ALAN WILSON
ATTORNEY GENERAL

April 2, 2026

VIA EMAIL
Mr. David Kronig
records@americanoversight.org

RE: Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request

Dear Mr. Kronig:

The Office of the South Carolina Attorney General (the Office) received your FOIA request on January 27, 2026, which stated:

> American Oversight requests that your office promptly produce the following records:
>
> > All email communications (including emails, email attachments, complete email chains, calendar invitations, and calendar invitation attachments) between (a) any of the officials listed below, or anyone communicating on their behalf, such as an assistant or scheduler, and (b) anyone communicating on behalf of America First Legal, including but not limited to the individuals listed below.
> >
> > South Carolina Office of the Attorney General Officials:
> > a. Alan Wilson, Attorney General
> > b. William Jeffrey 'Jeff ' Young, Chief Deputy Attorney General
> > c. Donald Zelenka, Deputy Attorney General
> > d. Whitney Michael, Chief of Staff
> > e. Robert Kittle, Communications Director
> > f. Matt Gates, Deputy Attorney General
> > g. Jared Q. Libet, Assistant Deputy Attorney General
> >
> > America First Legal Individuals:
> > i. Stephen Miller, Co-Founder
> > ii. Gene Hamilton, President and Co-Founder
> > iii. Daniel Epstein, Vice President

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iv. Mark Meadows, Board Member
v. Matthew Whitaker, Board Member
vi. Russ Vought, Board Member
vii. Ed Corrigan, Board Member
viii. Wesley Denton, former Board Member
ix. Anyone communicating from an email address ending in aflegal.org

Please provide all responsive records from January 1, 2025, through the date the search is conducted.

On February 10, 2026, the Office notified you that public records responsive to your request had been found in accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 30-4-30(C). The office requested a deposit of $14.25 pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 30-4-30(B) to process your request.

On March 3, 2026, we received your deposit. While substantially more than three hours were expended fulfilling your request, as a professional courtesy the Office does not require further payment to complete the production of responsive documents. Accordingly, they are produced herewith.

Be advised that certain documents have been withheld in accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 30-4-40(a)(7) and the attorney work-product doctrine, and certain redactions have been applied in accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 30-4-40(a)(2).

Sincerely yours,

The Office of the South Carolina Attorney General

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EFiled: Jan 31 2025 10:23AM EST
Transaction ID 75551615
Case No. 2024-0184-MTZ

EXHIBIT A

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

IN THE COURT OF CHANCERY OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE

UNITED ATLANTIC VENTURES, LLC, Plaintiff, v. TMTG SUB INC. f/k/a TRUMP MEDIA & TECHNOLOGY GROUP CORP., *et al.,* Defendants.	C.A. No. 2024-0184-MTZ

BRIEF OF THE STATE OF IOWA SUPPORTED BY 14 STATES AS *AMICUS CURIAE* IN SUPPORT OF DEFENDANTS

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Counsel for the State of Iowa as Amicus Curiae

Dated: January 31, 2025

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SC-AG-26-0170-A-000003

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People of the State of N.Y. v. Trump,
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Other Authorities

L. Tribe,
American Constitutional Law 513 (2d ed. 1988). 5

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STATEMENT OF *AMICUS CURIAE*'S INTEREST[1]

The State of Iowa, supported by 14 State attorneys general,[2] has deep constitutional and structural concerns with the potential for litigation distracting the President of the United States from his duties. Each State has its own court system with its own rules and its own imperative to ensure that justice is done. But there have long been deep constitutional concerns with allowing civil litigation to continue against the sitting President of the United States. *See, e.g.*, *Clinton v. Jones*, 520 U.S. 681, 710–11 (1997) (Breyer, J., concurring in judgment). That is why *Amicus Curiae* Iowa, supported on the brief by the Attorneys General of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, and Texas, files this brief in support of Defendants' motion to dismiss.

A vital consideration for this Court, in deciding whether to dismiss this case or hold it in abeyance, is the "principle of the President's independent authority to control his own time and energy." *Id.* at 711. The States each have a strong interest in President Trump maintaining his focus on his priorities in office rather than being

---

[1] Unless otherwise defined herein, capitalized terms have the meaning defined in the *Opening Brief in Support of Defendants' Motion to Dismiss, or Alternatively, to Stay on the Basis of Temporary Presidential Immunity* ("Defs.' Br.") (Dkt. 195).

[2] See Exhibit 1 for a list of State attorneys general who, on behalf of their respective States, have offered their support to this brief.

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forced to divert his attention to piecemeal litigation scattered among the fifty States. This Court's inherent power allows it to act prudentially to avoid imposing the time, cost, and expense of litigation on the sitting President of the United States—at least, during his term of office. This Court should exercise that authority to either dismiss this case or hold the case in abeyance pending President Trump's presidential term.

This lawsuit was filed in early 2024—well before President Trump won reelection and the responsibilities accompanying that reelection became realized. As sovereign States, Iowa and the 14 attorneys general supporting it have a special concern for the preservation of our constitutional form of government. The Constitution only holds our union of States together in harmony if it is upheld by the courts. Across the country, States have filed *amicus* briefs cautioning courts against both civil and criminal judicial actions against a sitting President. *See, e.g.*, *Amicus Curiae* Br. of South Carolina Attorney General, *People of the State of N.Y. v. Trump*, Case No. 2023-04925 (N.Y. App. July 26, 2024).[3]

Our federalist system relies on States and the federal government working together to solve our nation's problems. In the present context of a President uniquely challenged by burdensome litigation, the distraction of civil litigation risks forcing the President to prioritize his focus on litigating rather than the vital issues

[3] *Available at* https://www.scag.gov/media/3nzpqgev/ny-v-trump-states-amicus-brief-filed.pdf.

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facing the country. Declining to dismiss this case may thus create a "chilling effect" on the President's "carrying out of his responsibilities." *Trump v. United States*, 603 U.S. 593, 604 (2024).

INTRODUCTION

This Court should exercise its inherent powers to dismiss this case, or stay the action, so that the case will not proceed until after the President's term expires. This dispute involves disagreement about, among other issues, a services agreement that defined rights and responsibilities between various TMTG stakeholders concerning ownership rights and board seats. But unlike other commercial and corporate governance disputes, one of the board members and defendants here is President Donald J. Trump.

Iowa and its sister states have no interest in the underlying claims, but have a definite interest in one straightforward question: should this Court proceed with a case against the sitting President of the United States? It should not, both as a general matter and in the specific circumstances of this unique case.

In considering federal civil immunity for the sitting President, the United States Supreme Court noted what was, at that time, a relative paucity of civil lawsuits filed against a sitting President. *See Clinton*, 520 U.S. at 692 (acknowledging three sitting Presidents had been subject to lawsuits involving acts taken before entering office). But even at that time, Justice Breyer was "less sanguine" about the situation.

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Id. at 722 (Breyer, J., concurring in judgment). He presciently warned that more lawsuits could "pose a significant threat to the President's official functions." *Id.* at 723. That prediction came to pass with President Trump, who has been the recipient of more targeted lawsuits, including personal-capacity civil suits, than any other President or Presidential candidate to date.

Justice Breyer's concern is reflected in *Trump v. United States*, which affirmed the danger of allowing court cases to continue against the President of the United States. 603 U.S. at 610–11. Although that case involved official acts, the underlying logic of avoiding interference with the President's duties is equally relevant here. State courts have long had authority to abstain from deciding cases that would create conflicts in the federal system. Here, this Court should exercise that discretion and decline to subject the sitting President of the United States to ongoing civil litigation.

ARGUMENT

I. PRESIDENT TRUMP FACES UNPRECEDENTED STATE COURT LAWSUITS.

President Trump has faced more lawsuits filed in State courts than every President in American history combined. Defs.' Br. at 26. When considering whether to allow this case to proceed, the Court should consider not only the time, energy, and distraction imposed by this litigation on President Trump but also the cumulative effect of each of those lawsuits.

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This Court should prudentially decline to proceed with this case given the unique problems with active litigation in State courts against the President of the United States. The United States Supreme Court has left open the question of whether State courts are obligated to dismiss or defer cases that name the President as defendant. *See Clinton*, 520 U.S. at 691 & n.13. But the Court has acknowledged that State court litigation is categorically different from the federal court case at issue in *Clinton*. *Id.* That case acknowledged that "federalism and comity concerns" when a State court asserts jurisdiction over the President may "present a more compelling case for immunity," but the question was not then before the Supreme Court. *Id.* at 691.

The Supreme Court did, however, emphasize that "direct control by a state court over the President" implicates the "Supremacy Clause" in a manner that is "quite different from the interbranch separation of powers questions" at issue in whether a federal civil case should be allowed to proceed. *Id.* at 691 n.13 (citing L. Tribe, American Constitutional Law 513 (2d ed. 1988) ("[A]bsent explicit congressional consent no state may command federal officials . . . to take action in derogation of their . . . federal responsibilities")). This Court should exercise its discretion in declining to proceed on this basis alone.

In addition to general federalism concerns, this matter involves a uniquely compelling case for deferring litigation involving the sitting President. Indeed,

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Clinton v. Jones—the closest case—ended by addressing two concerns that it believed were not serious: first, "the risk that our decision will generate a large volume of politically motivated harassing and frivolous litigation" and second, "the danger that national security concerns might prevent the President from explaining a legitimate need for a continuance." 520 U.S. at 708. Despite the Court's "optimism" to the contrary, the first, once-hypothetical concern is now very real. *See id.* at 723 (Breyer, J., concurring in judgment). Already, this President faces never-before-seen litigation across the country. That unique and cumulative challenge creates a severe problem for the important functions the President must prioritize.

There are many viable approaches for dealing with the rapid growth of the problem of litigation against the sitting President in State courts. One answer put forward by Justice Breyer is for "courts [] to develop administrative rules applicable to such cases (including postponement rules of the sort at issue in [*Clinton v. Jones*]) in order to implement the basic constitutional directive." *Id.* That concern becomes even more pressing given the mosaic of different rules, laws, and lawsuits available across the fifty States. In the present context of proliferating State litigation, even securing appropriate counsel, trained and licensed in every State where a lawsuit may be filed, is enough of a burden to distract the President from his duties.

Recent trends show that, unfortunately, Justice Breyer's fears were well-founded. State civil litigation is a dangerous drain on the President's time and a clear

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"obstruction or impediment" to the performance of his duties. If a line is not drawn here and now, there is no reason to believe this will stop with this President. While President Trump's prominent business dealings are well-known, he is not the only politician—or potential future politician—with widespread business interests. Even the most honest individuals and companies sometimes face legal disputes, meaning that there will likely be potential plaintiffs with at least colorable claims against future Presidents—regardless of party.

This Court should follow Justice Breyer's advice in *Clinton v. Jones*, look carefully at the unique facts of this case, and either dismiss this case without prejudice or hold it in abeyance to allow for President Trump to serve his term without facing undue distractions in civil State court litigation through the next four years. This Court has discretion to do so, and prudence counsels that it exercise such discretion.

II. DELAWARE COMMON LAW COUNSELS ABEYANCE.

Constitutional avoidance is a fundamental principle across the country and in Delaware courts. *See, e.g.*, *Abbott v. Del. State Pub. Integrity Comm'n*, 206 A.3d 260, 2019 WL 937184, at *4 (Del. Feb. 25, 2019) (en banc) (Table). That is because "[u]nder the prudential rule of necessity, constitutional issues must not be resolved in advance of a strict necessity for deciding them." *Berent v. City of Iowa City*, 738 N.W.2d 193, 205 (Iowa 2007) (citing *INS v. Chadha*, 462 U.S. 919, 937 (1983)).

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Abbott v. Delaware State Public Integrity Commission, for example, declined to reach a separation of powers issue because it was not essential to resolve the case. *See* 2019 WL 937184, at *4. Here, the Court need not reach the thorny constitutional issue of State court jurisdiction over a sitting President or the core federalism concerns that issue implicates because longstanding Delaware common law and the inherent power of the Courts allow this Court to defer proceeding until after President Trump leaves office.

Delaware common law's genius "lies in its ability to adapt" to new situations. *Beattie v. Beattie*, 630 A.2d 1096, 1098 n.3 (Del. 1993) (quoting *Brooks v. Robinson*, 259 Ind. 16, 22 (Ind. 1972)). This is the first time that the Court of Chancery has faced a civil damages lawsuit where the sitting President of the United States is a defendant. That is the definition of novelty. And in such a circumstance, a court may proceed with "court made" rules grounded in "reason" and "a right sense of justice." *Williams v. Williams*, 369 A.2d 669, 673 (Del. 1976). This novel case also counsels consistent treatment with (i) Delaware's foundational principles of "judicial restraint" in avoiding constitutional issues as an "important element in the orderly administration of justice," *Downs v. Jacobs*, 272 A.2d 706, 708 (Del. 1970), (ii) the First State's historic respect for the federal government, and (iii) the many other deferral rules that the state courts have crafted. *See, e.g.*, *Salzberg v. Sciabacucchi*, 227 A.3d 102, 134 (Del. 2020) ("Delaware historically has, and should continue to

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be, vigilant about not stepping on the toes of . . . the federal government."); Defs.' Br. at 49–51 (listing Delaware deferral rules that require civil plaintiffs to accept a temporary postponement of litigation).

The United States Supreme Court has explained that State courts should consider the "high respect that is owed to the office of the Chief Executive" in moving forward with litigation against the sitting President. *See Trump v. Vance*, 591 U.S. 786, 809 (2020) (regarding evidentiary requirements for State grand jury proceedings) (quoting *Clinton*, 520 U.S. at 707 (Breyer, J., concurring in judgment)). Indeed, the Supreme Court has acknowledged President-specific defenses to subpoenas, including "challeng[ing] a subpoena as an attempt to influence the performance of his official duties, in violation of the Supremacy Clause." *Id.* at 809–10. The same principle applies here. That defense was intended, the Supreme Court explained, to forestall "local political machinations 'interposed as an obstacle to the effective operation of a federal constitutional power.'" *Id.* at 810 (quoting *United States v. Belmont*, 301 U.S. 324, 332 (1937)).

Justice Kavanaugh explained in even more detail the State court rationale for declining to retain jurisdiction in a civil damages case—like this one—brought against a sitting President. *See id.* at 813–14 (Kavanaugh, J., concurring in judgment). Even in the criminal context, State courts should be "particularly meticulous" about when they allow a case to proceed. *Id.* at 814. Justice Kavanaugh,

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joined by Justice Gorsuch, agreed in *Vance* to remand to the district court for "further proceedings, where the president may raise constitutional and legal objections . . . as appropriate." *Id.*

There is a longstanding tradition of deference to a sitting executive in Delaware, too. Delaware's original constitution codified protections for its governor when facing legal challenges. *See* Del. Const. Art. XXIII (1776). That tracks with Delaware courts' caution "about not stepping on the toes of . . . the federal government." *Salzberg*, 227 A.3d at 134. That includes fidelity to the vertical separation of powers and the Supremacy Clause. Delaware's sister State courts across the country likewise give due deference to the federal government. Such principled respect for the federal government is why many States' highest courts have refused to enjoin federal officers altogether—much less the President. *See, e.g.*, *Armand Schmoll, Inc. v. Fed. Rsrv. Bank*, 37 N.E.2d 225, 226 (1941) ("No case has been cited which might justify the invocation of the powers of a state court in this proceeding.").

Another recent Delaware Supreme Court case may shed light on the prudential considerations at play. In *Abbott v. Vavala*, the Supreme Court explained that there is no power in the Court of Chancery for a "trial court of limited jurisdiction" to "enjoin a higher court with exclusive jurisdiction over a matter and an arm of that court from carrying out their official functions as to that matter." 284 A.3d 77, 2022

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WL 3642947, at *4 (Del. 2022) (Table). Just as it would be improper for this Court to issue an injunction purporting to bind a higher court, continuing a proceeding against the sitting President of the United States could create similar and serious problems in the event of disputes or conflicts over discovery, depositions, scheduling hearings, etc. There is no clear remedy for compelling the President's participation in certain disputed aspects of litigation or if a conflict exists between the Court's schedule and the President's duties. A prudent and viable solution to this problem is simply waiting for it to go away, by dismissing or holding this case in abeyance until the end of the President's term.

The President has raised appropriate constitutional and legal objections to proceedings continuing in this Court. This Court should follow Delaware's longstanding tradition of judicial restraint and decline to move forward until after his term is complete.

CONCLUSION

This Court should dismiss this case or hold the case in abeyance during the pendency of President Trump's term until January 20, 2029.

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

SC-AG-26-0170-A-000016

Dated: January 31, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

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Words: 2,578 of 7,000

Counsel for the State of Iowa
as Amicus Curiae

*Iowa is supported by a coalition of State Attorneys General listed in Exhibit 1

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SC-AG-26-0170-A-000017

EFiled: Jan 31 2025 10:23AM EST
Transaction ID 75551615
Case No. 2024-0184-MTZ

EXHIBIT 1

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EXHIBIT 1:
ADDITIONAL ATTORNEYS GENERAL IN SUPPORT OF *AMICUS*

STEVE MARSHALL
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Attorney General of Arkansas

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Acting Attorney General of Florida

CHRIS CARR
Attorney General of Georgia

LIZ MURRILL
Attorney General of Louisiana

LYNN FITCH
Attorney General of Mississippi

ANDREW T. BAILEY
Attorney General of Missouri

AUSTIN KNUDSEN
Attorney General of Montana

MICHAEL T. HILGERS
Attorney General of Nebraska

DREW WRIGLEY
Attorney General of North Dakota

GENTNER DRUMMOND
Attorney General of Oklahoma

ALAN WILSON
Attorney General of South Carolina

MARTY JACKLEY
Attorney General of South Dakota

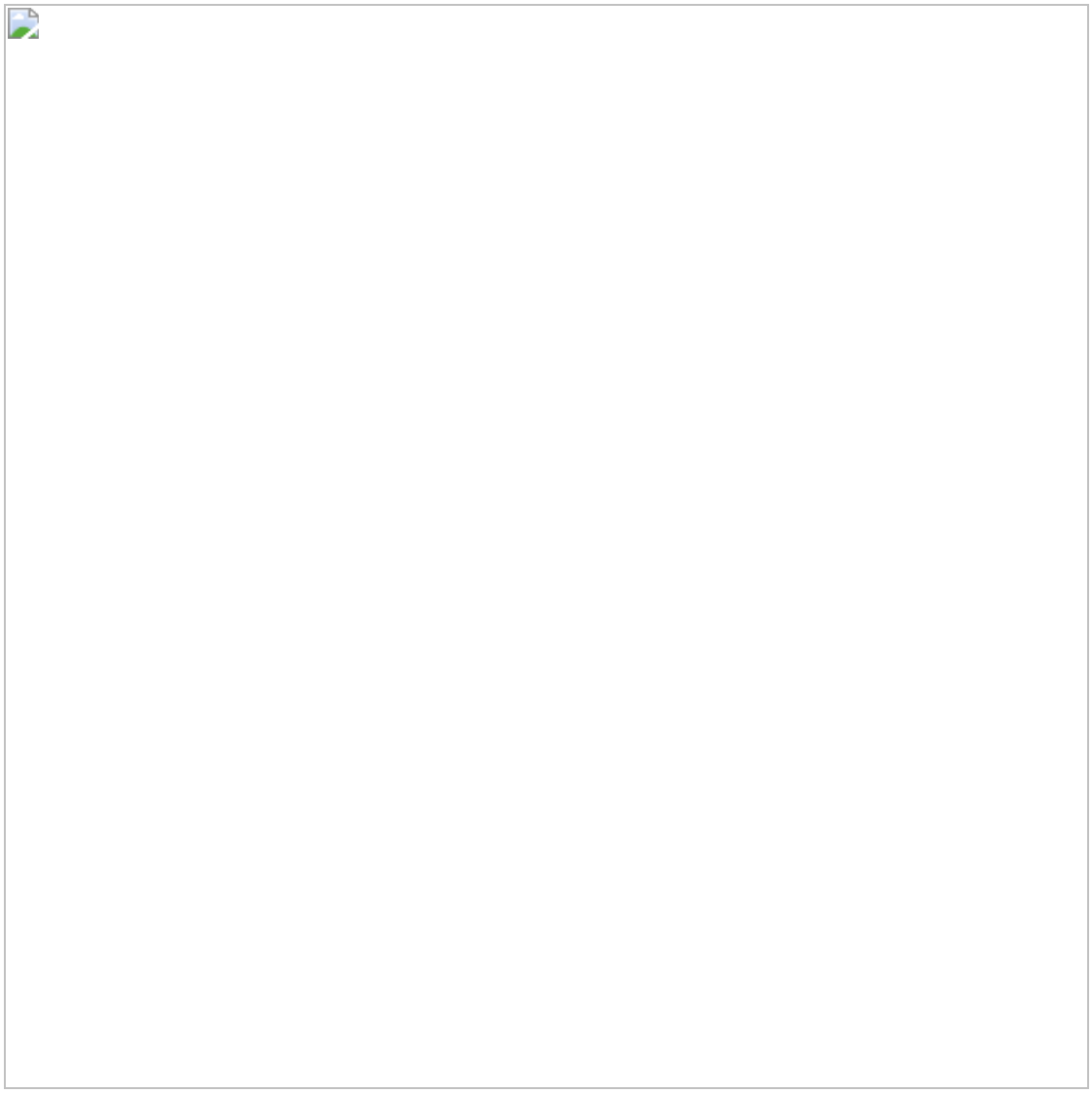
KEN PAXTON
Attorney General of Texas

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

From: America First Legal <beth@wethepeople.digital>
Sent on: Friday, September 12, 2025 4:06:21 PM
To: Alan Wilson <agwilson@scag.gov>
Subject: Important Message for Parents >>

You don't often get email from beth@wethepeople.digital. Learn why this is important

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Fellow Patriot,

As children across the country return to school, parents face an unprecedented challenge: protecting their kids from an education system overtaken by the radical Left. And let's be clear–*we aren't talking about minor disputes or disagreements*. Kids across the country are being subjected–*on a daily basis*–to things like radical transgender ideology, inappropriate surveys soliciting private information, open hostility based on their race and religion, and so much more.

But parents have the ability to fight back and protect their children, and America First Legal is providing them with the resources that they need to do so.

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This week we launched our Parent and Student Action Center, a critical

resource designed to empower families with the tools and knowledge they need to defend parental rights and protect their children in the classroom.

I'm asking you today: would you please share the link to these resources with your friends, family, and networks? Knowledge and resources in the hands of committed patriots can change the world.

Our Parent and Student Action Center includes comprehensive toolkits that provide parents with essential information–and template documents that they can use–about their rights under key federal laws, including:

Title VI: Protects students from race-based discrimination in federally funded programs.

Title IX: Bars sex-based discrimination and protects students' rights in areas like admissions, athletics, and treatment in schools.

PPRA: Gives parents the power to opt out of invasive surveys, evaluations, and instructional materials touching on sensitive topics like sex, religion, and politics.

FERPA: Ensures parents have access to their children's education records and the ability to control disclosure of sensitive information.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA): Allows parents to request access to school records, ensuring transparency and accountability.

After you review these resources, I'd also like to ask for your strong support to continue this critical work and to ensure parents across the nation have the tools they need to protect their children. ***Please, consider making a donation to support this work today >>***

DONATE HERE >>

Parents have a fundamental obligation to raise the next generation and instill values that will ensure greatness for American generations to come. No failing school bureaucracy should stand in the way of that greatness!

Your support today will give parents the strength to face the challenges ahead and make sure that future generations are educated with our American values.

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and principles: *not twisted woke indoctrination*.

RUSH SUPPORT HERE >> [SECURE LINK]

Thank you for standing with us in this critical fight,

Gene Hamilton

President, America First Legal

DONATE

America First Legal Foundation is an IRS-approved section 501(c)(3) public charity. Your donation to America First Legal Foundation is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Unsubscribe

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From: Terrye [redacted]
Sent on: Saturday, October 4, 2025 12:35:57 AM
To: Alan Wilson <agwilson@scag.gov>
Subject: Fwd: America First Legal Reveals Explosive Documents Exposing Biden Department of Justice's Partnership and Coordinated Campaign with the Southern Poverty Law Center to Weaponize Civil Rights Enforcement

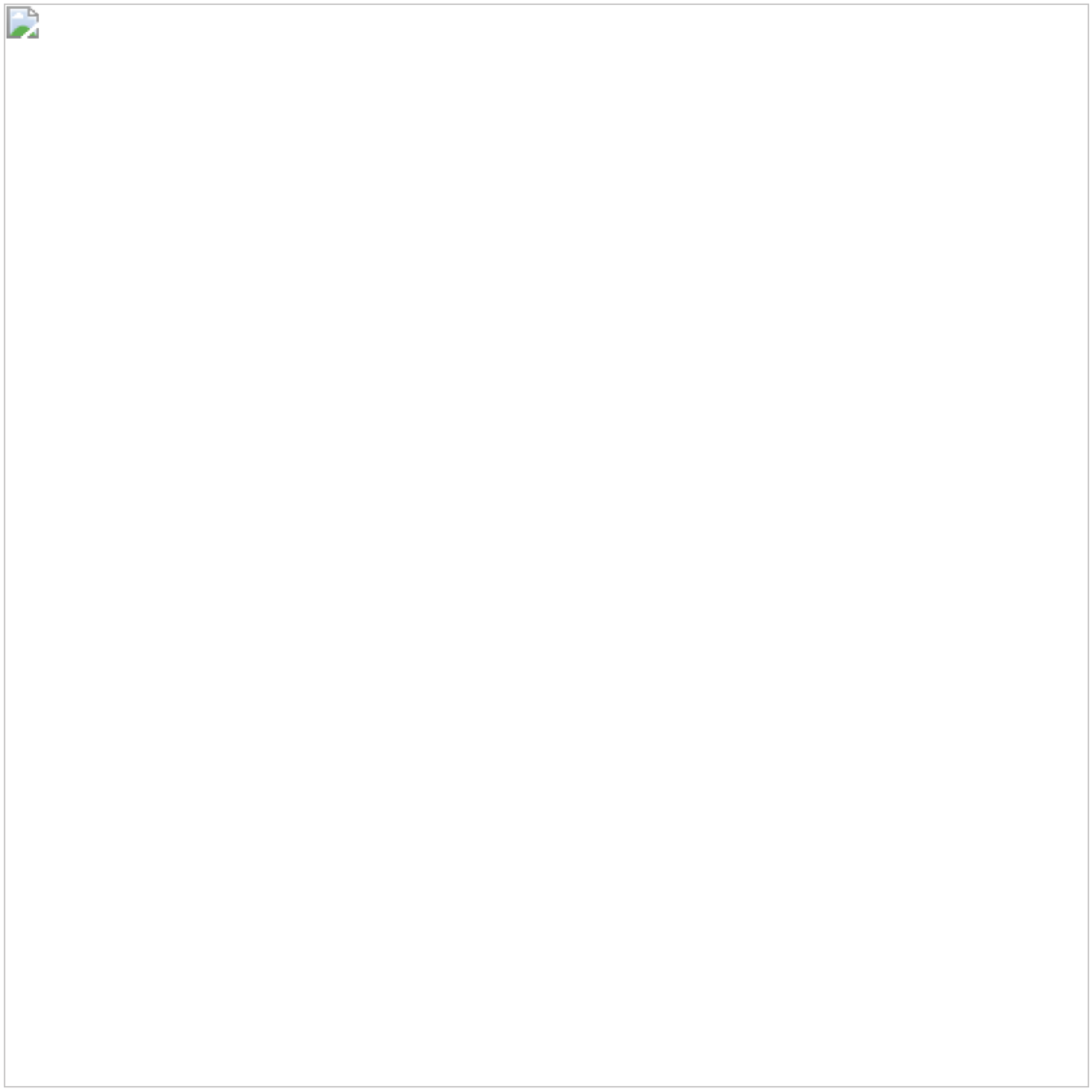
FYI!
THIS is what states face!….

Terrye
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** America First Legal info@email.aflegal.org
> **Date:** October 3, 2025 at 8:08:09 PM EDT
> **To:** Terrye Seckinger [redacted]
> **Subject: America First Legal Reveals Explosive Documents Exposing Biden Department of Justice's Partnership and Coordinated Campaign with the Southern Poverty Law Center to Weaponize Civil Rights Enforcement**
> **Reply-To:** Donate info@email.aflegal.org

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America First Legal Reveals Explosive Documents Exposing Biden Department of Justice's Partnership and Coordinated Campaign with the Southern Poverty Law Center to Weaponize Civil Rights Enforcement

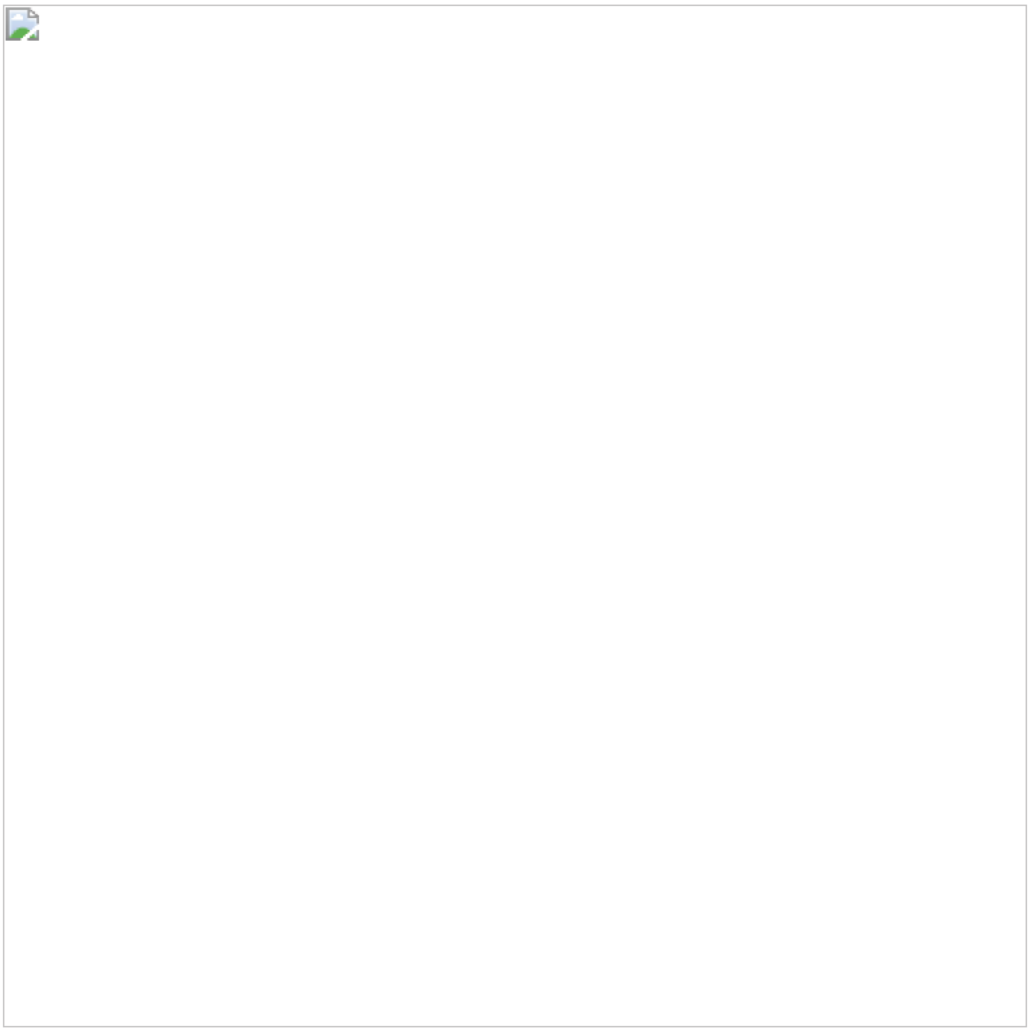
WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, America First Legal (AFL) released explosive new documents obtained through Freedom of Information Act requests and litigation showing how the Biden Department of Justice (DOJ) partnered with the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) and gave the left-wing extremist group unprecedented access and influence over federal civil rights enforcement, including training DOJ prosecutors, standing meetings with DOJ leadership, and regular "coffee and danish" meetings with top DOJ officials.

Biden's DOJ not only offered SPLC a seat at the table—it handed over early access to FBI data, encouraged SPLC's participation at standing quarterly meetings, and even invited the partisan extremist group to lead official trainings for federal officials. This access included regular communications with DOJ's Civil Rights Division, as well as with the Office of the Deputy Attorney General. America First Legal has obtained THOUSANDS of pages of

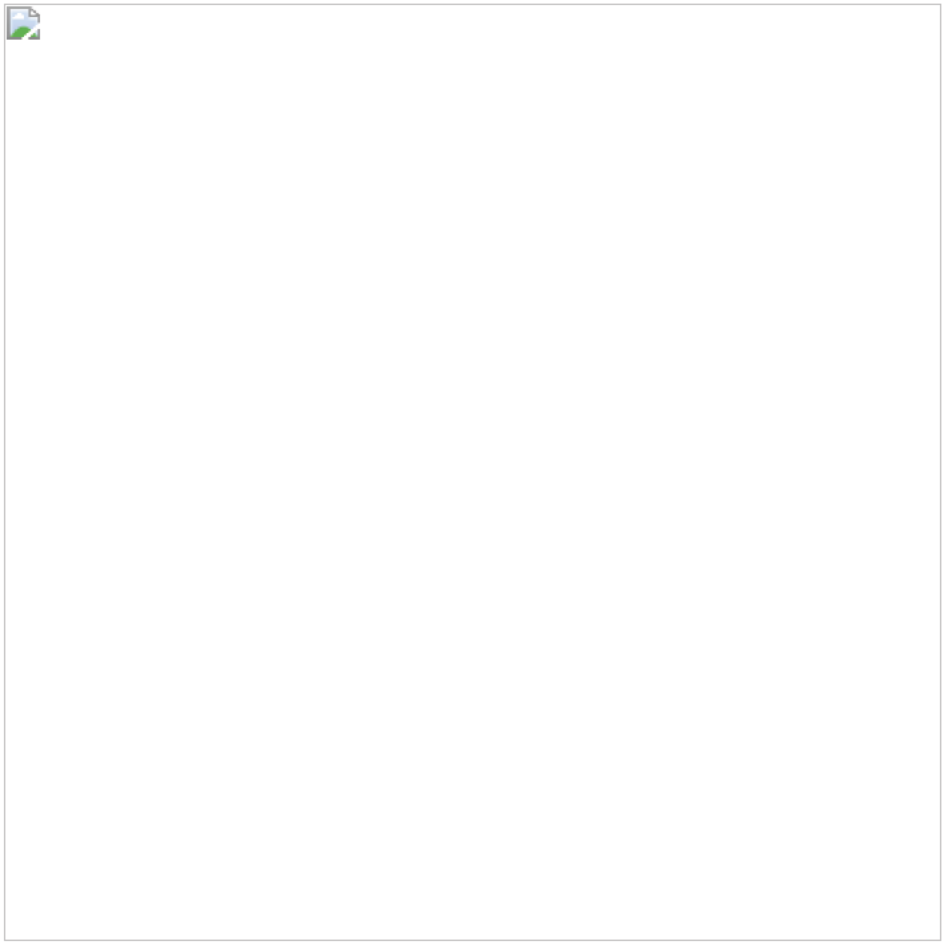
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records of responsive documents to its requests, and will release additional findings in subsequent releases.

This was not a casual relationship; it was a deeply embedded partnership that put a discredited, ideological smear factory—best known for putting mainstream groups like Turning Point USA and Moms for Liberty on its "hate map" alongside the KKK—at the heart of the Justice Department's civil rights agenda. Biden's DOJ handed over the training of its federal prosecutors to SPLC, then cozied up to its staffers over coffee and danishes.

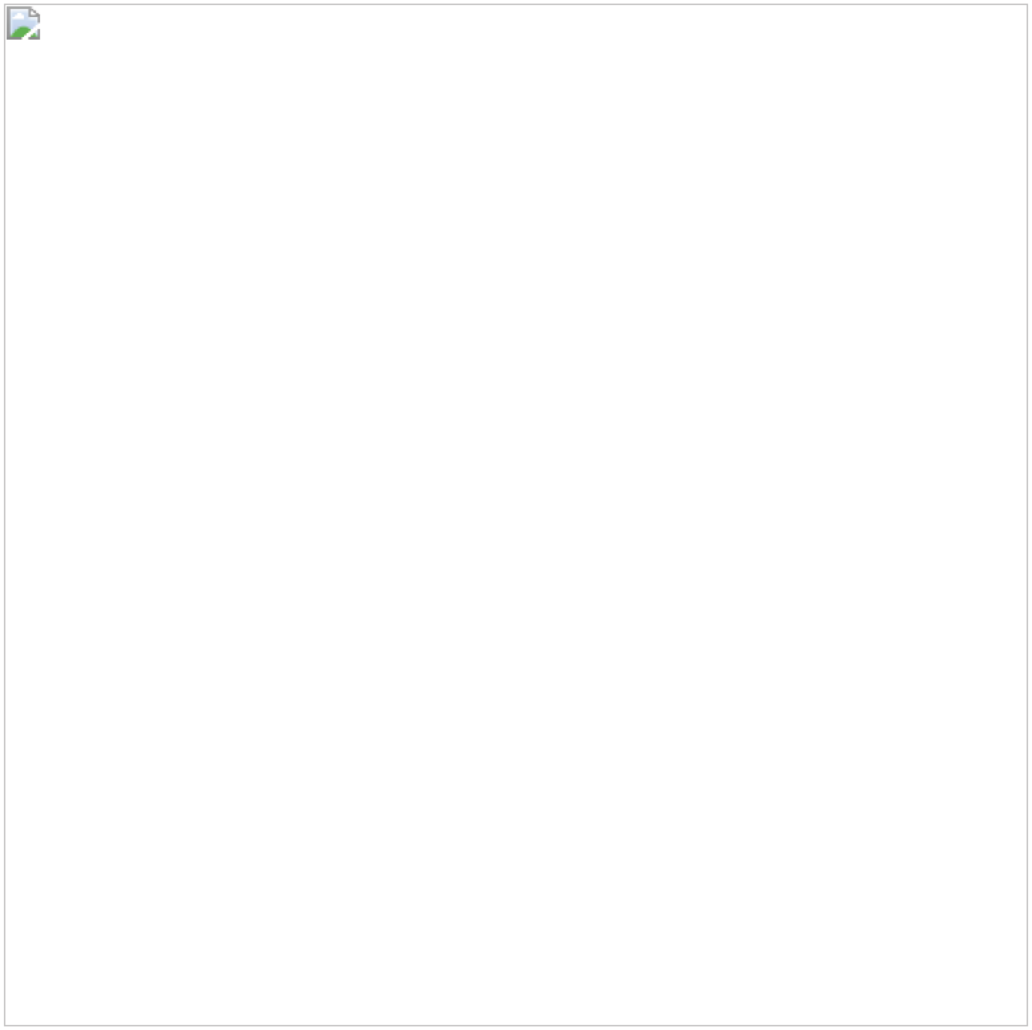


AMERICAN OVERSIGHT

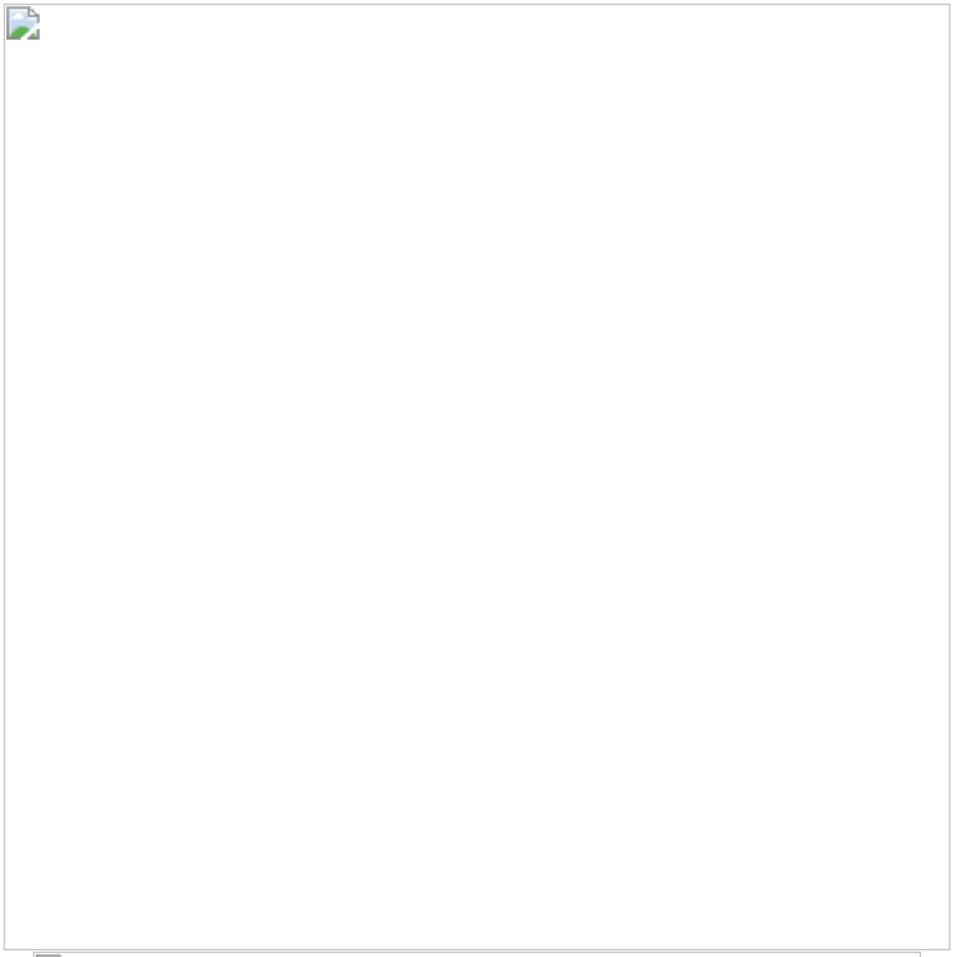


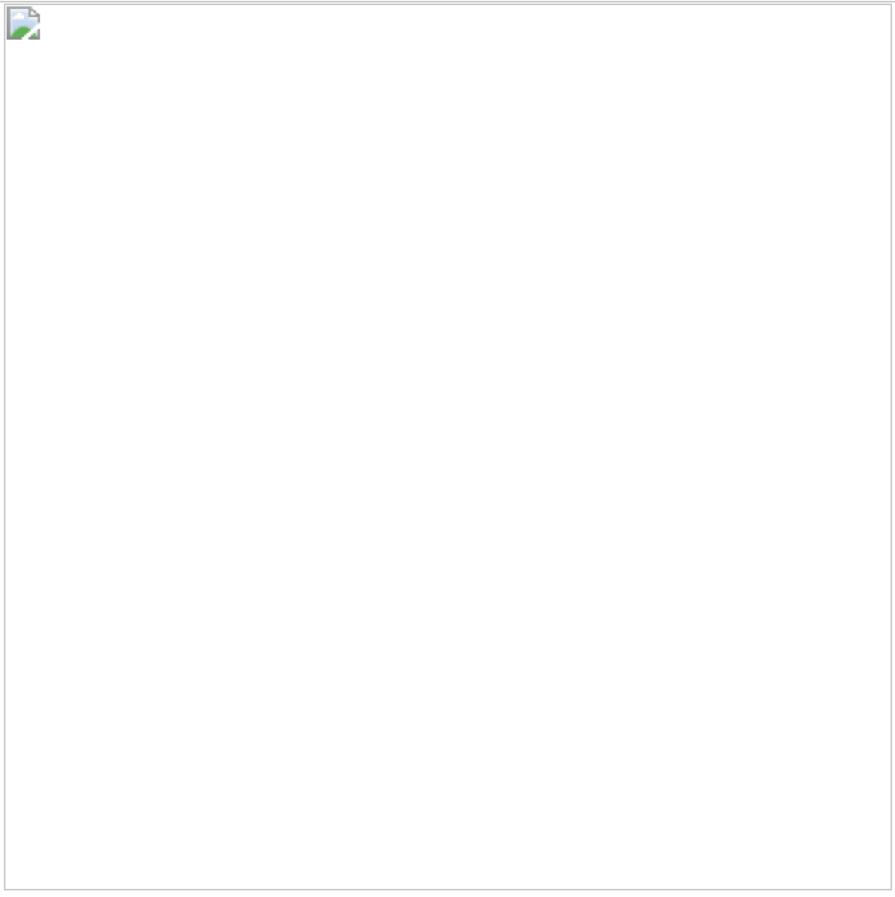
Emails show that SPLC received early, embargoed access to FBI hate-crimes data, giving its staff the chance to draft talking points and coordinate with DOJ before the data ever went public. Kristen Clarke, then-Assistant Attorney General for DOJ's Civil Rights Division, even reached out to SPLC staff, wondering "if there are federal civil rights matters of concern that we should be tracking." This was an invitation from the Biden DOJ for radical outside groups to help shape priorities and drive the very civil rights agenda that federal prosecutors were then trained to enforce. The result was federal civil rights enforcement that looked less like equal justice and more like SPLC's hit list.

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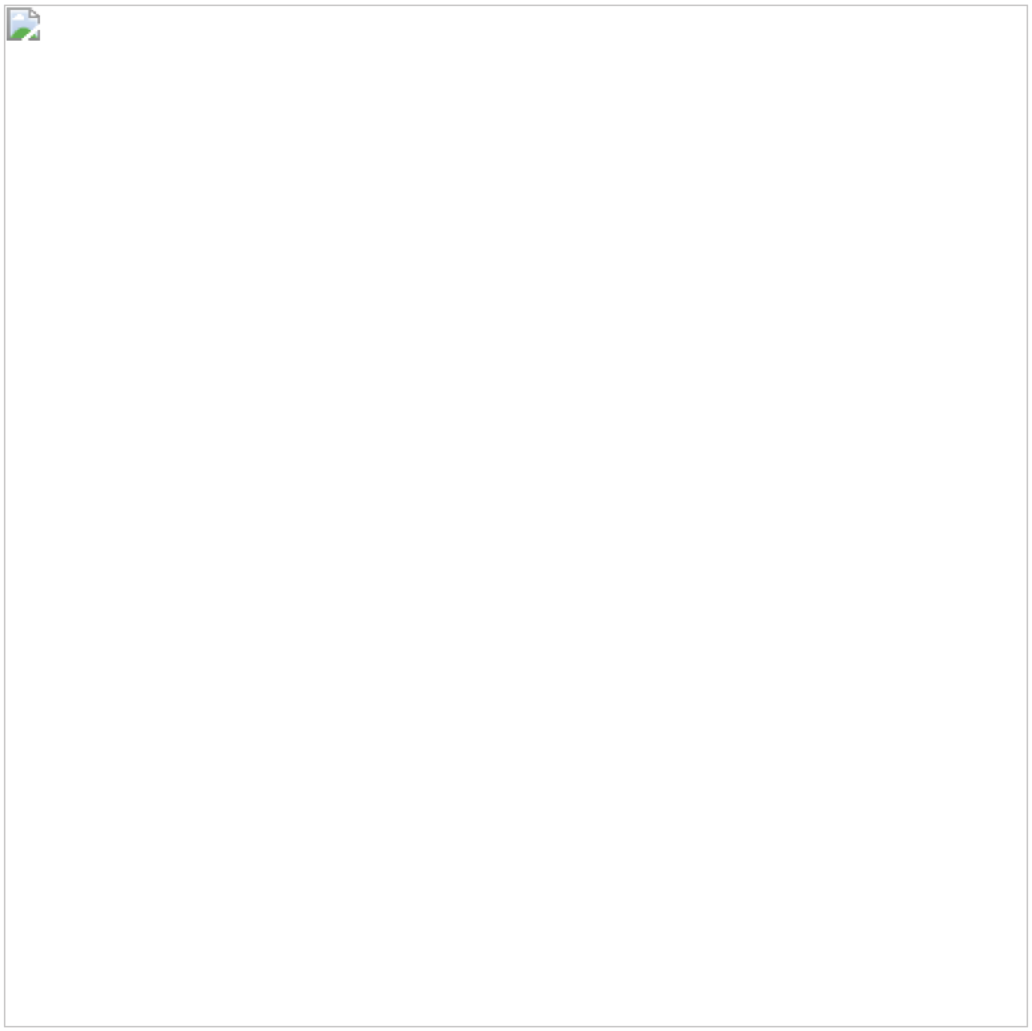




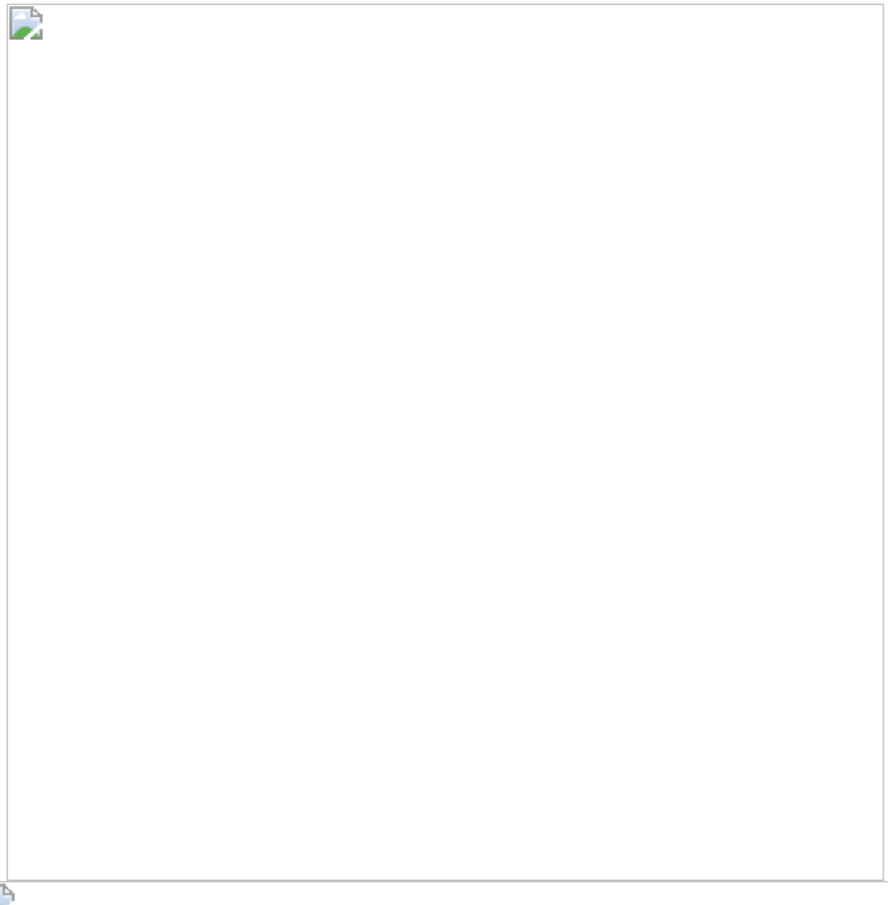
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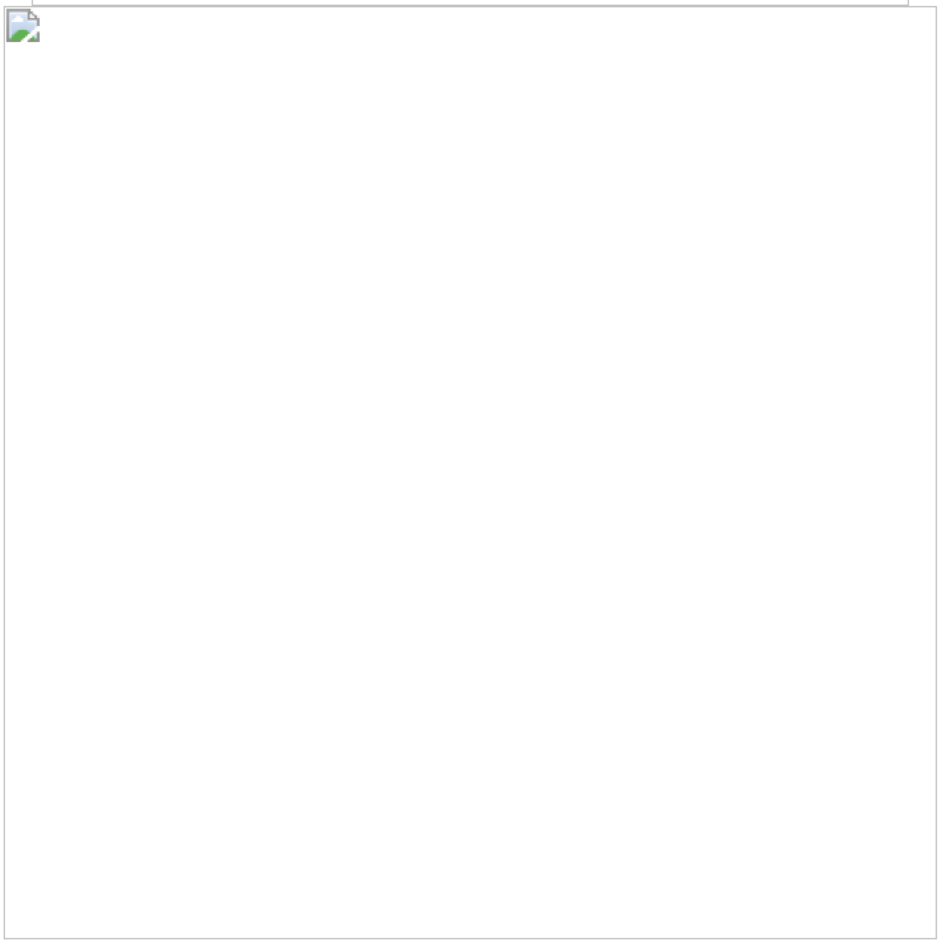
The partnership was institutionalized through quarterly DOJ Civil Rights Division meetings where the SPLC was a regular participant. Agendas show SPLC's assigned speaking roles

—like training attendees on “public education re: hate crime data release”—and schedules were even shifted around to accommodate top Biden officials like then-Associate Attorney General Vanita Gupta. These quarterly meetings also included other controversial, partisan groups like Rainbow Push, Color of Change, Human Rights Campaign, National Action Network, Southern Coalition for Social Justice, Law for Black Lives, and others.

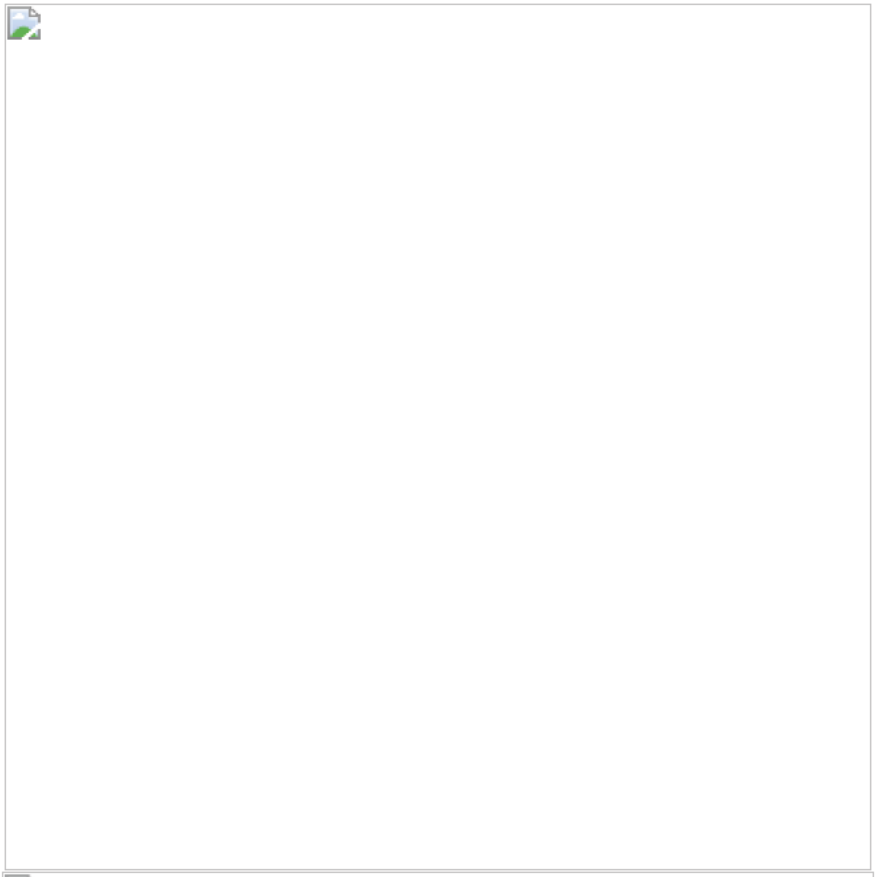


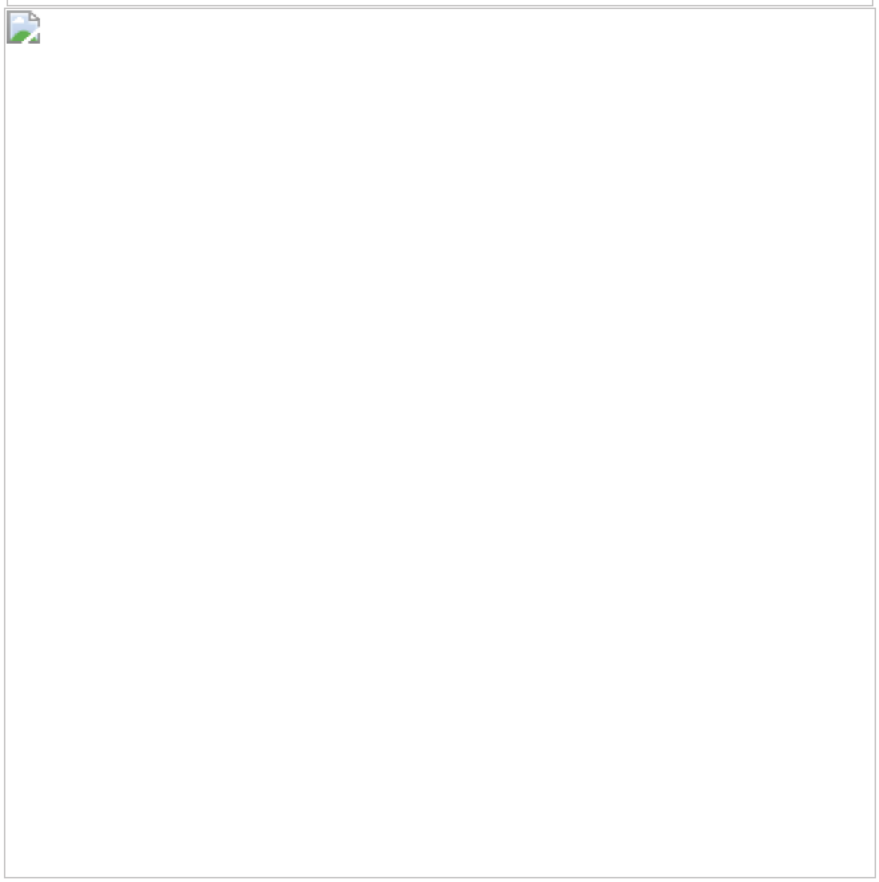
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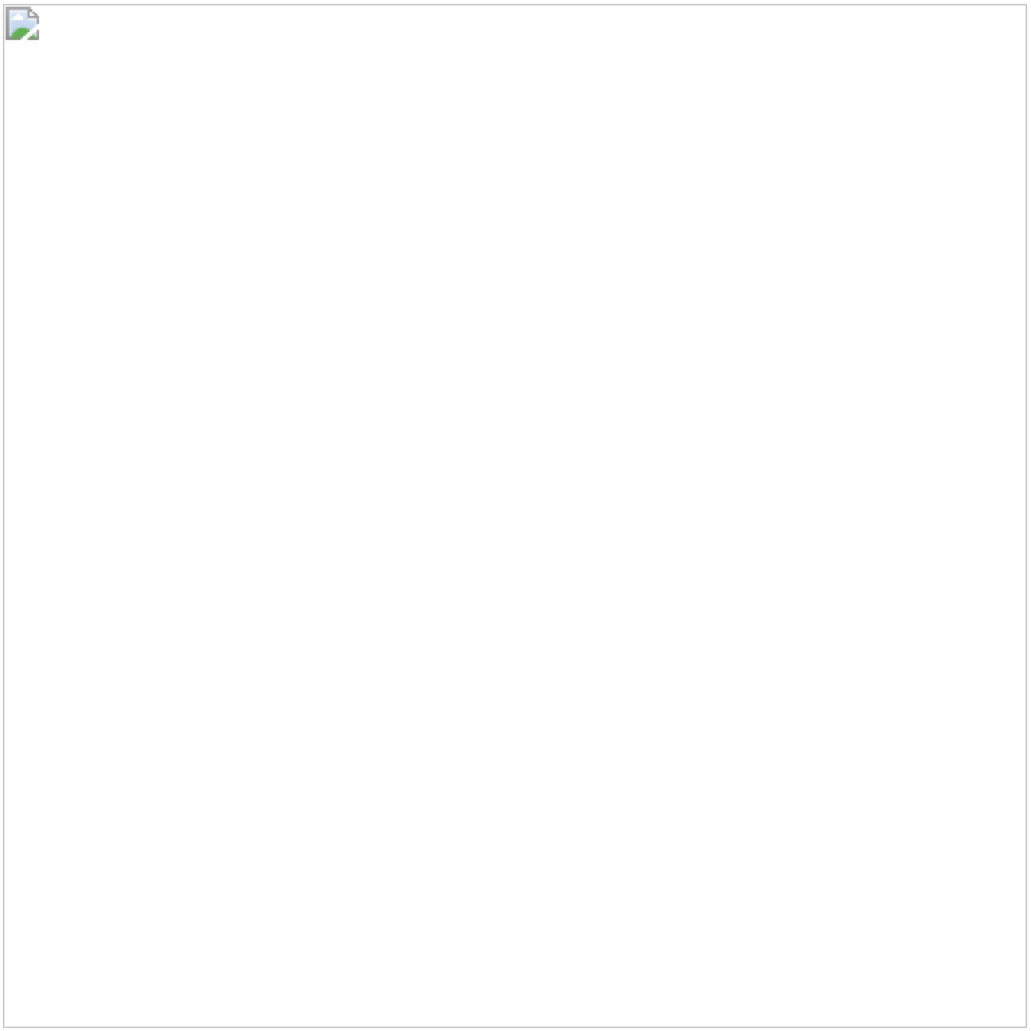


DOJ leaders also participated in additional meetings with SPLC, the NAACP, the ACLU, and others, and were trusted to provide guidance to DOJ on hate crime enforcement, voting rights, and transgender issues, among other topics.

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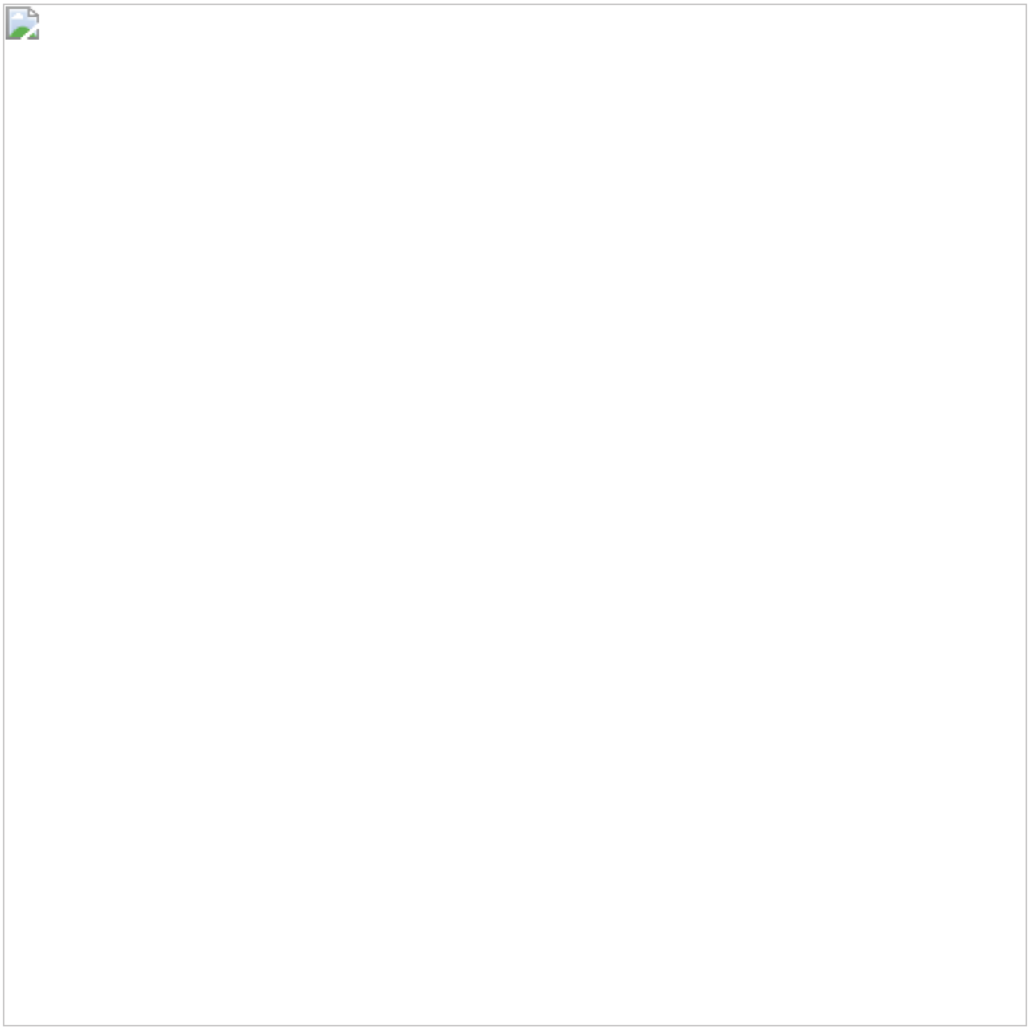
AFL previously uncovered documents showing that not long after, the Department of

Homeland Security's now-debunked Homeland Intelligence Experts Group declared that "most of the domestic terrorism threat" in America "comes from supporters of the former President." The Biden Administration was rife with this politicized, dangerous narrative that targeted half the country as extremists not deserving the full protection of the Constitution.



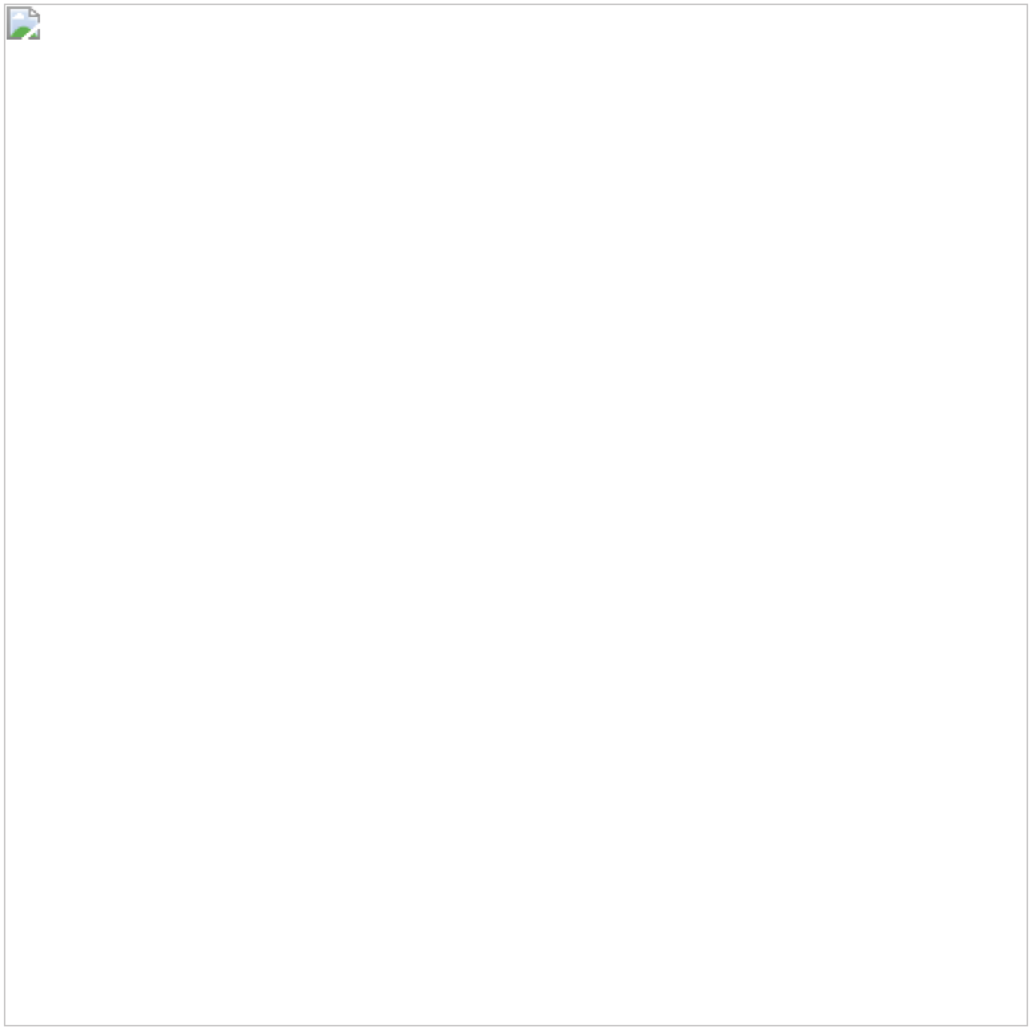
DOJ leaders also developed a close rapport with SPLC staff. Then-Assistant AG Clarke emailed the group expressing how much she was "looking forward" to visiting them on an official government trip to Montgomery, Alabama, in which she also toured SPLC's headquarters. Other DOJ staff described regular "coffee and Danish" meetings with SPLC operatives, underscoring the day-to-day collaboration between the Justice Department and a radically partisan firm.

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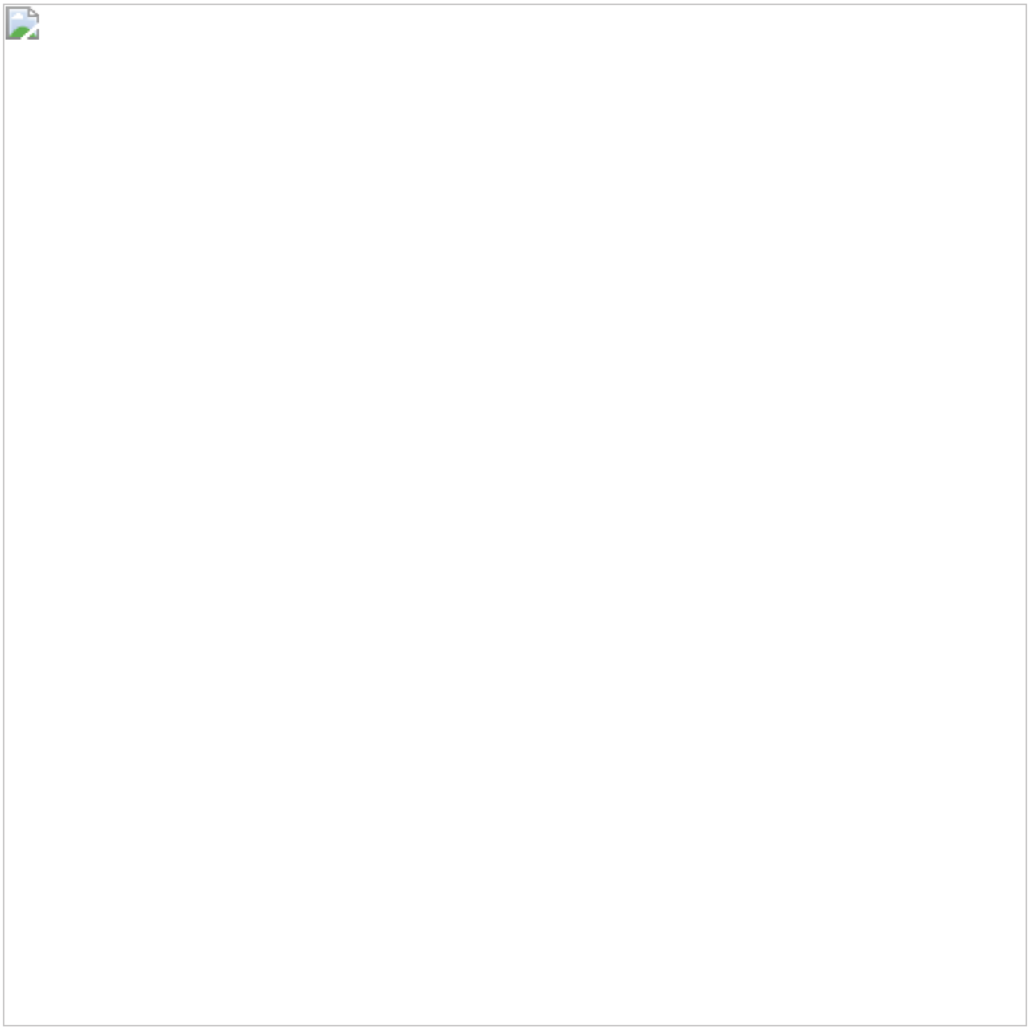


This relationship culminated in public platforms: the SPLC was given a prime speaking slot at the DOJ's 2023 "hate crimes symposium," in which it trained more than 100 federal prosecutors. R.G. Cravens, a senior SPLC analyst, used the opportunity to equate "viewpoint diversity" with "white nationalism" and even falsely tied AFL's lawsuit against Target to bomb threats—failing to mention that the very article he cited confirmed the threats came from Leftists demanding more LGBTQ merchandise on the shelves.

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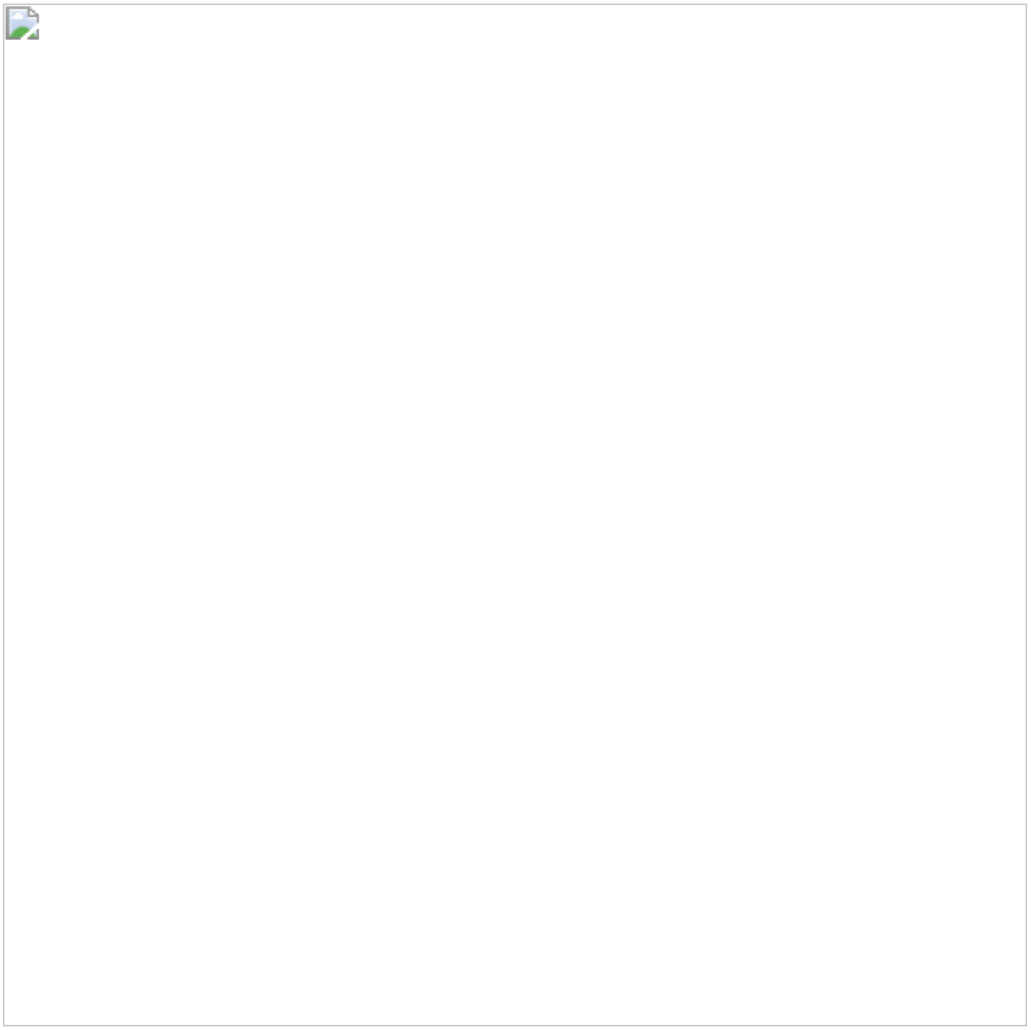
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Crucially, this symposium took place just one month after the October 7 attack by Hamas on Israel, one of the worst antisemitic massacres of the 21st century, in which over 1,200 innocent Israelis lost their lives. Yet DOJ and SPLC devoted their agenda to advancing partisan causes. Not a single initiative, speech, or even statement aimed to address antisemitism or to protect Christians and Jews against hate crimes.

SPLC has refused to tone down its inflammatory rhetoric directed at mainstream conservative groups and viewpoints. In fact, SPLC included Charlie Kirk and Turning Point USA in its "Hatewatch" newsletter, smearing both the group and its founder as dangerous extremists. The newsletter was published just one day before Kirk's public assassination at the hands of a radical leftist. SPLC did not apologize for its article in the wake of Kirk's assassination, nor did it condemn or even comment on his murder that took place in broad daylight on a college campus.

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Attacking its political opponents while failing to condemn actual violence is nothing new for SPLC:

- SPLC did not condemn the recent targeted attack on an ICE facility in Dallas, Texas, in which a leftist opened fire, killing at least two people.
- SPLC did not condemn the attempted assassination of Justice Brett Kavanaugh, though it did incite violence against him online on multiple occasions.
- SPLC did not comment on the leftist arsonist who broke into the home of Democrat Governor Josh Shapiro while he, his wife, and their family were sleeping, smashing windows and igniting two Molotov cocktails.
- SPLC did not condemn the October 7th attack on Israel by Hamas, nor has it condemned the resulting surge in antisemitism.

By partnering with and outsourcing its hate-crimes enforcement to the SPLC, the Biden DOJ corrupted civil rights for partisan gain. It trained federal prosecutors to smear political opponents while ignoring real acts of violence occurring routinely during the Biden Administration. And the cost is not abstract—lives have already been lost, ripped away by radicals affirmed by violent leftist rhetoric for years. Until the Left breaks from the dangerous radicalism that has infected its ideology and abandons its obsession with silencing its opponents over protected speech, American lives will remain at risk.

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"Every American should be bothered by the fact that the Biden DOJ appears to have acted as a pawn of radical activists at the discredited, beclowned SPLC," said Gene Hamilton, President of America First Legal. "By weaponizing civil rights enforcement, Biden's DOJ undermined the rule of law and endangered the constitutional rights of Americans who did not fall in line with their radical agenda."

AFL will continue exposing the extent of this coordination between the Biden DOJ and the SPLC, ensuring federal civil rights enforcement is returned to the American people, not controlled by partisan smear factories.

Read the document production here.

Read more about the investigation here.

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