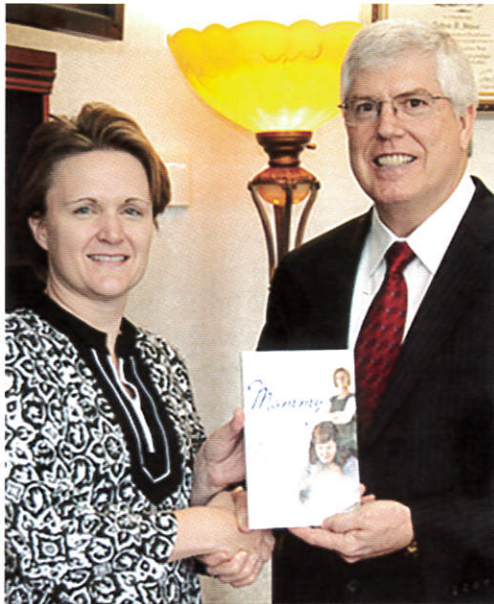


The Liberator



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



TARGETED FOR DESTRUCTION

Mat Staver

Shocked. Outraged. Resolute. Those are a few of the sentiments I’ve experienced since being notified that the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) has joined in filing a lawsuit—not just against Liberty Counsel, but against me personally as well as one of our finest attorneys. After more than 28 years of ministry dedicated to protecting the liberties of individuals, we have become targets of a vile and unfounded attack that could cost us dearly because of our faith.

Who is the SPLC?

The SPLC was cofounded in 1971 by a former Southern Baptist. The group claims to be “dedicated to fighting hate and bigotry,” but their record indicates otherwise. A few years ago, they gained recognition for labeling Liberty Counsel and other leading Christian groups as so-called “hate groups”—comparing us to violent groups like the Arian Nation and the KKK. The so-called civil rights organization operates with an endowment of well over \$300 million, making them America’s wealthiest propaganda publishing group and a source most pundits in the media look to it as leading experts on the “radical right.”

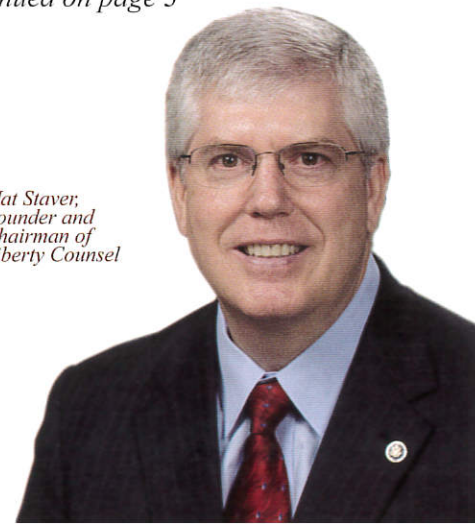
Today, this well-funded, dangerous group is set on discrediting and even destroying any individual Christian who stands up for biblical values in the midst of the new “same-sex orthodoxy” that is being pushed by the politically-correct elite.

Who is Lisa?

Lisa Miller’s story is one of a long cycle of abuse and seeking acceptance in all the wrong places. After a painful childhood, battles with various addictions and eating disorders, and ultimately a failed marriage, Lisa received counseling to help her put the pieces together. Unfortunately, the ungodly counsel she received convinced Lisa that she was a lesbian. Though it went against everything she’d learned in church as a child, she embraced the possibility, hoping it would help her make sense of the rest of her life. It did not.

Lisa met Janet Jenkins, and the two women entered into a civil union after it became legal in the state of Vermont. Soon, Lisa wanted to have a baby, though Janet wasn’t interested in being a parent. Lisa became pregnant by artificial insemination, but the difficult pregnancy required weeks of bed rest. It was during that rest that God began to draw Lisa back to His Word. Not long

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*Mat Staver,
Founder and
Chairman of
Liberty Counsel*

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LIBERTY COUNSEL

STANDING STRONG IN THE STORM

Liberty Counsel has had the honor of defending, Sandra (Susan) Merritt for well over a year. Thanks to the generous support of our donors, we are able to provide Sandra the highest quality legal defense to stand against giants like Planned Parenthood and their well financed political cronies who seek to destroy her, and silence the truth.

Sandra is one of two courageous whistleblowers who collected video evidence over a series of months to expose Planned Parenthood's barbaric, illegal practice of selling baby parts for profit.

More than a Whistleblower

Sandra is more than an undercover investigative reporter for the Center for Medical Progress, though. Sandra is a Christian who boldly followed her convictions to protect the most innocent among us from being trafficked for their body parts. Sandra is a wife and mother. She is a woman who has endured severe emotional and monetary strain since exposing the illegal practices of Planned Parenthood. In fact, in the past year, Sandra has received vicious hate mail, threats of personal harm at her home



address, and even death threats. In the past year, she has found it necessary to withdraw from social activities due to the media scrutiny over this case. She has also lost significant time from work because of legal challenges and court appearances.

And let's not forget—Sandra is innocent. She did nothing wrong. Laws are in place that protect whistleblowers

and investigative reporters, especially when they are exposing scandalous and criminal activity. Even the liberal Los Angeles Times Editorial Board has blasted California Attorney General Xavier Becerra's criminal indictment of these pro-life journalists, writing: "It's disturbingly aggressive for Becerra to apply this criminal statute to people who were trying to influence a contested issue of public policy."

Paid by Planned Parenthood

Sandra turned herself in to California authorities in San Francisco in May, to make her first appearance in criminal court to answer the 15-count felony charges. Though the recordings were made in public areas, the allegations claim that Merritt and David Daleiden filmed 14 people without permission between October 2013 and July 2015 in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and the county of El Dorado. One felony count was filed for each person. The 15th charge was for criminal conspiracy to invade privacy.

Rather than investigating and prosecuting Planned Parenthood, which has donated thousands of dollars to his political campaigns, California Attorney General Xavier Becerra filed charges against Merritt, claiming that her undercover video recordings violated California law. To date, no other citizen journalist or journalistic organization has ever been charged with a crime for undercover recordings.

Liberty Counsel successfully fought off the first bogus criminal indictment against Sandra in Texas in 2016 over the same recordings. We continue to defend Sandra in California, and will seek dismissal of these outrageous and baseless charges. Ultimately, Liberty Counsel's vigorous defense of Sandra will also serve to bolster the rights of all pro-life advocates who reveal the truth about Planned Parenthood's inhumane practices.

It's About Life

We are thankful for the outpouring of prayer and

Let's not forget—Sandra is innocent

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TARGETED FOR DESTRUCTION

Continued from page 1



after her daughter, Isabella, was born, Lisa began seeking a way out of her union with Jenkins and the homosexual lifestyle.

With the help of her brother, Lisa and her daughter moved back to Virginia. Surprisingly, Jenkins filed in Vermont court for visitation as Isabella's "second parent," and ultimately sought full-custody. The Vermont court granted her demands giving

Jenkins unsupervised visitation rights, sometimes for a week at a time. Each time Isabella returned home, even her teachers could see a difference in her demeanor and voiced their

concern. When Isabella began having nightmares, bedwetting, and trying to harm herself, it was discovered that Jenkins would often force Isabella to bathe naked with her, and to listen to "Heather Has Two Mommies."

Janet's attorneys even tried to use Lisa's religious beliefs as a basis to switch custody.

How could this happen?

Lisa and Isabella became "collateral damage" in the culture war being waged by those forcing the LGBTQ, anti-faith agenda on our nation. In fact, Lisa didn't realize until it was too late that one of the attorneys she hired had previously helped push the laws in Vermont in favor of same-sex parentage (with her same-sex partner)—and was ultimately working to undermine Lisa's case.

By the time Liberty Counsel took Lisa Miller's case, much damage had already been done.

In her book, *Only One Mommy – The Lisa Miller Story*, Rena Lindevaldsen recalls, "At one point, Janet's attorneys even tried to use Lisa's religious beliefs as a basis to switch custody. They argued that Lisa could not make proper decisions for Isabella because Lisa believed that, 'God has a plan and purpose for Isabella's life', 'In God's order, marriage means the union of one man and one woman, a child cannot have two mothers', and 'God gave Isabella to me by forming her in my womb.'"

As the legal battle dragged on, Lisa and her daughter suddenly, and without notice, disappeared.

We were caught completely off guard. We had no knowledge of Lisa's plan to flee and have no idea of her whereabouts.

After Liberty Counsel lost contact with Lisa, we notified the Vermont court and asked to withdraw from the case, but the court refused our request.

Jenkins also refused to let it go. With the SPLC as her co-counsel, Jenkins is now seeking money damages against several people whom she claims helped Lisa flee. Jenkins has filed a federal lawsuit—adding Liberty Counsel, Rena, and me to her claim.

Counting the Cost

Make no mistake: This is a battle for the right of law abiding citizens to live by and defend Judeo-Christian values without the threat of punitive lawsuits designed to cripple or destroy them. If Jenkins and the SPLC were to win this unfounded case, the SPLC will seek crippling damages and attorney's fees that could destroy the ministry. That is precisely their motive.

This lawsuit is designed to send notice that any individual or organization that opposes the radical LGBTQ and anti-faith agenda will be punished or even destroyed. If we allow the SPLC and other radical groups to impose crippling penalties on groups like Liberty Counsel, they will have succeeded in silencing our voice and the voices of all the people of faith in our society.

Liberty Counsel's legal team is tirelessly working on our response to this legal challenge. Though this lawsuit by the SPLC is baseless—we must mount a rigorous defense that will cost a great deal of time and money.

Pro-homosexual activists want to damage, punish, and even destroy Liberty Counsel because we are one of the few organizations in America to successfully stand up to the radical pro-homosexual agenda that is trampling the rights of people of faith. We must not let them destroy Liberty Counsel. We must not let them criminalize Christianity. Thank you for your continued prayers and support at this critical juncture.

If they can damage Liberty Counsel, then every Christian who takes a stand in our modern culture for biblical values by challenging the new "same-sex" orthodoxy is a target!

The Lisa Miller story—at the heart of the SPLC law suit—is beautifully shared in the book, *Only One Mommy – A Woman's Battle for Her Life, Her Daughter, and Her Freedom*. I sincerely believe this book should be required reading. Be sure to request your copy!

MID-YEAR PRESS RELEASE SUMMARY REPORT 2017

*This is a compilation of Liberty Counsel Press Releases for 2017 organized under the categories of
Religious Freedom, Sanctity of Life and Family.*

Holly Meade, Director of Communications

Religious Freedom

- Continued our federal suit on behalf of Tom Parker, Associate Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court, challenging the constitutionality of several speech restrictive provisions in the Alabama Canons of Judicial Ethics and the automatic removal provision in Alabama's Constitution. The Court of Appeals sided with us and we are back before the lower federal court. The radical Southern Poverty Law Center is trying to remove Justice Parker from the bench. Justice Parker has not declared his candidacy for the Chief Justice seat.
- Continued to defend 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 now he has declared his candidacy for the vacant U.S. Senate seat.
- Won a victory on behalf of Rowan County, Kentucky Clerk Kim Davis against the ACLU in which the federal Magistrate ruled the ACLU is not entitled to attorney's fees because their plaintiffs did not prevail. The case continues to go on with the other plaintiffs. The Kentucky legislature passed a law provide complete accommodation to Kim Davis and other clerks to protect their religious freedom.
- Supported the passage of the Arkansas, Florida, Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, and other state laws that provide broad protections for religious freedom.
- Defending ninth-grade students in a Tampa public school where the pro-LGBT teacher bullied students by removing their small cross necklaces, placed rainbow stickers on their books, displays a large button that reads "I Love My LGBT Students," and denigrates Christians.
- Continued defending North Carolina Magistrates where state law SB2 that provides a religious accommodation for those who have a conscience objection to officiating or granting marriage licenses for same-sex couples. The case is now on appeal.
- Provided testimony in the Pennsylvania Senate Labor & Industry Committee hearing regarding SB1306, a bill that would force religious organizations to hire and retain employees regardless of their adherence to the organization's beliefs on sexuality.
- Filed an amicus brief on behalf of Little Sisters of the Poor's legal challenge to the ObamaCare requirement that non-church religious organizations must provide contraceptive and abortion-inducing drugs and devices at no cost to the employees.
- Successfully represented Child Evangelism Fellowship 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 a major case involving Child Evangelism Fellowship in Ohio after a three-year lawsuit against the Cleveland Metropolitan School District.
- Filed a law suit on behalf of Child Evangelism Fellowship against an Indiana School District that continued to deny equal access to Good News Clubs.
- 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 schools K-12 to imposed a dangerous "gender identity" policy on the students. We continue to work with school districts after President Trump overturned this lawless directive.
- Filed an amicus brief in the U. S. Supreme Court on its own behalf and for the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference-CONEL to end discrimination against churches in the case of Trinity Lutheran Church of Columbia v. Pauley.
- Successfully represented the Zavala family in California regarding the violation by the Desert Rose Elementary School in California of their child's constitutional rights to share Bible verses and encouraging notes with classmates during non-instructional time, including during the lunch period. The school sent a Sherriff Deputy to the home to warn the family to stop bringing Bible stories to school. But, the Palmdale School District backed away and allowed the seven-year old to continue sharing the Bible verses and stories.
- Continued to defend Pastor Scott Lively in a case filed by Sexual Minorities Uganda (SMUG) and financed by George Soros in which SMUG seeks to silence and

impose significant financial penalties against Lively for speech about homosexuality in Uganda in 2002 and 2009. This year alone the case has involved tens of thousands of pages of discovery, multiple depositions, and over 300 pages of legal argument.

- Supported the Religious Freedom Executive Order of President Trump to protect religious freedom, gut the Johnson Amendment that restricts pastors and churches from speaking on political issues, and provides relief from the contraception and abortion mandates in ObamaCare.

Sanctity of Human Life

- Defended and had criminal charges dropped against Sandra “Susan” Merritt after a Houston grand jury supposedly investigating Planned Parenthood instead filed charges against Sandra for her undercover video exposing the barbaric practice of selling baby body parts. Susan was handcuffed, and spent 12 hours in jail before she was released. The Attorney General has vowed to spare no expense to send her to jail for 11 years. We now begin our aggressive defense.
- Continue to defend Sandra “Susan” Merritt against a federal RICO lawsuit filed by Planned Parenthood in San Francisco. Planned Parenthood claims it lost tens of millions of dollars in taxpayer funds because of Sandra’s undercover video exposing the sale of baby body parts.
- Continue to defend pro-life advocate Larry Cirignano for his peaceful, lawful, constitutionally protected speech for unborn children outside a soon-to-be-built Planned Parenthood abortion clinic situated in between an elementary and a middle school at Two Rivers Public Charter School in Washington, D.C. The school filed suit seeking to prevent Larry and others from exposing to the public the abortion clinic.
- Provided assistance for pro-life advocates in Oklahoma City regarding SB 1552 which would have allowed for the revocation of medical licenses for doctors who perform abortions after viability.
- Presented oral appeal at a federal Court of Appeals against the city of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania because its ordinance created unconstitutional buffer zones on public sidewalks and public property 20 feet away from abortion clinic entrances, exits, and driveways.
- Continued to defend three faith-based, crisis pregnancy centers in California challenging the law requiring these pro-life ministries to provide information about the availability of abortion to patients.
- 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 that was passed and signed into law.

- Filed a brief with the federal Court of Appeals challenging California’s Assembly Bill 775, which imposes onerous notification and disclosure requirements on pro-life crisis pregnancy centers.
- Through our Washington, D.C. office, we continue to work 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. Many pro-life victories have already occurred since January 2017.

The Family

- After Liberty Counsel was sued by the radical Southern Poverty Law Center, we prepared a detailed legal memo dismantling the false allegations against Liberty Counsel and Founder Mat Staver. The case will be heard later this year. The SPLC is out to destroy any person or group that does not bow to its radical LGBT agenda.
- Represented a concerned parent and informed the Parkway School District in Chesterfield, Missouri that the school district’s sex education curriculum, “Healthy Relationships and Sexual Health Curriculum Frameworks” violated Missouri law.
- Filed suit against the School Board of Fairfax County, Virginia, for illegally changing its nondiscrimination policy and adding “sexual orientation” and “gender identity,” conflicting with Virginia Civil Rights Laws.
- Continue to challenge the School Board of Fairfax County, Virginia for illegally changing its nondiscrimination policy and adding “sexual orientation” and “gender identity.” Presented oral arguments at the Virginia Supreme Court requesting the court to hear the case against the School Board of Fairfax County regarding its illegal policy involving “sexual orientation,” “gender identity,” and “gender expression.”
- Supported the eleven states that filed suit in Texas against the unlawful Obama transgender directive which threatens the revocation of federal educational funding unless K-12 school districts adopt policies that permit students to use private facilities according to the sex with which they “identify” regardless of whether that sex corresponds to their biological sex. President Trump has now repealed this lawless directive.
- At the invitation of Nebraska pro-family groups and legislators, helped defeat an LGBT law in the state legislature.
- Actively involved in more than half of the states supporting religious freedom laws and opposing radical and dangerous LGBT “gender identity” laws. Liberty Counsel was featured nationally on CBS Evening News.

- Provided testimony and legal opinions before numerous school boards and local government bodies opposing dangerous “gender identity” and so-called “bathroom” laws.
- Provided testimony and legal opinion to the Massachusetts legislature regarding House Bill 4253 (formerly HB1577), known as the Bathroom Bill, that imposes criminal penalties (including up to a year in jail) on business owners and churches which attempt to prevent biological men from using women’s facilities.
- Filed a brief in the G.G. v. Gloucester County School Board case, in which the federal Court of Appeals ruled that the federal law known as Title IX should be interpreted to include “gender identity” and thus that court ruled that 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. Filed a second brief at the rehearing stage.
- Provided model language to ensure that church programs, including scout troops, remain consistent with God’s Word if they maintain their association with Boy Scouts of America.
- Filed a brief in the High Court of Romania opposing same-sex marriage in which the court sided with our arguments.
- Featured on CBS Evening News because of Liberty Counsel’s work in more than half of the states providing consultation regarding religious freedom and so-called “bathroom bills.”

Other Activities

- Supported Neil Gorsuch’s nomination to the U.S. Supreme Court filling the seat of the late Justice Antonin Scalia.
- Stood with Kim Davis when she received the National Religious Broadcasters President’s Award for her faithful commitment to Christian values despite political and media opposition and was also a feature honoree by hundreds of Romanian pastors.
- 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 include January, May, June, July, and August. Visit CovenantJourney.org.
- Invited to celebrate Israel’s Independence Day at the White House where Vice President Mike Pence spoke. This is the first time the White House honored Israel’s Independence Day.
- Invited to meet with Vice President Mike Pence at the White House to discuss the repeal of ObamaCare and defunding Planned Parenthood.
- Invited to participate at the Israel Embassy in Washington, D.C. for Christian Solidarity with Israel.
- Launched the original 13-episode TV series, “Why Israel Matters – Past, Present and Forever,” that began airing on TBN beginning in February 2017. It is now one of the top viewed action programs on TBN. To view past episodes, visit CIDIsrael.org/Israel
- Launched new website for Christians in Defense of Israel. www.CIDIsrael.org
- Announced 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 and the 70th year since the discover of the Dead Sea Scrolls. To sign up, visit CIDIsrael.org/take-the-trip.
- 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 store at CIDIsrael.org or LC.org to order a copy.
- Financially supported persecuted Christians by providing humanitarian relief, shelter, training and Bibles through our ministry, Liberty Relief International. LibertyReliefInternational.org
- Hosted year-round and summer interns in Florida, Virginia, Washington, D.C., and Israel.
- Launched the fifteenth annual “Friend or Foe” Graduation Prayer Campaign to protect religious viewpoints at graduation.
- Launched the Launched the fourteenth annual “Friend or Foe” Christmas Campaign to protect religious viewpoints during the Christmas season.
- Provided counsel on national, state, and local public policy in our Washington, D.C. office. www.LC.org and www.LCAction.org

Liberty Relief Update

Victory Corner




A STORY OF UNSHAKEN FAITH

When 54-year-old Naseem went to church on Palm Sunday, he didn't know he would give his life to save others; but he was prepared to do so. Naseem was standing guard at Saint Mark's church in Alexandria, Egypt, when the two suicide bombers attacked. Naseem's widow, Samira, told our Liberty Relief International partner, "When the suicide bomber tried to enter the church, Naseem stopped him and asked him to pass through the metal detector first. There the bomber blew himself up. Naseem didn't survive, but his swift action saved the lives of many others."

Naseem was a husband and father, and would have become a grandfather for the first time this month. Because of the rising persecution in the area, Naseem and his widow had discussed the possibility of an attack. "He said he would be willing to defend the church with his own blood," she remembered. "That Sunday, he did."

What's even more remarkable is that, while believers in Egypt expect more terror attacks in the future, their faith has not been shaken. Our Christian relief partner working on the front lines in the region says the persecuted in Egypt "are putting their hope in the Lord, learning more profoundly how to live the spirit of love and forgiveness."

Naseem told his wife that he knew God would take care of their family if something bad happened to him. Now that it has, we have a responsibility, as his brothers and sisters in Christ, to help. LRI is committed to working with Christ-centered partners to help persecuted believers and others living under oppression and brutality in the Middle East and Egypt. We deeply appreciate our faithful partners who share this vision and make it possible to deliver relief supplies to Egyptian Christians and other brothers and sisters in the region. Visit LibertyReliefInternational.org. 

GOOD NEWS FOR HAWAII KIDS

In a victory for Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) in the Aloha State, its after-school Good News Club can now be held in Ewa Elementary, the largest elementary school in the Campbell-Kapolei Complex.

The Hawaii Chapter of CEF was originally denied use of the school facilities, despite other comparable programs which are permitted to use facilities after school. Liberty Counsel responded with a letter to the school superintendent, which prompted a decision to allow the Good News Club to meet at the school.

The Campbell-Kapolei Complex School District made the appropriate decision to recognize that the Good News Club has equal access

to provide character instruction to students. Public schools cannot discriminate against Christian viewpoints while allowing other organizations to meet in school facilities. This is a victory for the children and schools! Child Evangelism Fellowship has been giving children a biblically-based spiritual education that includes moral and character development since 1927, and is currently active in every state in the U.S. and in 205 of the 207 countries. More than 87 percent of school administrators say the Good News Clubs are a positive experience for their school.

Liberty Counsel represents Child Evangelism Fellowship nationally and has never lost a case at any court of final resort regarding the Good News Clubs.

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STANDING STRONG IN THE STORM

Continued from page 2

emotional encouragement that our Liberty Counsel supporters have shown Sandra. The notes and positive words she has received have been a true blessing for her in the midst of this storm. Sandra also takes comfort in the belief that some of the most innocent of lives—preborn children—will be spared from pain and suffering inside the womb because of her actions. May God bless you for standing with us in defending Sandra and against Planned Parenthood!



Liberty Counsel is actively involved with the Trump Administration on important issues like the protection of Israel.



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, receive 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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