her response to the *Tennessean* article that launched the SPLC smear. “Today, conservatives and Christians (of which I am both) are targeted by groups like the Southern Poverty Law Center that regularly seek to discredit us,” she wrote. “What is hap-

## A Danger to Life and Freedom: SPLC’s Misdirection of Law Enforcement

by William F. Jasper

“Law enforcement professionals are more likely to encounter dangerous extremists than virtually any other segment of American society — and those confrontations are, tragically, sometimes fatal,” says the SPLC’s “Law Enforcement Resources” web page. “With that in mind,” the web page continues, “the SPLC has undertaken a number of initiatives to equip officers with information and other resources that may help them carry out their duties with a minimum of danger to themselves.”

Over the past four decades, Morris Dees and the SPLC have parlayed their political and media connections into close ties with law-enforcement agencies. These ties are more troubling — and potentially far more dangerous — than their often-criticized fundraising scandals. During the administration of President Bill Clinton and his Attorney General, Janet Reno, the SPLC developed a continuing tight relationship with the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and the FBI that has since expanded to include the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and many state and local police agencies. The SPLC sends its *Intelligence Reports* to thousands of police departments, and its so-called experts frequently provide seminars for law enforcement regarding conservative, constitutionalist, or pro-life groups that the SPLC smears by falsely associating them with the Ku Klux Klan or neo-Nazi groups.

By vastly exaggerating the number of KKK/neo-Nazi groups and the alleged number of “hate crime” incidents, and by false-

ly tying these violent groups and incidents to legitimate, law-abiding organizations, the SPLC is attempting to demonize and criminalize, in the eyes and minds of law-enforcement personnel, those with whom the SPLC disagrees.

Laird Wilcox, a recognized expert on extremist groups, is one of many critics spanning the political spectrum who see the SPLC as a danger to civil liberties. He is the founder of the Wilcox Collection on Contemporary Political Movements at the University of Kansas’ Kenneth Spencer Research Library and an award-winning journalist, scholar, and author. The meticulous research provided by his *Guide to the American Left* and *Guide to the American Right* has made these works standard reference tools for serious journalists, political scientists, and law-enforcement intelligence personnel.

In 2005, Wilcox noted that shoddy — even fraudulent — “research” methodology is standard operating procedure at the SPLC. He told THE NEW AMERICAN that “with minimal effort I went through a list of 800-plus ‘hate groups’ published by the SPLC and determined that over half of them were either non-existent, existed in name only, or were inactive.”

Wilcox, Professor Carol Swain, and other researchers have pointed out that the SPLC’s practice of exaggerating the “extremist” and “hate group” threat actually helps draw recruits to the groups they claim to be fighting. And the SPLC, notes Wilcox, has “everything to gain: fundraising goes up, they get more media exposure, their credibility increases, and their political usefulness to the far left surges.”

pening is a bold attack on free speech and the inner workings of the Democratic process. We must not let this continue.”

Do her charges hold? Is the SPLC “shutting down free speech in a very dangerous way,” specifically targeting “conservatives and Christians” and maliciously smearing them with the “racist,” “bigot,” “extremist,” “hater,” “anti-Semitic” — and even “terrorist” — labels? These charges are fairly easy to verify; simply go to the Southern Poverty Law Center’s website ([www.splcenter.org](http://www.splcenter.org)), pick up one of its *Intelligence Reports*, or catch one of its spokespersons on CNN, NPR, CBS, or MSNBC. One will discover that Dr. Swain is far from being the only unlikely suspect to be viciously traduced with one or more of the SPLC’s hate labels.



**Focus of hate: Dr. James Dobson, founder of Focus on the Family, is one of many Christian, pro-family leaders who have been targeted by the Southern Poverty Law Center.**

AP Images

The *Humanist*, a left-liberal journal, has also scorched Morris Dees and his associates for their anti-American attacks on constitutionally protected rights, noting:

The SPLC campaigns for laws that will effectively deny free speech and freedom of association to certain groups of Americans on the basis of their beliefs. Six times a year, the SPLC’s letter boasts, the center reports its findings to over 6,000 law-enforcement agencies; then, with no discernible irony, it goes on to justify its Big Brother methods in the name of tolerance.

The SPLC, says Wilcox, specializes in “a highly developed and ritualized form of defamation, however — a way of harming and isolating people by denying their humanity and trying to convert them into something that deserves to be hated and eliminated. They accuse others of this but utilize their enormous resources to practice it on a mass scale themselves.”

In his 1999 book, *The Watchdogs: A Close Look at Anti-Racist “Watchdog” Groups*, Wilcox takes particular aim at the SPLC, writing:

Watchdog groups can have a profound influence on law enforcement tactics in a number of ways. Both the Anti-Defamation League and Southern Poverty Law Center publish newsletters and other material directed at law enforcement, often giving these agencies names from their files accompanied by suggestions of dangerousness.

Like all witch hunting operations, they occasionally find a real witch — which enhances their credibility, especially in high-profile media cases. But mixed with those few witches are thousands upon thousands of people whose politics may be extreme, but with no illegal intent whatsoever.

The SPLC’s penetration of certain law-enforcement circles is especially alarming. In 2009, Homeland Security Secretary Janet

Napolitano was forced to apologize to military veterans for a DHS report to law enforcement entitled “Rightwing Extremism” that warned of the danger of terrorism posed by “returning military veterans from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.” The same report similarly smeared pro-life, pro-gun, and pro-Constitution activists with the terrorist label. When DHS was forced, under the Freedom of Information Act, to release the sources for its report, it was revealed that most of its information had come from the SPLC’s discredited “research.”

At roughly the same time, in March 2009, the Missouri State Highway Patrol issued a report entitled “The Modern Militia Movement,” which was the product of a federal-state law-enforcement “Fusion Center.”

The authors of the report clearly were attempting to create in the minds of law-enforcement personnel an association between violent “right-wing extremists” and the millions of law-abiding Americans who oppose gun control, the United Nations, the Federal Reserve System, the income tax, illegal immigration, and abortion.

After listing 18 incidents of what it called “noteworthy militia activity” from 1995 through 2008 — some of which involved bombings or armed confrontations with law enforcement — the report stated:

**You are the Enemy:** The militia subscribes to an antigovernment and NWO [New World Order] mind set, which creates a threat to law enforcement officers. They view the military, National Guard, and law enforcement as a force that will confiscate their firearms and place them in FEMA concentration camps. [Bold emphasis in original.]

The Missouri report reads as if it were taken directly from regular rants of the SPLC. And it sets up law enforcement to view law-abiding Americans who sport bumper stickers opposing abortion, the Federal Reserve, or the United Nations as dangerous extremists and potential terrorists. ■



### Crucifying Christians

A host of prominent black preachers have come under fire from the SPLC. Among them are Chicago's Rev. Gregory Daniels; the Washington, D.C., area's Bishop Harry Jackson; the Atlanta area's Bishop Eddie Long; the Detroit area's Rev. Keith Butler; Bishop Wellington Boone of Norcross, Georgia; Pastor Ken Hutcherson of Redmond, Washington; Rev. Jesse Peterson of Los Angeles; and the Chicago area's Rev. James Meeks.

What is it about these Christian

**Marketing hate:** The SPLC's notorious "Hate Map" lumps conservatives, Christians, and Tea Party activists together with images of the KKK and neo-Nazis.

## SPLC: Scamming for Power, Lucre, and Control

by William F. Jasper

The SPLC was founded in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1971 by Morris Dees and Joseph J. Levin, Jr. as a non-profit civil rights legal firm. By cherry-picking a relatively few high-profile cases against the Ku Klux Klan, White Aryan Resistance, and Aryan Nations, they have been able to establish themselves in the public eye as the premier champions against violent racism and hate.

The name — Southern Poverty Law Center — conjures images of dedicated and near-penniless lawyers heroically assisting poor rural sharecroppers and destitute inner city families throughout the deep South in their struggles for justice. Those and similar images, like just about everything else promoted by the SPLC, are fraudulent mirages crafted by the organization's co-founder and PR genius, Morris Dees.

Millard Fuller, an attorney and partner of Dees in the 1960s, has recalled:

Morris and I, from the first day of our partnership, shared the overriding purpose of making a pile of money. We were not particular about how we did it. We just wanted to be independently rich.

Dees has certainly succeeded in that. The SPLC's tax returns for 2010 show it is sitting on assets of nearly \$229 million, making it one of the most successful fundraising organizations in existence. A decade ago the SPLC left its multi-million dollar

headquarters, located on prime real estate a mere block from the Alabama State Capitol in Montgomery, for an even grander, new headquarters across the street, which critics have dubbed "Poverty Palace." The *Montgomery Advertiser* in 2010 provided a lavish display of photos of Dees' own ostentatious mansion and guesthouse on his luxurious estate outside Montgomery.

Dees and company have squirreled away an undisclosed portion of the organization's assets in an offshore account in the Cayman Islands. The SPLC's IRS filings mention the Cayman account but do not provide any details. The organization's fundraising and spending practices have received poor or failing ratings from the Better Business Bureau, the American Institute of Philanthropy, and Charity Navigator. The *Social Contract* reports that, unknown to most donors, "the tax-exempt SPLC flunked an audit by the Arlington-based Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance, which requires that 'a reasonable percentage, at least 50 percent of total income from all sources, should be applied to programs and activities directly related to the purposes for which the organization exists.'"

The SPLC, far from meeting those standards, "spent 89 percent of its total income on fund-raising and administrative costs."

In 2009, the SPLC's president and CEO, Richard Cohen, the organization's highest-paid employee, took home a salary of \$348,652. Morris Dees got \$336,072. Mark Potok received \$143,206. No telling how much they received in off-shore compensation in the Cayman Islands. At the same time, median household income for Alabama was \$41,676. ■

pastors that has Morris Dees and the SPLC all afroth? Since they're black ministers serving all-black, or mostly black, congregations, it's not very likely that they are supporters of, or "apologists for," white supremacy. No, their main offense, in the eyes of the SPLC "watchdogs," is holding fast to principles of biblical morality in opposition to the militant "gay" lobby, and especially their opposition to homosexual "marriage." The vast majority of African-Americans do not support same-sex marriage, showing an even larger margin of disapproval than the American population as a whole. Senator Obama acknowledged this political reality when he was running for the presidency by staking out a position in favor of heterosexual marriage. Now he says his position on the matter is "evolving," and he has been actively courting the big donors of the homosexual activist community. Former Obama aide and gay activist Kevin Thompson told the *New York Times* he believes this was Obama's plan all along.

The black pastors under attack from the SPLC, however, appear to have taken their stands on marriage out of genuine commitment, not expediency. Thus the SPLC feels compelled to pummel them into submission. It has allied itself with the National Black Justice Coalition (NBJC), "a black gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgendered rights group," and other GLBT groups to attempt to make the case that being "anti-gay" is hateful and closely akin to racist bigotry. "I think it's disturbing when black people join the contemporary Confederate army," Sylvia Rhue, a lesbian activist and spokesperson for the NBJC, told the Southern Poverty Law Center regarding the black preachers. They are no different, she says, than those "who wanted a civil war to maintain slavery."

Of course, the black Christian ministers now being tarred are just getting the first taste of the smear campaign that the SPLC has been waging against conservative "Christian Right" leaders and prominent Christian organizations for a much longer period. Among the many leaders

and groups that have been singled out for SPLC smears are Dr. James Dobson and his Focus on the Family ministry, Beverly LaHaye and her Concerned Women for America, the late D. James Kennedy and his Coral Ridge Ministries, Scott Lively and his Abiding Truth Ministries, David Barton and his WallBuilders ministry, the American Family Association, the Family Research Council, the Chalcedon Foundation, Americans for Truth About Homosexuality, the late Jerry Falwell's Liberty Council, the Traditional Values Coalition, Catholic Family News, the Christian Action Network, and the National Organization for Marriage.

These and other similar groups are routinely pilloried as purveyors of "hate," even though no proof is offered that they promote or incite hatred toward homosexuals. Indeed, most of the groups cited explicitly state that they love homosexuals as individuals and pray for their conversion and healing, as they do for all souls trapped in what the Christian faith defines as sinful practices. Nevertheless, simply opposing homosexuality and the legaliza-

tion of homosexual practices is sufficient to place these "intolerant" Christians on the SPLC's "Hate Map" and put them in the organization's so-called "Intelligence Report" — sandwiched between photos of hooded Klansmen burning crosses and goose-stepping neo-Nazis. And if a homosexual somewhere is bullied, beaten, or killed, then you *know* who is responsible. Most Christian leaders realize that the SPLC's demonizing campaign is intended as the softening-up prelude to pushing for prosecution of pastors and preachers (and teachers, professors, talk-show hosts, journalists, and employers — as well as ordinary citizens) for "homophobia," under current and future "hate crime" legislation.

**The SPLC has raised hundreds of millions of dollars for the ostensible purpose of "fighting hate" and helping the poor and powerless, but in reality has stuffed its own coffers, building one of the largest investment portfolios of any NGO in the country.**



**SPLC's terrorist comrades:** While claiming concern over supposed "rightwing" terrorism, SPLC embraces unrepentant Weather Underground terrorist Bill Ayers.

Having been showered with adulatory media coverage for decades and having built up an obscenely huge endowment (over \$200 million), Dees and company have grown supremely arrogant and appear to believe they can slander and defame with impunity.

### An Anti-hate Group That Hates Widely

The SPLC also has put the Second Amendment in its crosshairs, attacking either directly or with their typical sandwich smear technique, the National Rifle Association, Larry Pratt and Gun Owners of America, the late Idaho Rep. Helen Chenoweth, Conservative Caucus and Constitution Party founder Howard Phillips, former Arizona Sheriff Richard Mack, and other constitutionalists who uphold the right of the people to keep and bear arms. The SPLC prefers to interpret the Constitution to mean that the government shall have a monopoly, or near monopoly, on firearms, which is a surefire prescription

for Nazi- or communist-style tyranny. Those who insist on hewing to the same view as our nation's Founders, that "the people" be armed, are falsely categorized by Dees' group as "anti-government" and "extremist."

Likewise the self-proclaimed "watchdogs" claim that the widespread Tea Party groups "are shot through with rich veins of radical

ideas, conspiracy theories and racism," a familiar meme echoed by Nancy Pelosi, the Obama White House, and their many sympathetic acolytes in the mainstream media choir.

However, in going after so many mainstream groups that millions of Americans are affiliated with — and that tens of millions more agree with and identify with — the SPLC may have outstripped itself. Having been showered with adulatory media coverage for decades and having built up an obscenely huge endowment (over \$200 million), Dees and company have grown supremely arrogant and appear to believe they can slander and defame with impunity.

The SPLC's atrocious actions have energized many on the political Right and have alienated even many of their erstwhile allies on the Left. Over the past several years this has prompted many who had previously given the SPLC a pass — or had even applauded and supported them — to start serious investigations of the organization's fundraising activities, their incessant, fear-mongering hype, and their radical, left-wing political agenda. The many investigative articles and studies that have appeared in *Harper's*, the *Washington Times*, *Reason*, the *Nation*, the *Progressive*, *Human Events*, Breitbart.com, *World Net Daily*, FrontPageMag.com, *Middle American News*, *Vdare.com*, and the *Social Contract* powerfully confirm the findings exposed by THE NEW AMERICAN in articles we have published on the Southern Poverty Law Center over the past two decades.

Here are some of the serious charges that are amply substantiated by the SPLC's public record:

- The SPLC's *Intelligence Report* and its other publications grossly inflate the number of actual "hate groups" and "hate crimes," while wildly exaggerating the threat from so-called right-wing groups.
- The SPLC engages in the promiscuous use of epithets such as "hate group," "extremist," "racist," "anti-government," and "terrorist," and as a standard practice lumps completely law-abiding, non-racist groups with the violent KKK and neo-Nazis.
- The SPLC has raised hundreds of millions of dollars for the ostensible purpose of "fighting hate" and helping the poor and powerless, but in reality has stuffed its own coffers, building one of the largest investment portfolios of any NGO in the country.
- The SPLC's demonizing attacks are aimed not only at destroying the reputations and credibility of political and social conservatives, but actually criminalizing their beliefs and their expressions of those beliefs, as protected under the First Amendment.
- Utilizing its ties in the media and the Clinton administration, the SPLC developed a close relationship with the federal Justice Department and FBI, and has parlayed that relationship into ties with federal, state, and local police agencies. Its incendiary misrepresentations thus have



AP Images

**SPLC hitman:** SPLC spokesman Mark Potok is regularly featured by the major media, who uncritically accept his smears of conservatives.

the potential to cause some jittery and misinformed law-enforcement officers to violate the rights of members of the groups targeted by the SPLC, or even to use unjustifiable deadly force.

- While straining to find even the most tenuous (and oftentimes nonexistent) connections between a targeted conservative organization or individual and some real or reputed member of a genuinely racist or violent group that it can exploit, the SPLC exercises no similar vigilance concerning its own affinity for actual leftist terrorists and communist revolutionaries.

### Lauding the Left and Its Terrorists

Concerning the last point above, the SPLC's unabashed promotion of unrepentant Weather Underground terrorist and self-proclaimed communist Bill Ayers should itself be sufficient to thoroughly discredit the organization's claims to concern over the dangers of terrorism. Although he had been largely forgotten by baby boomers and never heard of by Gen-Xers, revelations of President Obama's longtime association with Ayers and his equally notorious wife, Bernardine Dohrn, brought the Weather Underground couple back into the limelight again. Thanks to their connections with old comrades in radical academia, Ayers and Dohrn were able to walk from fugitive status as bombers on the FBI's "most wanted" list into sinecures as "distinguished professors" at prestigious universities. In his 2001 autobiographical *Fugitive Days*, published on the eve of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Ayers says, "I can't imagine entirely dismissing the possibility" of setting off bombs once again. In a September 11, 2001 interview with the *New York Times*, Ayers stated: "I don't regret setting bombs. I feel we didn't do enough."

Nevertheless, the SPLC's "Teaching Tolerance" website still proudly carries a glowing interview of Ayers by SPLC activist Gabrielle Lyon entitled "An Unconditional Embrace."

Lyon writes admiringly:

Throughout his career as a civil rights organizer, radical anti-Vietnam War activist, teacher and author, Ayers has developed a rich vision of teaching that interweaves passion, responsibility and self-reflection.

Ayers has taught in public schools



**King of hate:** Attorney Morris Dees and the SPLC have amassed vast wealth and influence by exaggerating the size of the KKK/neo-Nazi threat and falsely labeling conservative organizations as "hate groups."

and spearheaded alternative education projects.... As a professor of education at the University of Illinois at Chicago, he helps aspiring teachers recognize and tap the potential of every child.

For Ayers, challenging stereotypes and reforming inner-city schools is as much about fighting for social justice as about improving the quality of teaching and learning.

Naturally, Lyon asks not a single challenging, probing question of "Professor" Ayers that might cause him any angst. He is not questioned about his murderous Weather Underground bombing rampage that caused, for instance, the death of San Francisco police sergeant Brian V. McDonnell and the wounding of nine other officers. Nor was he asked about his involvement in the Weather Underground bombings of the U.S. Capitol, the New York Police Department, and the U.S. State Department in Washington, D.C., in the 1970s.

Neither did SPLC's Lyon ask Ayers about his more recent visits to Venezuela

and his relationship with that country's Marxist dictator, Hugo Chavez, who was his host. Unfortunately for Dees and company, the Ayers promotional is not just a one-time website aberration but a symptom of the organization's overall far-left sympathies and agenda.

Those sympathies and agenda are underscored by Dees' and the SPLC's longtime ties to the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). In addition to many SPLC staff members who also once served as ACLU staffers (including SPLC attorneys Katie Schwartzmann, Christine P. Sun, and Sam Wolfe), the ACLU and SPLC also team up together on lawsuits. Dees is a proud recipient of the ACLU's annual Roger N. Baldwin Award, named for the ACLU's co-founder and longtime executive director. Baldwin was one of the young Soviet Union's staunchest advocates and an ardent defender of Stalin's dictatorship. He traveled to Stalinist Russia and wrote glowingly of it. William Z. Foster, Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, and Louis Budenz, all of whom served on the ACLU's original executive board with Baldwin, were actual

top officials of the U.S. Communist Party. While Baldwin may not have been an official Party member, he was with them completely in spirit. Later in life he wrote:

I am for socialism.... I seek social ownership of property, the abolition of the propertied class, and sole control by those who produce wealth. Communism is the goal.... I don't regret being part of the communist tactic. I knew what I was doing. I was not an innocent liberal. I wanted what the communists wanted and I traveled the United Front road to get it.

Although for awhile during the 1940s and '50s the ACLU went through the pretense of expelling Communist Party members, many communists remained in the organization. Communist Party members Anne Braden and Frank Wilkinson were even awarded the same Baldwin medal as Dees, in 1989 and 1999, respectively. And the ACLU has remained wedded to the same militant atheism it inherited from the communists. Hence its incessant attacks on religion and all laws based on Christian morality, as, for instance, our laws against abortion and sodomy. The SPLC appears to be wedded to the very same atheist, anti-Christian agenda.

Sitting on the SPLC's board of directors is James Rucker, the chairman of the board of ColorOfChange.org, a radical group Rucker co-founded with Van Jones. Yes, *that* Van Jones, the Obama "Green Jobs Czar" who was forced to resign after his extreme communist views and activities were exposed. In October 2005, Jones said he was "a rowdy nationalist before the [Rodney] King verdict [in Los Angeles], but by August of that year [1992] I was a communist."

Jones became a leader in STORM (Standing Together to Organize a Revolutionary Movement), an ultra-radical collective that declared its commitment to "revolutionary democracy, revolutionary feminism, revolutionary internationalism,



**No enemies on the Left:** SPLC director James Rucker is co-founder of ColorOfChange.org with self-described "radical communist" Van Jones (above).

the central role of the working class, urban Marxism and Third World Communism."

STORM's manifesto declares:

We began with Marxist "basics," laying a foundation on which to build.... We studied philosophy, ... Lenin's theories of the state, revolution and the party, and the political ideas of [communist mass murderer] Mao Tse-tung and [communist theoretician] Antonio Gramsci.

Jones' SPLC comrade James Rucker served as director of grassroots mobilization for the far-left, Soros-funded MoveOn.org Political Action and MoveOn.org Civic Action.

Much more could be written about the SPLC's hard-left connections. No "mainstream" journalist whom we are aware of has ever asked SPLC's Mark Potok to explain his chummy 2006 interview with the Socialist Workers Party, a Trotskyite communist terrorist group. (The interview has since been taken down from the SWP's website.) Perhaps it was set up for him by Chip Berlet, who frequently writes for SPLC. Berlet, who runs Political Research Associates in Somerville, Massachusetts, used to work for the Socialist Workers

Party and was a staff member for the National Lawyers Guild, which was described in a U.S. congressional investigation as the "foremost legal bulwark of the Communist Party, USA." He has also written for the communist *Guardian* newspaper of New York, and for the Institute for Policy Studies, a conduit for the Soviet KGB and the Cuban DGI.

Most importantly, as it relates to national security, extremism, and terrorism, Chip Berlet has been a key player, working closely over the past three decades with the top activists of the ACLU, the National Lawyers Guild, the Communist Party, and the Socialist Workers Party to abolish the House and Senate internal security subcommittees, the investigative committees of the state legislatures, and the intelligence agencies of all the major metropolitan police departments. They were successful in this subversive effort; most of these investigative agencies were dismantled and their intelligence files destroyed.

Incredibly, now the SPLC pitches itself to law-enforcement leaders as their intelligence lifeline that can help them survive the ever-present threats from the "radical Right." ■

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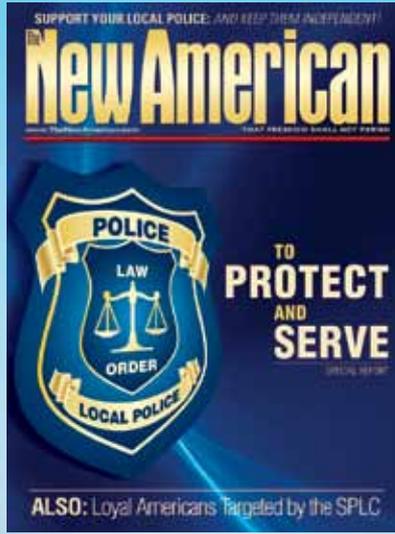
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