

From the desk of Tom Brejcha, Founder and President...

May 11, 2026

Dear Friend,

In “breaking news” that quickly captured headlines this past month, a federal grand jury indicted the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) on eleven counts of wire fraud, falsehoods to banks, and conspiracy to commit money laundering. These felony charges alleged that SPLC, while raising millions of dollars “to fight white supremacy,” was **secretly funneling more than three million dollars to the same racist organizations it told donors it was dismantling**: the Ku Klux Klan, the Aryan Nations, organizers of the deadly Charlottesville, VA rally, etc.

According to prosecutors, SPLC was funding and promoting the very “extremism” and “hatred” it claimed to oppose. When I saw this news, it struck me in a very personal way. Not because SPLC’s corruption was any surprise... On the contrary, we’d been acutely aware of its cynical, criminal misbehavior for decades!

Indeed, it had pressed abusively false charges against early pro-life heroes. And it was a massive lawsuit that SPLC filed against pro-life activists that led to my founding our pro-life law firm, **Thomas More Society**.

In 1986, SPLC’s founder Morris Dees and his acolyte Richard Cohen persuaded the National Organization for Women and a pair of abortion providers to file a mega-lawsuit charging that Joe Scheidler—the Chicagoan known as the “godfather of pro-life activism”—had organized a nationwide federal “antitrust conspiracy” to destroy the abortion industry. It was **breathhtaking overreach**, built on sheer propaganda dressed up in legalisms—charges devoid of even the slightest evidentiary foundation. Pro-life moral protest is *not* “trade” or “commerce”!

When Dees and Cohen cross-examined Scheidler, they “hit the wall.” Scheidler swore, irrefutably, that his pro-life activism followed Dr. Martin Luther King’s prescription: **peaceable, nonviolent direct action!** Indeed, Scheidler had led a busload of his Mundelein College students to Selma, joining Dr. King in his historic march. When we later asked the U.S. Supreme Court to hear our appeal, Dr. King’s own Southern Christian Leadership Conference filed a “friend of the court” brief in our support.

Dees and Cohen abruptly withdrew from the case after Scheidler’s deposition testimony. But SPLC did not go away quietly. They kept up their public attacks. Repeatedly, SPLC decried pro-lifers as violent terrorist extremists, in those or similar words.

It only ended after **28 years!** Our marathon case produced **three appeals up to the U.S. Supreme Court.** We won our last two appeals by decisive, favorable (8-1, 8-0) rulings!

We were born fighting SPLC’s flagrant tactics! My former business law firm would not let me finish such a vast, complex case on an unpaid *pro bono* basis. So, I had to resign my law partnership. Then in 1998, with the Scheidlers’ help, we founded our nonprofit public interest firm, supported by your generosity.

This SPLC playbook—concocting baseless, radioactive charges, dressing them up in the trappings of legal authority, and using them to destroy people who dare to stand in their way—has become **the standard operating procedure** for abortionists in today’s polarized era.

Massive U.S. DOJ report exposes how Biden’s “Justice Department” weaponized the FACE Act against pro-lifers.

On April 14th, the Trump Department of Justice released an **882-page report** that confirmed what Thomas More Society attorneys have been arguing in courtrooms and in our American media for many years: the Biden Administration systematically weaponized the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act (FACE) against peaceful pro-life Americans, and this was done by **Biden’s DOJ in direct coordination with the abortion industry itself.**

We represented clients who were the defendants in nearly every major FACE Act prosecution which was examined in the report—Mark Houck, Paul Vaughn, Chet Gallagher, Lauren Handy, and so many others. **The report also revealed just how personally the Biden DOJ targeted us—our legal team.** Indeed, we figured prominently in narratives about how Biden’s prosecutors schemed to find ways to suppress and silence pro-lifers who spoke out eloquently to save the precious lives of unborn babies.

An internal email from the head of the FACE Act task force referred to our **Thomas More Society as “quite the racket.”** Another Biden DOJ prosecutor warned that our attorneys would be **“particularly... unpleasant.”**

When our Senior Counsel, former federal prosecutor Matt Heffron, offered to bring Mark Houck to surrender voluntarily in the event he was charged with a crime, to avoid an FBI raid on his home, **the DOJ refused.**

Instead, Biden’s FBI sent 16 armed agents to the Houck family home at 7:03 a.m. to **arrest this Catholic father at gunpoint in front of his wife and seven children.** We defended Mark at a Philadelphia jury trial and won a **unanimous verdict of acquittal!**

Emails reveal that Biden’s DOJ colluded with the abortionists and their lobbyists to target peaceful pro-lifers!

The report’s broader findings are *staggering.* After reviewing more than 700,000 records, investigators determined that the abortion industry’s major lobbying and trade groups—National

Abortion Federation (NAF), Planned Parenthood, and the Feminist Majority Foundation—had **virtually open communications** and direct links with Biden’s Justice Department.

The Biden DOJ task force leader described NAF’s security director as an “**MVP**” who flagged pro-life activities in real time. NAF compiled a **137-page dossier** on pro-life individuals—including photographs, home addresses, license plate numbers, *even photos of spouses and minor children*—and handed it all to the FBI.

The Bureau’s own agents raised concerns that NAF was improperly tracking First Amendment–protected activity. **The task force pressed ahead anyway.** In every single pardoned case, the Biden DOJ first learned of the underlying conduct from abortion advocacy organizations—not from local law enforcement or alleged victims. **The Biden DOJ sought sentences for pro-life defendants averaging 26.8 months, versus just 12.3 months for pro-abortion defendants.**

Then, on April 28th, we took our fight to Capitol Hill. One of our veteran litigators, Senior Counsel Christopher Ferrara, testified before a House Judiciary subcommittee hearing on repealing the FACE Act. Chris made a compelling argument that the FACE Act is unconstitutional and unnecessary to address any actual violence. Such false claims of violence have been used to create what Justice Scalia once described as “*an entirely separate, abridged edition of the First Amendment*” reserved for pro-life advocates alone.

Also testifying for FACE’s repeal was **Eva Edl, a 91-year-old survivor of a Yugoslav communist concentration camp**, prosecuted under the FACE Act for a peaceful pro-life protest. Ms. Edl pleaded: “*We have enough laws. If somebody does something wrong, we have the means to punish them.*” We helped secure Eva’s pardon, granted by President Trump in January 2025.

Our newly secured settlement with Coast Guard establishes the strongest religious liberty protections of any military branch.

We are proud to report that we’ve reached a landmark settlement with the U.S. Coast Guard **permanently reforming** how the service evaluates religious accommodation requests. No other branch of the military has protection this strong after our win via negotiated settlement.

The case, *Jackson v. Mullin*, began when Lt. Alaric Stone—the top graduate of the Coast Guard Academy’s Class of 2020—and over a thousand other service members sought religious accommodations from the 2021 COVID-19 vaccine mandate. Almost all were denied. One commanding officer told Lt. Stone point-blank: “**I don’t want to discuss your religious beliefs because frankly, they don’t matter to me.**”

But they matter now! Under the settlement, the Coast Guard must conduct a focused, individualized review of every religious accommodation request—no more blanket denials. Mandatory religious liberty training—crafted with the input of our Thomas More Society attorneys—is now required across Coast Guard leadership. Reprimands are being expunged. And the Commandant will issue a service-wide acknowledgment that the prior policy was “*unlawful*”

as implemented and an unfair, overbroad, and completely unnecessary burden on service members.”

“For years, the Thomas More Society team worked tirelessly on behalf of us and our fellow religious service members to achieve this **great victory for religious freedom**,” said Lt. Stone, “helping us to stand strong in our faith as we serve our nation.”

The government is also paying **\$750,000 in attorneys’ fees**, underscoring that it’s costly to violate the precious religious liberty rights of our fellow citizens. This win stands as a model for every branch of the military—and as a proud U.S. Army Vietnam veteran, let me declare we intend to hold our armed services to honor and abide faithfully by this high standard!

SPLC’s bad tactics are being deployed in NY and CA to silence the pro-life ministries that are saving babies from deadly abortion pills!

There is another front in the battle for life I must tell you about—one that ties directly to the Southern Poverty Law Center’s tactics—using legal machinery to silence pro-life speech.

The **Attorneys General of New York and California are suing to stop pro-life pregnancy centers** from telling women about Abortion Pill Reversal—a protocol that uses progesterone, the same anti-miscarriage hormone that has been prescribed safely for decades—to counteract the effects of the first abortion pill, mifepristone.

At least 8,000 babies are alive today because their mothers learned about this option in time and chose life for their infants. You may remember the story of Elizabeth from my last letter—a Mom who took the first abortion pill under pressure at Planned Parenthood, regretted it, and then quickly found the Abortion Pill Rescue hotline buried on page 3 of Google.

A nurse answered. A doctor called back in fifteen minutes. Her beautiful baby daughter was born healthy. But **New York and California want to make sure that the next woman in Elizabeth’s shoes has nowhere to turn.**

This is the same SPLC tactic decked out in a new costume: that is, using the ostensible authority of formal legal proceedings—here, spurious accusations of **commercial “false advertising” and “deceptive practices”**—to destroy those who stand in the abortionists’ path.

They’re not interested in protecting women and “informed consent,” but rather about insulating the abortion industry. We are defending Heartbeat International in both lawsuits. In mid-April, our Chris Ferrara argued an “anti-SLAPP motion” in New York state court, exposing AG Letitia James’ lawsuit as a lawless attack on free speech.

Then on April 29th, we were in Oakland, CA for a **critical summary judgment hearing** in defense of the California case brought by AG Rob Bonta. A trial in this case is scheduled to begin next month in June, so we are rapidly pulling out all the stops.

Both AGs, in NY and CA, have cited a study by a **paid abortion industry consultant** as their primary evidence that APR is dangerous. But we have demonstrated that this study truly showed the opposite—*it was the abortion drug, not the progesterone, that posed risks to women.*

The two AGs, NY and CA, fail to show that Abortion Pill Reversal is unsafe or doesn't work. They simply insist, without legal or evidentiary basis, that women should not be allowed to hear about this option.

There's more: The two AGs have even argued that, merely by giving women *hope*—that they can still save their baby even after the first pill—Heartbeat International and these pregnancy centers are “misleading” women. Let that sink in... **Offering hope is now a crime.**

Here is what makes this case even more outrageous. Also at the CA hearing, the Attorney General's lawyers argued that Heartbeat International's charitable efforts and pro-life message somehow qualify as **commercial speech**—which means, if so, that the government can regulate and sue it out of existence.

The AG's legal theory is that saving lives is “commercial” activity! That because our pro-life non-profits fundraise to support their good works, they are *economically motivated*. Think about what that means, for just a moment...

Given this logic, **any non-profit that sustains itself through donations would be deemed a “commercial actor,”** subject to government speech regulation—every soup kitchen, church ministry, or activist group that relies on the charity of generous souls. Under this standard, advocating against the buying and selling of babies or other human beings into slavery would be subject to *commercial regulation!*

Such a legal theory would be absurd and laughable—if the stakes weren't so deadly serious. **Thousands of women have chosen life through Abortion Pill Reversal. We're in court to make sure thousands more get that chance.**

We just warned the City of Lincoln, NE: Repeal unconstitutional censorship of counselors—or face our federal lawsuit.

Recently the Supreme Court issued a new, landmark 8-1 ruling in *Chiles v. Salazar*, which struck down a Colorado law that **forbade licensed counselors and therapists from doing anything other than affirming a child's stated sexual orientation or new “gender identity”**—no questions, no exploration, no alternatives allowed...

Our Senior Counsel Matt Heffron promptly moved to enforce that precedent, demanding that the City of Lincoln, Nebraska repeal its own nearly identical law.

Our demand letter is one of the first enforcement actions applying the *Chiles* ruling. We represent a devout Catholic counselor in Lincoln whose practice has been directly chilled by this law. **If the City's lawmakers refuse to correct course, we will take them to court.**

Your gift today keeps our lawyers fighting to protect *your* rights.

The lawfare tactics pioneered by the SPLC are still being deployed daily against pro-life Americans. State Attorneys General in NY and CA are **trying to silence pregnancy centers**.

The abortion industry is overflowing with resources. State attorneys general wield the full prosecutorial power of their offices. **They are counting on our running out of money. We cannot let that happen!**

Right now, we're in a rare window of opportunity. Those who threaten life, family, and freedom are losing ground. Victories unthinkable five years ago are within reach *today*. But momentum like this does not sustain itself—**it takes resources to mobilize.**

So please, will you help us defend life, families, and freedom with a gift of \$500, \$250, or \$100? We also need lots of gifts in the range of \$75, \$50, \$35—or whatever you can sacrifice.

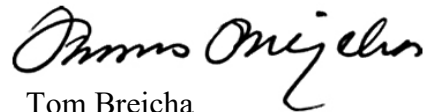
We will gratefully accept your generous contribution... *no matter how small, no matter how large!* If the Lord has blessed you financially, please consider sending a gift of \$5,000, \$2,500, or \$1,000.

May will be a very busy month for us as we prepare for trial defending the right to share lifesaving pro-life information in California. The good news is that we have **supporters like you** to help us press the advantage.

I'm also praying that two heroes will step forward with a gift of \$10,000, five heroes with \$5,000, and ten heroes with \$1,000. Gifts in that range are tremendous blessings.

Most importantly, please pray for our clients and our legal team. Through your prayers and generosity, you sustain our mission at Thomas More Society. May God bless you and your loved ones in His own best way!

Yours faithfully,



Tom Brejcha
Founder and President
Thomas More Society

P.S. We've just released our **2025 Impact Report** and you can explore the fruits of your generous support by viewing the digital edition at www.thomasmoresociety.org/impact2025.

P.P.S. The battles I've described in this letter don't pause between mailings. By joining our **Defenders Circle** with a **monthly recurring gift of \$25, \$35, or \$50**, you stand alongside our attorneys in every courtroom, every month—from the California trial this June to wherever the next fight takes us.