

LUCE LADDER

"Courage is the ladder on which all the other virtues mount."

– Clare Boothe Luce

From the President

June 2026

THE LUCE CENTER

112 Elden Street, Suite P
Herndon, Virginia 20170
703.318.0730

@cblwomen
conservativewomen.com

STAFF LEADERS

Kimberly Begg
President
Cindy Rushing
Vice President
Lauren Husmann
Chief of Staff
Caitlin Quinones
Operations Director
Nicole Gillis
Program Officer
Rachel Hurley
Social Media Officer
Anastasia Leffas
Membership Coordinator
Nica Marin
Events & Marketing Officer
Sandra Scarlatoiu
Productions Officer
Anastasia Shanahan
Assistant to the President

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Clare Luce Abbey
Chairman
Kimberly Begg
President
Marji Ross
Treasurer/Secretary
Caroline Corazza
Kate Obenshain Keeler
Cathy Ruse
Ursula Meese, *Emerita*
Darla Partridge, *Emerita*

ADVISORY BOARD

Amber Athey Duke
Emily Jashinsky
Amanda Collins Johnson
Mary Margaret Olohan
Catherine Pakaluk
Reagan Reese
Liz Wheeler



Meet Our Summer Interns!



Thirteen young women arrived at the Luce Center this summer eager to grow as leaders, strengthen their convictions, and prepare for lives of purpose and influence. Representing **Texas, Washington, Oregon, North Carolina, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia**, and more, the **2026 intern class is the largest in the Luce Center's history**—a milestone made possible by generous conservatives nationwide who fully sponsored every internship experience. Interest in the Luce Center's internship surged to unprecedented levels during this year's application season, drawing an extraordinary pool of talented, mission-driven applicants. For the first time ever, **the overwhelming response forced the Luce Center to close applications two weeks before the regular deadline**, underscoring the growing demand among young women for serious mentorship, formation, and community rooted in faith, family, and freedom.



Ansley Ayers

Home State: Virginia

College: Wake Forest University (North Carolina)

Year: Rising Junior

Major: Politics and International Affairs & Communication

Favorite Conservative Women: Riley Gaines, Karoline Leavitt, and Dana Perino

Favorite Books: *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* by Mitch Albom, *The Giver* by Lois Lowry and *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott

Fun Fact: Ansley started the first ever Young Conservatives Club at her high school.



Juliana Lucas

Home State: New Jersey

College: Tulane University (Louisiana)

Year: Rising Junior

Major: Legal Studies in Business and Finance

Favorite Conservative Woman: Nikki Haley

Favorite Book: *Extreme Ownership* by Jocko Willink and Leif Babin

Fun Fact: Juliana was placed with the Center through her internship with The Fund for American Studies.



Alena Dasha Peethala

Home State: Oregon

College: Vanderbilt University (Tennessee)

Year: Rising Sophomore

Major: National Security with minors in Generative AI and Legal Studies

Favorite Conservative Women: Allie Beth Stuckey and KT McFarland

Favorite Books: *Anne of Green Gables* series by L.M. Montgomery, *A Ready Defense* by Josh McDowell, and *Toxic Empathy* by Allie Beth Stuckey

Fun Fact: Aleena serves as a higher-ed correspondent for *Campus Reform* and *The College Fix*, where she reports on liberal bias on college campuses across the country.



Mary White

Home State: Virginia

College: University of Dallas

Year: Rising Sophomore

Major: Undeclared

Favorite Conservative Women: Lila Rose and Riley Gaines

Favorite Books: *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen, *A Severe Mercy* by Sheldon Vanauken, and *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott

Fun Fact: Learned about the internship from 2025 Luce Center intern Lucy Ruse, a rising junior at the University of Dallas.



Alexis Lange

Home State: Texas

College: Benedictine College (Kansas)

Year: Rising Senior

Major: Business Management

Favorite Conservative Woman: Justice Amy Coney Barrett

Favorite Books: *Gone with the Wind* by Margaret Mitchell, *Lord of the Rings* by J.R.R. Tolkien, and *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith

Fun Fact: Alexis interned at the Heritage Foundation last summer, where she met our 2025 interns, inspiring her to apply for this year's internship.





Catherine Mochen

Home State: Virginia

College: Hillsdale College (Michigan)

Year: Rising Sophomore

Major: English

Favorite Conservative Women: Lila Rose, Amy Coney Barrett, and Alex Clark

Favorite Books: *A Long Way from Chicago* by Richard Peck, *Cheaper by the Dozen* by Frank B. Gilbreth, Jr., and *Anna Karenina* by Leo Tolstoy

Fun Fact: Catherine joined the Respect Life club in middle school and is still involved in the movement as a member of Hillsdale College for Life.



Amira Hawat

Home State: Tennessee

College: Lipscomb University (Tennessee)

Year: Rising Junior

Major: Political Science and International Relations

Favorite Conservative Women: Riley Gaines and Erika Kirk

Favorite Books: *You've Reached Sam* by Dustin Thao and *The Summer I Turned Pretty* series by Jenny Han

Fun Fact: Amira immigrated to the U.S. from Venezuela with her family on the 4th of July in 2019.



Lucy Carney

Home State: Virginia

College: Benedictine College (Kansas)

Year: Rising Sophomore

Major: Politics and Government

Favorite Conservative Woman: Amy Coney Barrett

Favorite Books: *Anna Karenina* by Leo Tolstoy, *The Odyssey* by Homer, and *Brideshead Revisited* by Evelyn Waugh

Fun Fact: Lucy heard from Harmeet Dhillon, Riley Gaines, Mary Margaret Olohan, Emily Jashinsky, and Paula Scanlan at our 2025 Washington, DC Summit and also attended Kimberly's talk at Benedictine College in April 2026.



Adalie Tuman

Home State: Virginia

College: University of Dallas

Year: Rising Junior

Major: Politics with Ethics Concentration

Favorite Conservative Women: Lila Rose, Alice von Hildebrand, and Isabel Brown

Favorite Books: *I Promessi Sposi* by Alessandro Manzoni, *The Brothers Karamazov* by Fyodor Dostoevsky, and *The Education of Henry Adams* by Henry Adams

Fun Fact: Adalie was in the audience the first time Mary Margaret Olohan, now the White House Correspondent for the *Daily Wire*, spoke for the Luce Center in 2024. She also attended our Day at the Range at the University of Dallas in March 2026.



Lindsay Ryan

Home State: Virginia

College: Wake Forest University (North Carolina)

Year: Rising Junior

Major: Elementary Education

Favorite Conservative Women: Laura Ingraham, Karoline Leavitt, and Candace Cameron Bure

Favorite Books: *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Brontë, *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen, and *The Lion The Witch and The Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis

Fun Fact: The first time Lindsay cast a ballot for president, she joined ten other Wake Forest students and was proud to be the only one supporting the conservative nominee.



Olivia Girasia

Home State: Pennsylvania

College: University of Pittsburgh

Year: Rising Sophomore

Major: Political Science and Communications

Favorite Conservative Women: Isabel Brown, Riley Gaines, and Dana Perino

Favorite Book: *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith

Fun Fact: Olivia is the incoming president of Choose Life at the University of Pittsburgh.



Caroline Bonomo

Home State: North Carolina

College: Hillsdale College (Michigan)

Year: Rising Senior

Major: History with minors in biology and classical education

Favorite Conservative Woman: Margaret Thatcher

Favorite Book: *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott

Fun Fact: Caroline is passionate about children's education. She wants to start her career as a teacher and eventually work in education reform.



Ella Finkbeiner

Home State: Texas

College: Grove City College (Pennsylvania)

Year: Rising Junior

Major: Political Science and Communications

Favorite Conservative Women: Isabel Brown, Allie Beth Stuckey, and Brett Cooper

Favorite Books: *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen, *To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee, *Gone With The Wind* by Margaret Mitchell

Fun Fact: Ella attended Kimberly's talk at Grove City College. Dr. Paul Kengor encouraged her to apply for the internship.

Christina Bobb Warns of Growing Threat of Lawfare

Judicial Watch attorney shares firsthand account of political prosecutions, media manipulation, and the fight for accountability



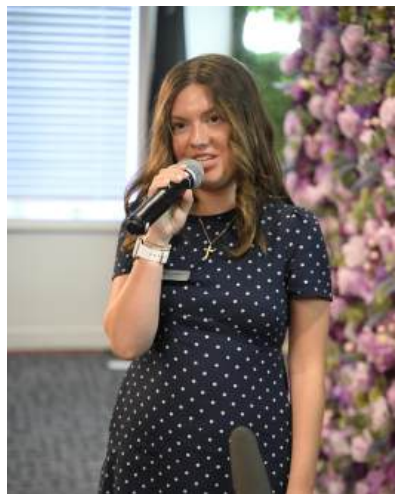
(Left) **Christina Bobb** addresses attendees at the Luce Center, sharing firsthand accounts of the legal battles surrounding President Trump and warning of the growing use of lawfare against political opponents. (Right) Bobb visits with three Luce Center interns named Lucy: (left to right) **Lucy Carney** (2026), **Lucy Ruse** (2025), and **Lucy Evich** (2025–2026).

The Luce Center welcomed attorney, author, and Judicial Watch investigator **Christina Bobb** on May 29 for a timely discussion titled “Exposing the Left’s Ongoing Lawfare.” The event drew young women, supporters, and guests eager to hear Bobb’s firsthand account of the legal battles surrounding President **Donald J. Trump** and the broader use of lawfare against political opponents. Following her remarks, Bobb signed copies of her book, *Defiant: Inside the Mar-a-Lago Raid and the Left’s Ongoing Lawfare*, which features a foreword by President Trump.

Bobb brings a unique combination of legal, military, media, and government experience to the issue. An attorney in Washington, D.C., specializing in national security law, she began her legal career in the **United States Marine Corps**, representing Marines and sailors in court-martial and administrative separation hearings. Her service included overseas tours in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, and Stuttgart, Germany. After leaving the military, she practiced law in San Diego before moving to Washington, where she held executive-level positions within the **Department of Homeland Security**.



Bobb meets with Luce Center interns after her remarks, encouraging the next generation of conservative women to stand for truth and accountability.



Many Americans first came to know Bobb through her work as an investigative reporter and correspondent for **One America News Network**. Following the 2020 election, she joined President Trump's legal team to focus on election integrity efforts and later served as Senior Counsel in the **Republican National Committee's Election Integrity** division during the 2024 election cycle. Today, she serves as an attorney for **Judicial Watch**, where she focuses on exposing government corruption.

The event highlighted the Luce Center's growing network of students and professionals working in conservative leadership. Rising **Wake Forest University** junior **Ansley Ayers** introduced Bobb. Special guests included 2025 intern and **University of Florida** student **Ann Rodgers**, who is currently interning with **The Daily Caller** through **Young America's Foundation's National Journalism Center**, and two Luce Center alumnae who now work with Bobb at Judicial Watch: attorney **Kara (Bell) Davis**, who hosted the Luce Center's first Day at the Range as a student at **University of Wisconsin-Madison** in 2018, and 2023 intern **Kathryn Huth**.

Gratitude for Men Who Invest in Young Women

Bobb opened with a heartfelt acknowledgment of the men in attendance. **"I just want to thank the men for investing your time, your resources, your energy in [conservative women],"** she said. "I know there's a lot of attacks on men and masculinity at the moment." Reflecting on her own career, Bobb noted that she "would not be where I am today without several prominent men who just invested in me and took time to mentor me and help me in my career."

A Front-Row Seat to Lawfare

Bobb recounted her experiences working with President Trump's legal team and witnessing the FBI's August 2022 raid on Mar-a-Lago. She was one of two attorneys who met with the FBI at Mar-a-Lago about the classified documents prior to the raid. Two months later, she was the attorney on-site during the raid itself. Drawing on those experiences, Bobb argued that the raid was part of a broader pattern of politically motivated investigations and prosecutions, calling lawfare the most important issue facing the Trump administration. Calling America's justice system "compromised," she argued, "If we don't get that straightened out, we're going to have a lot of trouble getting everything else straight."

The Personal Cost of Political Prosecutions

Bobb spoke candidly about the personal consequences of becoming a target herself. Between 2021 and 2024, she faced what she described as nine separate legal matters, including congressional subpoenas, a challenge to her law license, criminal charges in Arizona, and a **\$1.6 billion** defamation lawsuit filed by Dominion Voting Systems.

"I spent the four years of the Biden administration largely fighting for my life," she said. The legal costs alone were staggering. "In total, it was probably about **\$2.5 million**," she told attendees. Although Dominion ultimately dismissed her from its lawsuit, Bobb argued that the process itself was often the punishment. "The amount of ingenuity and creativity that these groups will use to try to go after their political opponent is jarring," she said.

Exposing Corruption and Seeking Accountability

At Judicial Watch, Bobb investigates what she described as coordinated efforts to weaponize legal institutions against political opponents. Through public records requests and investigations across multiple states, she said she has uncovered evidence that many of these cases are politically driven.

"It is a political plan. It is a political strategy," she said. "These are not organic cases that just pop up." While emphasizing accountability, Bobb said exposing the truth remains her top priority. "I do want to see prosecutions," she said, "but more than prosecutions, **I just want to see truth. Let's expose it all.**"

She encouraged attendees, especially young women, to engage in public life and stand up for what is right. "Being willing to stand up and say, 'Hey, you know what? That's wrong. You shouldn't be doing that,' is more important than any other time I've been alive."

Bobb concluded on an optimistic note, urging attendees to embrace the opportunities of the current moment. "They're working very hard to try to silence us, throw us in prison, and steal our liberties," she said. "But what a great time to be alive. Is there another time that you'd rather be alive than now, to... [do our part to] fight the good fight?"

Luce Center Interns Experience Classic American Musical, *The Music Man*



(Left) Luce Center interns experience one of America's most beloved musicals during an evening of live theater. (Right) Elliott Andrews stars as Harold Hill in *The Music Man*, bringing the charming story set in 1962 River City, Iowa, to life. Photo credit: Marshall Meadows.

Luce Center interns and President's Club members enjoyed an evening of live theater together on May 31, attending the national touring production of *The Music Man* at Capital One Hall in Virginia. For most of the young women, the outing provided an introduction to a beloved American classic they had never experienced before, having neither seen the 1962 film starring **Robert Preston** and **Shirley Jones** nor attended a stage production of the musical.

Set in small-town Iowa in 1912, the beloved musical follows Harold Hill, a charming con man whose plan to sell marching band instruments unexpectedly brings **hope, confidence, and a renewed sense of community** to the town of River City. The production featured memorable songs, energetic choreography, elaborate costumes, and impressive set design that brought the classic story to life. Highlights included crowd favorites such as "Seventy-Six Trombones" and "Till There Was You."



Thank you for supporting conservative women

Explore sponsorship opportunities to give today's young women the conservative education and mentorship they need to become the strong conservative leaders our country needs*

Summer Interns	\$15,000	13 Fully Sponsored - Thank you!
Fall Interns	\$7,500	2 needed - please consider



Washington, DC Summit - **42 needed - please consider**

June 26 - Featuring Alex Clark, Reagan Reese, Erika Donalds, and Leah Campos

Full sponsorship	\$1,000
Half Sponsorship	\$500

College Women's Summit in San Antonio - **71 needed - please consider**

October 16-18 - Featuring Isabel Brown, Mary Margaret Olohan, and more exciting leaders TBA

Full sponsorship	\$1,500
Half Sponsorship	\$750



On a Personal NOTE

As this issue of *Luce Ladder* goes to press, our largest summer internship class ever is settling into life in Washington, D.C. This summer, 13 exceptional young women from across the country will spend ten weeks immersed in conservative education, leadership development, and mentorship. Thanks to the generosity of supporters like you, every one of these interns is fully sponsored.

The weeks ahead will be filled with extraordinary opportunities. Our interns will attend Conservative Network Events featuring Amber Duke and Caroline Downey, participate in our Washington, D.C. Summit with **Alex Clark, Erika Donalds, Reagan Reese**, and Ambassador **Leah Campos**, and take part in seminars and workshops on media training, public speaking, writing, journalism, etiquette, firearms safety and training, leadership, and more. Just as importantly, they will build friendships, receive mentorship, and gain the confidence needed to lead in all areas of their lives.



*I am grateful to **Bob and Margie Niehaus** for hosting a Circle of Friends event at their beautiful Santa Barbara home and introducing friends to the life-changing work of the Luce Center. If you would like to host a similar gathering and help us reach more young women, please contact us. We would love to partner with you.*

This issue introduces our 13 summer interns. In the months ahead, we'll share stories of their experiences, accomplishments, and growth. We think you'll be as encouraged by these young women as we are.

The 13 young women featured in this issue are exactly why we launched ***The Courage to Lead***, our strategic five-year plan to expand the Luce Center's impact. I hope you've had an opportunity to review the prospectus we recently mailed to you. The plan outlines a **\$29.9 million effort to reach, mentor, and equip far more young women** while expanding our campus speakers program, internship program, mentorship network, and permanent presence in the Washington, D.C. area.

The campaign takes its name from Clare Boothe Luce's observation that "Courage is the ladder on which all the other virtues mount." **America needs a new generation of courageous women leaders, and with your help, we intend to find them, form them, and support them.** To accelerate that work, generous donors have committed a dollar-for-dollar match of up to \$250,000 for gifts to *The Courage to Lead* campaign.

On behalf of our Board Chairman, **Clare Luce Abbey**, Clare Boothe Luce's granddaughter, thank you for your faithful support. Your generosity has already ensured that all 13 of our summer interns can participate in this life-changing program, and it is helping send 90 young women to our upcoming Washington, D.C. Summit, with support for 42 students still needed.

Every young woman who walks through our doors represents a future family strengthened, a future community enriched, and a future leader prepared to serve with conviction and courage. Thank you for investing in these young women and in the future of our country.

In Friendship & Freedom,

President



P.S. Gifts to *The Courage to Lead* campaign will now be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$250,000. Your gift today will help us reach and mentor more young women leaders. Please feel free to contact me at any time at kimberly@conservativewomen.com or 703-507-9999 (call or text). I would be delighted to hear from you.