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LIBERTY COUNSEL'S MONTHLY ACTION/ALERT NEWSLETTER
"Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty." 2 Cor 3:17

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A Message from Mat Staver, our Founder and Chairman SPEARHEADING THE RESISTANCE TO STOP GOVERNMENT CENSORSHIP

We are facing unprecedented assaults against the free expression of Christian and conservative viewpoints, and Liberty Counsel is leading the resistance. Liberty Counsel is fighting in the courts to stop the government from banning any viewpoint on homosexuality but its own misguided position. We have also pioneered efforts to stop unconstitutional actions by Barack Obama's IRS to silence conservative organizations in the pivotal 2014 elections. These are serious threats, and we have no choice but to aggressively resist!

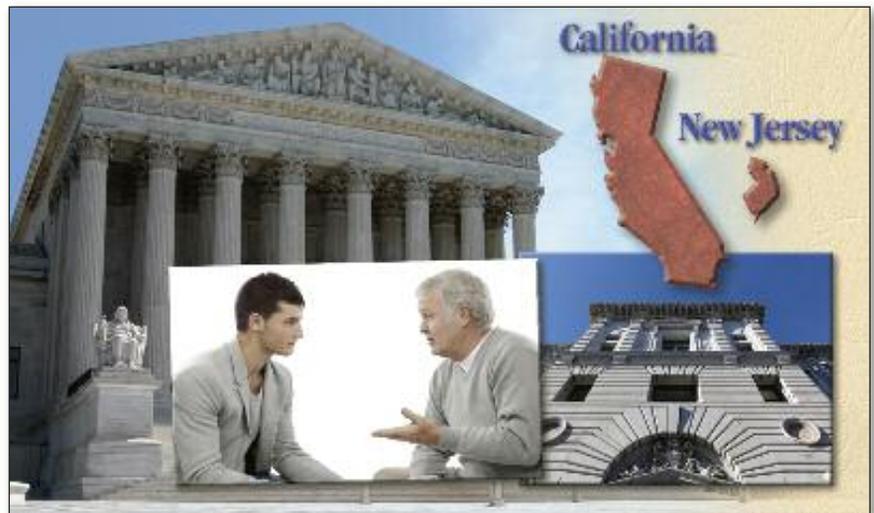
Liberty Counsel is leading the principled resistance against new laws in California and New Jersey which have banned so-called "change therapy." The recently passed laws prevent Christian counselors from providing, and minors from receiving, any counsel to reduce unwanted same-sex sexual attractions, behavior, or identity. Both of our cases have reached federal courts of appeal. Sadly, other states are now working to pass similar laws. These are dangerous laws and

must be stopped at all costs.

Under these laws, counselors are required to affirm homosexual attractions as being natural and good. The young boys we represent do not consider themselves to be homosexuals and have

testified that homosexuality conflicts with their religious beliefs. They were driven to the brink of suicide until they found Christian counselors who provided them with the hope that they can

(continued on page 2...)



Liberty Counsel has petitioned the United States Supreme Court to hear our landmark case against California's ban on change therapy. Our case on behalf of counselors, youth, and parents, styled *Pickup v. Brown*, aims to strike down California Law SB 1172 which bans counsel to overcome unwanted same-sex attractions, behavior, or identity. **The High Court will make a decision whether to review our case later this year before the end of the Term in June 2014.** The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco (pictured bottom right) granted Liberty Counsel's motion to stay the decision pending Supreme Court review. Therefore, California's outrageous law – which was supposed to go into effect on January 1, 2013 – remains blocked pending the Supreme Court's review! **Liberty Counsel has filed two similar cases in New Jersey, and if legislation passes in any other state we will file additional lawsuits.** Change therapy bans represent unprecedented governmental intrusion into personal healthcare and counseling choices and must be overturned.

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change their unwanted attractions.

Their self-esteem and their relationships with their parents and peers have significantly improved while receiving counsel. But now all their progress will be lost unless we can stop these outrageous laws. *These are agenda-driven laws designed solely to promote homosexuality and silence Christians!*

And while everyone was enjoying the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, the Obama administration deployed Internal Revenue Service (IRS) troops in its war against conservatives. President Obama is using executive fiat to further politicize the

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IRS and disable his adversaries before the 2014 election.

IRS REG -134417-13, "Guidance for Tax-Exempt Social Welfare Organizations on Candidate-Related Political Activities," is a proposed new regulation that is an outrageously brazen attempt by the IRS to silence the speech of 501(c)(4) organizations before a crucial election, like our sister organizations Liberty Counsel Action and Freedom Federation. *If implemented, the regulation would prohibit a 501(c)(4) from speaking to matters of public concern during the 2014 election cycle.* In part, the newly proposed regulation:

- *Prohibits* using words like *oppose, vote, support, defeat, and reject.*
- *Prohibits* mentioning, on its website or on any communication (email, letter, etc.) that would reach 500 people or more, the name of a

candidate for office 30 days prior to a primary election and 60 days prior to a general election.

- *Prohibits* mentioning the name of a political party 30 days prior to a primary election and 60 days prior to a general election, if that party has a candidate running for office.
- *Prohibits* voter registration drives or conducting a nonpartisan "get-out-the-vote" drive.
- *Prohibits* creating or distributing voter guides outlining how incumbents voted on particular bills.
- *Prohibits* hosting candidates for office at any event, including debates and charitable fundraisers, 30 days prior to a primary election or 60 days prior to a general election, if the candidate is part of the event's program.
- *Prohibits* distributing any materials prepared on behalf of a candidate for office.
- *Restricts* employees of such organizations from volunteering.
- *Restricts* the ability of officers and leaders of such organizations to make public statements regarding the nomination of judges.
- *Creates* a 90-day blackout period, in an election year, that restricts the speech of 501(c)(4) organizations.
- *Declares* political activity as contrary to the promotion of social welfare.
- *Protects labor unions and trade associations* by not including them under the proposed regulations.

The proposed IRS regulations even restrict the ability of leaders within these organizations to speak publicly regarding legislative matters of public concern and to volunteer! *What an egregious abridgement of our freedom of speech!*

During the 2012 elections, the IRS targeted Tea Party and other conservative organizations solely because of their conservative positions. The implementation of this new set of

regulations prior to the 2014 election is no coincidence, especially considering that *trade associations and labor unions are exempted.*

And while IRS REG-134417-13 applies to 501(c)(4) organizations, it will also surely be applied to 501(c)(3) organizations like Liberty Counsel and churches.

Included in the list of actions prohibited by this regulation is non-partisan "get-out-the-vote" drives that merely seek to register more people to

Liberty Counsel and Liberty Counsel Action were the first groups to break the story on these draconian regulations nationally. We are leading the charge among individual citizens and other organizations!

vote. In other words, organizations like Liberty Counsel and Liberty Counsel Action will not be able to urge people to register to vote or to vote. This is intolerable!

Our nation is at a crossroads. Now, more than ever, it is imperative that we defend Christian and conservative viewpoints.

Partner with Liberty Counsel this year to resist government censorship of Christian and conservative viewpoints. We need your prayers and financial support to continue our resistance in courtrooms and the court of public opinion. When we show up we most often win, but we cannot show up at all without your financial support!

We *must* defeat laws that ban change therapy. And we must stop the proposed IRS regulations on 501 (c)(4) organizations. Liberty Counsel and Liberty Counsel Action were the first groups to break the story on these

draconian regulations nationally. We are leading the charge among individual citizens and other organizations!

But we need your ongoing support if we are to succeed. Join the resistance against the IRS regulation by signing the petition urging Members of Congress to stop the IRS censorship during this important election year. You may do so by simply checking the special block on your February Partner Response Form.

Time is of the essence! *Urge Congress to stop the IRS censorship by returning the enclosed response form and we will add your name to the petition.*

As Benjamin Franklin once said, “We must all hang together, or most assuredly we will all hang separately.”

Working together, we can make a difference and resist illegal government censorship of our viewpoints in this election year.

This year’s citizen actions by patriots are critically important. *We must resist government bullies.* Join the popular revolt against tyranny and partner with Liberty Counsel on these and other crucial issues! ✝



Mathew D. Staver, who founded Liberty Counsel along with his wife, Anita, in 1989, serves as the organization’s Chairman. A leading constitutional attorney, widely read author, and sought-after speaker and cultural apologist, he also serves as Dean of the Liberty University School of Law and as Chairman of Liberty Counsel Action. Staver is among the core leaders of a national effort to rebuild the conservative movement in America.

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maintain while awaiting sale. Of course, we could not rely on money from our small group of Liberty Counsel supporters for these expenses, as it was used exclusively to fund the ministry.

But during that year, God miraculously provided more than we could have imagined! We believe that because we trusted Him, he allowed us to be debt free by December. In fact, we were even able to give Mat’s small salary back to Liberty Counsel. Our accountant was amazed!

Since that pivotal year, the Lord has graciously guided and protected us. Several law firm employees who transitioned with us to Liberty Counsel have witnessed our numerous miracles over the years, as they are still working in this ministry today.

Recalling past miracles serves to strengthen our faith and spurs us on in anticipation of the future. King David knew this principle well and constantly rehearsed God’s goodness back to Him in the form of psalms and hymns of praise. You simply cannot spend an hour reading from the Book of Psalms without getting God’s perspective on overcoming trials and challenges!

While our lives are a mere dot on the timeline of history, believers can rest in the fact that God cares deeply for all of His children.

Americans Have a Duty to Impeach A Lawless, Tyrannical President!

President Barack H. Obama is increasingly being referred to as an “imperial president.” According to the Declaration of Independence, it is the duty – not merely the right – of America’s patriots to “throw off such Government.” Liberty Counsel has launched an intense campaign calling for the House of Representatives to draft Articles of Impeachment. *This is not an action we take lightly.* You can receive our new 96-page book, *The Duty to Impeach*, and our special vinyl bumper sticker by signing our petition and making a gift of \$10 or more to help us reach as many patriots as possible with this compelling message! *Go to LibertyCounsel.com and join this growing movement today!*

I hope you are encouraged by this recounting of the way in which Divine Providence guided us in the founding of what is now a leading national legal ministry. However He may be calling you to step out in faith, know that you can trust Him to take care of the details for this year – and for the next 25, for that matter! Here at Liberty

To be in God’s will, we had to abandon the “safety net” of the law firm and trust Him to provide for us, the staff we were able to retain, our clients, and the future of Liberty Counsel.

Counsel, we know that every year we spend in God’s will is going to be yet another year of miracles. ✝

Anita L. Staver, Liberty Counsel’s President, cofounded the ministry in 1989 along with her husband, Mat. Anita is a member of the bars of the state of Florida and the District of Columbia. She is admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court, every federal court of appeals in the nation, and six federal district courts.



IMPEACH OBAMA!
LIBERTYCOUNSEL.COM

From Anita Staver, President

ENTERING YET ANOTHER YEAR OF GOD'S MIRACLES



Many, O Lord my God, are Your wonderful works which You have done! — Psalm 40:5

Milestone events bring opportunities for godly reflection. Considering the past can give insight into the possibilities to come. *As Liberty Counsel enters its 25th year of service, we are grateful for the amazing path down which the Lord has guided us this past quarter of a century!*

My personal path to full-time ministry began in 1989, when Mat and I founded Liberty Counsel as a non-profit organization. At the time, I was also working with Mat to build a successful private legal practice to fund the ministry portion of our endeavors. Our plan was to build the legal practice so that he could focus on the religious liberty and pro-life cases for Liberty Counsel without charging clients.

As our plan unfolded, 1994 became

a pivotal year for me. I accompanied Mat when he argued *Madsen v. Women's Health Center* at the U.S. Supreme Court. This important case dealt with freedom of speech and the sanctity of human life. Not only was I greatly intrigued with the legal issues involved, but I had a privileged, up-close view of how law can be used for good.

That Supreme Court experience kindled a fire within me that I had to

From a natural standpoint, giving up our only source of income was a crazy idea! However, we were convinced that our calling was for full-time ministry.

suppress until a law school opened near our Central Florida home. Only then did I begin to realize that my true calling was to work side-by-side with Mat as an attorney!

While I attended law school, Mat's private practice continued to fund Liberty Counsel. Eventually, we expanded the firm to two separate offices with more than 40 employees, including full-time staff members we dedicated to Liberty Counsel's growing number of cases and clients.

Unfortunately, the harder we worked to build the private practice – and the larger it grew – the more time it required and the more our financial obligations expanded. As each year

passed, we seemed no closer to our goal of focusing primarily on Liberty Counsel. The law firm had become not only the primary funding for the non-profit, but also a ball and chain that kept us from fulfilling our calling!

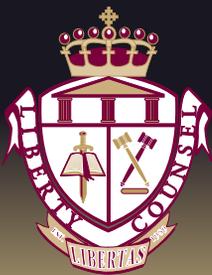
Finally, in 1999, after much prayer and with counsel from a pastor friend from England, we decided to close the private law firm and dedicate our lives to Liberty Counsel. From a natural standpoint, giving up our only source of income was a crazy idea! However, we were convinced that our calling was for full-time ministry.

To be in God's will, we had to abandon the "safety net" of the law firm and trust Him to provide for us, the staff we were able to retain, our clients, and the future of Liberty Counsel.

When we closed the private practice in December 1999, it was like stepping off a cliff. Nevertheless, we were excited because we firmly believed that we were being obedient to God. We knew that He would provide a way, even when there seemed to be no way!

I could fill an entire book with the details of how God worked throughout the first year without the accustomed income from the law firm. Based on past experience, it seemed the remaining accounts receivable from the law firm were going to be insufficient to cover our debts. At the beginning of 2000, we were still paying for an office building that had been on the market for a year. We had two expensive copy machine leases and other capital equipment to

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Restoring the Culture by Advancing Religious Freedom, the Sanctity of Human Life and the Family

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