



# SPLC REPORT

PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER  
TEACHING TOLERANCE • MONITORING HATE • SEEKING JUSTICE

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

## A history of seeking justice

As we move into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the Southern Poverty Law Center is poised to continue its 35 years of achievements — in the courtroom, in the classroom and beyond.

The Center, which began as a small civil rights law firm in 1971, is now internationally known for its legal victories against white supremacist groups, its sponsorship of the Civil Rights Memorial, its national tolerance education projects, and its tracking of extremism in the United States.

### BEGINNINGS

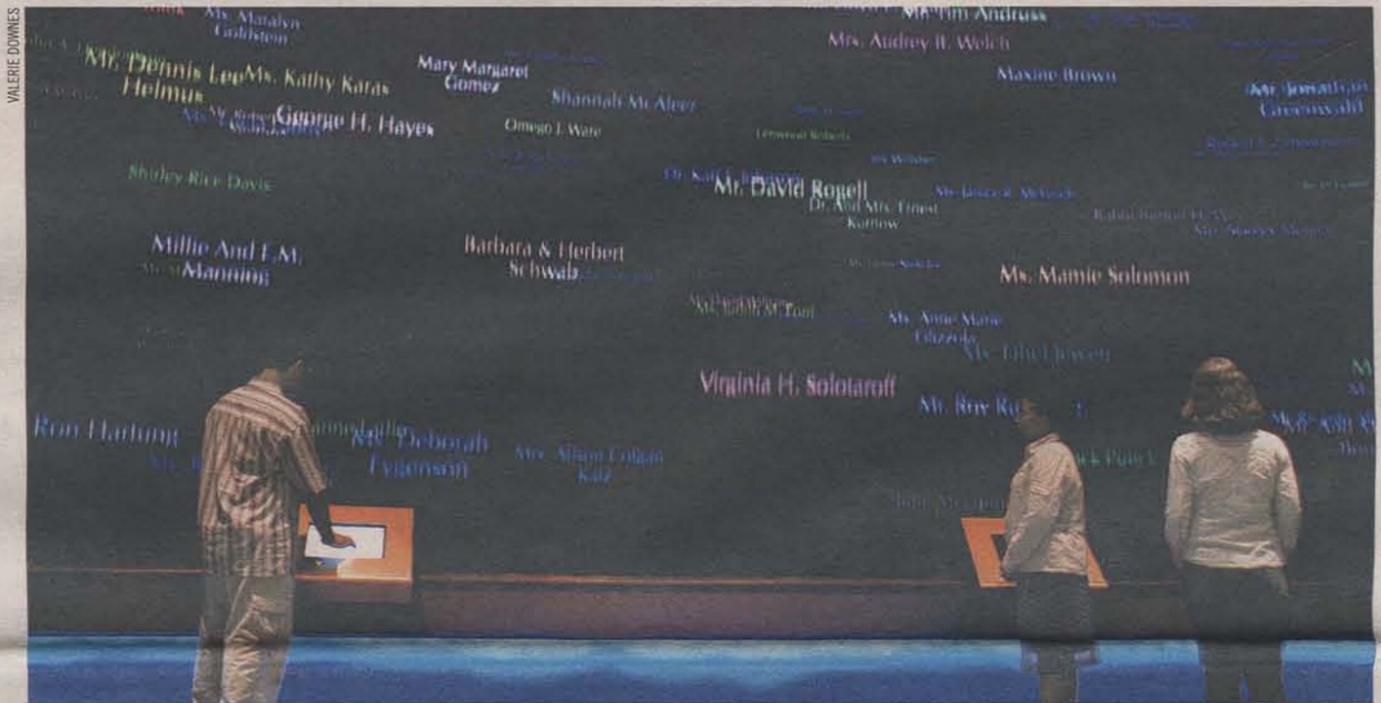
In the late 1960s, the major legislative victories of the Civil Rights Movement had been won. In Montgomery, Ala., the birthplace of the Civil Rights Movement, two Southern lawyers who shared a commitment to racial equality were determined to exercise the new laws to their fullest potential.

In the face of opposition from city and state officials, Morris Dees and Joe Levin pursued equal opportunities for minorities and the poor. By taking *pro bono* cases that few others had the willingness or resources to pursue, they helped implement the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Some of their early lawsuits resulted in the desegregation of recreational facilities, the reapportionment of the Alabama legislature, the integration of the Alabama State Troopers and the reform of state prison conditions.

After formally incorporating the Southern Poverty Law Center in 1971, Dees and Levin began seeking nationwide support for their work. They mailed out thousands of letters detailing the needs of their clients and received donations from committed activists all over the country. These donations enabled them to hire a staff and expand their work for justice.

During the 1970s and '80s, the Center's courtroom challenges led to the end of many discriminatory practices. Their cases won equal rights for women in the armed forces, ended involuntary sterilization of women on welfare, won monetary awards for textile workers with brown lung disease, and developed comprehensive trial strategies for lawyers doing death penalty defense work. Several of these early cases resulted in landmark decisions in the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1979, the resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan in the South brought back horrible reminders of the lynchings and bombings of the civil rights era. When Klansmen in Decatur, Ala., attacked a peaceful civil rights gathering on May 26, 1979, the Center brought its first civil suit



### Wall of Tolerance honors those committed to justice

Thousands of individuals who have joined the National Campaign for Tolerance and are committed to work in their daily lives for justice and equality have their names on the Wall of Tolerance. Their names flow down a 20-by-40-foot curved wall located in the Civil Rights Memorial Center in Montgomery, Alabama.

against a major Klan organization. In 1981, that case led to the creation of a new department, Klanwatch, to monitor organized hate activity across the country.

### SHUTTING DOWN HATE GROUPS

Center attorneys developed strategies to hold white supremacist leaders accountable for violence committed by their followers. Suing for monetary damages for victims of Klan violence, the Center was able to shut down several major Klan organizations and to draw national attention to the growing threat of white supremacist activity.

Center civil suits would eventually result in judgments against 46 individuals and nine major white supremacist organizations for their roles in hate crimes. Multimillion-dollar judgments against the United Klans of America and the neo-Nazi Aryan Nations effectively put those organizations out of business. Other suits halted harassment of Vietnamese fishermen in Texas by the Knights of the KKK and paramilitary training by the White Patriot Party in North Carolina.

The mother of a lynching victim was able to buy her first home with money received in a Center civil suit against the Klan. The college education of an Ethiopian youth has been paid for in advance by the White Aryan Resistance, the group held liable for his father's murder. A black church burned by Klansmen in South Carolina

took ownership of the Klan's headquarters, following a historic jury verdict. And the Aryan Nations compound, home to some of the nation's most violent white supremacists, was converted to a peace park following a successful Center lawsuit.

In 1994, the Center began to investigate white supremacist activity within the antigovernment militia movement. Shortly before the April 1995 bombing in Oklahoma City that took the lives of 169 people, Morris Dees wrote a letter warning U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno of the danger posed by militias.

After the bombing, the Center published critical information and special reports about the growth of the militia movement and called for stepped-up law enforcement. As the 1990s ended, the numbers of antigovernment groups waned. At the same time, the Center's monitoring efforts, now under the auspices of the Intelligence Project, expanded to include hate groups like the Council of Conservative Citizens, the neo-Confederate League of the South, and certain black separatist organizations.

As the white supremacist movement became more sophisticated — its members trained in the use of weapons and explosives and organized into secret cells — the data compiled by the Intelligence Project became even more important to law enforcement officials. By

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The Southern Poverty Law Center  
**COMBATS HATE, INTOLERANCE**  
and **DISCRIMINATION** through  
**EDUCATION** and **LITIGATION.**



THREATS FORCE  
STRICT SECURITY

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# OVER 30 YEARS OF SEEKING JUSTICE

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2003, the *Intelligence Report*, the Center's quarterly magazine, was read by nearly 60,000 law enforcement officers nationwide. Research provided by Intelligence Project investigators led to criminal convictions in several cases.

## RUNNING RISKS

Morris Dees and Joe Levin never expected that their work would be popular in the South.

When the Center began taking on the Klan in court, the threats of retaliation against the Center became real. The Center's office was burned by Klansmen in 1983. In 1984, Morris Dees' name was at the top of a hit list compiled by The Order, then the nation's most lethal white supremacist terrorists. In 1985, an armed intruder was observed spying on Dees' property. Over the years, several plots to bomb the Center were narrowly thwarted.

Security at the Center was dramatically heightened following the bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City, with the hope that stricter precautions and state-of-the-art protection will deter attackers. Still, the threats continue.

## THE NEXT GENERATION

Center lawsuits were effective in weakening organized white supremacist activity, but random hate crime was increasing in the late 1980s, particularly among the nation's youth.

It seemed that a whole generation of children were growing up with little knowledge of the realities of segregation and the sacrifices that were made to bring legal apartheid to an end. In 1989, the Center took on an ambitious project to memorialize those killed during the Civil Rights Movement and to make the stories of their lives accessible to schoolchildren. Maya Lin — the designer of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial — was commissioned to design the Civil Rights Memorial, which now stands on a plaza facing the Center in Montgomery.

In October 2005, the Center opened the Civil Rights Memorial Center. It enhances the experience of the Memorial by providing visitors with in-depth informa-

tion about the people and events it honors. Powerful exhibits and a short film encourage thoughtful reflection on the power of individual activism. Before leaving, visitors are invited to join thousands of other people who have taken a pledge to work for justice by adding their name to the Wall of Tolerance.

The stories of the people whose names were engraved on the Memorial were told in the award-winning book *Free at Last: A History of the Civil Rights Movement and Those Who Died in the Struggle*. The Memorial draws vis-

than 80,000 schools.

Ten years after beginning its tolerance education program, the Center took advantage of cutting-edge technology to promote tolerance in cyberspace. Tolerance.org, the Center's innovative website, provides unique resources to parents, teachers and children throughout the world.

## NATIONAL ATTENTION

While attracting the rage of racists everywhere, Morris Dees and the work of the Southern Poverty Law Center also earned widespread acclaim. By 2006, thousands of individuals nationwide had become loyal contributors to the Center.

Organizations such as the American Bar Association, the National Education Association, the American Civil Liberties Union, the NAACP, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, and the Friends of the United Nations recognized the Center as a leader in anti-bias litigation and education.

Dees became the subject of an NBC movie, and he co-authored three books about the Center's work. Over the decades, the Center's work has been honored with numerous awards, including the National Education Association's Friend of Education Award.

## A LASTING LEGACY

The Center's founders and directors realized when the organization was still young that the work it was undertaking required a long-term commitment and a substantial, lasting source of income. Many lawsuits take years to litigate, and a single issue of *Teaching Tolerance* magazine costs hundreds of thousands of dollars to produce and distribute.

To ensure the continuation of the Center's programs, supporters have generously contributed to an endowment fund.

That the Center's work will still be needed in years to come is beyond doubt. As social change presents new challenges, the Center will continue to promote and protect our nation's most cherished democratic ideals.



Center founders Morris Dees (left) and Joe Levin saw a growing need to combat the causes, not just the consequences, of hate.

itors from all over the world and is daily visited by schoolchildren.

In 1991, the Center expanded its educational efforts when it launched a new project, Teaching Tolerance, to provide teachers with free, top-quality classroom materials on tolerance and diversity. The first issue of *Teaching Tolerance* magazine was published in January 1992, and, at the same time, a video-and-text teaching kit for secondary school students on the Civil Rights Movement was released. The award-winning magazine is now read by more than 600,000 educators nationwide, and seven Teaching Tolerance curriculum kits are in use in more

## A SMITH CORONA AND A \$15 CHECK

BY MORRIS DEES  
FOUNDER



On a cold winter day in January 1971, Joe Levin and I opened the Southern Poverty Law Center for business. We had some old furniture, one typewriter, a line of bank credit and no donors. But we did have a few civil rights cases inherited from our private law practice.

I was able to work without pay for a few years because of past investments, but Joe was a young lawyer with a wife and two small children — and no

money. We also needed funds to pay our secretary and the rent and to support a major lawsuit we filed to integrate the Alabama State Troopers.

Enthusiasm for the Civil Rights Movement had waned. Many lawyers who had helped in early suits for racial justice had gone back North. A backlash was developing against gains made by minorities. Riots in Newark and Watts had not engendered favorable feelings towards civil rights initiatives. It seemed we had picked a poor time to start a new organization.

I remember the first letter we sent asking for financial support. It was on behalf of a black man charged with capital murder in the death of a white school-teacher. The trial judge had pronounced the man "probably guilty" before the trial began, a comment carried in bold headlines in the *Montgomery Advertiser*. We copied the story and sent it with a letter asking for help from people on mail-

ing lists provided by other national groups. In a few days, our first Center donor mailed a check for \$15.

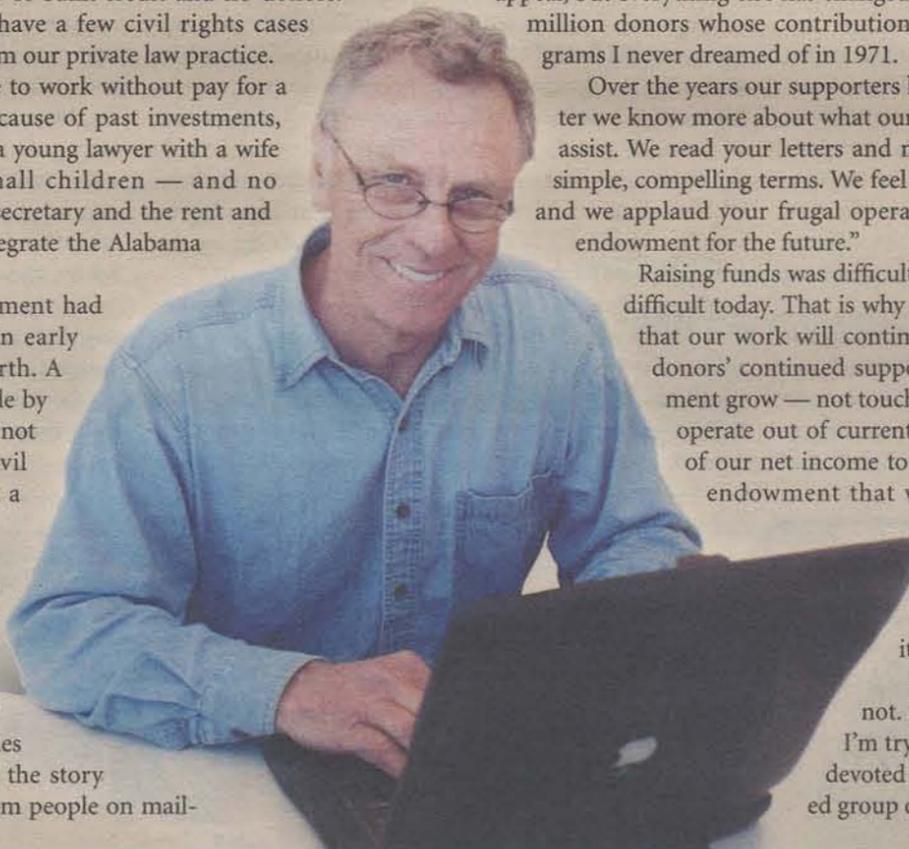
I still have the same Smith Corona manual typewriter I used to compose that first appeal, but everything else has changed. Over three decades later, we have a half-million donors whose contributions support a wide range of exciting programs I never dreamed of in 1971.

Over the years our supporters have consistently told me: "With the Center we know more about what our money goes for than any other group we assist. We read your letters and material because they tell what you do in simple, compelling terms. We feel we get more for our gifts than elsewhere, and we applaud your frugal operation which has allowed you to build an endowment for the future."

Raising funds was difficult in 1971, but it is far more expensive and difficult today. That is why we are building an endowment to ensure that our work will continue well into this century. Because of our donors' continued support, we have been able to let our endowment grow — not touching the income or the principal — and to operate out of current gifts. Each year we transfer a percentage of our net income to the endowment. Our goal is to create an endowment that will support our future programmatic

needs. The volatility of the equity markets results in good and bad years, but our conservative investment policy has left us with an endowment that is well on its way toward achieving our goal.

Some things have changed; others have not. I have a computer sitting on my desk that I'm trying to learn to use, we have more than 100 devoted Center employees, and we have a dedicated group of donors willing to be part of our dream.



# Dangerous Work

## Threats force Center to operate under strict security



In 1991, Klansmen led a march of 200 white supremacists against the Center and its co-founder, Morris Dees.

Over the years, the Center's aggressive and highly visible response to hate crime has earned it the top spot on the enemy lists of the militant right. Morris Dees, as the Center's chief trial counsel, has received countless threats against his life; the first Center offices were destroyed by arsonists; and other attempts to bomb the Center have been narrowly averted.

Security at the Center was dramatically heightened following the April 1995 bombing of a federal building in Oklahoma City, and some of the nation's leading security consultants have been involved in plans to protect the Center and its staff.

### IN ADDITION TO THE 1983 ARSON, OTHER MAJOR THREATS AGAINST THE CENTER INCLUDE:

**1984** Morris Dees' name was at the top of a hit list compiled by *The Order*, a terrorist group whose mem-

bers were convicted of racketeering and of murdering Alan Berg, a Jewish radio personality, in Denver.

**1985** White Patriot Party members were arrested in the process of robbing a restaurant with the intention to purchase stolen military missiles to bomb the Center.

**1993** Former Klansman Gregory Boyd was convicted of mailing a death threat to Dees.

**1995** An Oklahoma militia member and three others were charged with producing explosives with an intent to bomb the Center and other targets.

**1996** Willie Ray Lampley and other members of the Oklahoma Constitutional Militia were sentenced to federal prison in connection with a plot to destroy Center offices with an ammonium nitrate bomb, the same type of bomb that destroyed the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City.

**1999** Center surveillance cameras caught neo-Nazi Chris Scott Gilliam checking out the Center's security features. He was later sentenced to 10 years in federal prison after buying 10 hand grenades and saying that someone needed to kill Morris Dees.

This same year, Klan member Wallace Weicherding and New Order leader Dennis McGiffen went to prison for conspiracy in connection with a plot to kill Morris Dees by bombing the Southern Poverty Law Center.

**2000** After the Center won its lawsuit against the Aryan Nations, the leader of the California Aryan Nations threatened: "Morris Dees, you're going to die."

**2003** White supremacists from across the country converged at the Center's doorstep to protest its work and Morris Dees.



In 2003, Montgomery police guarded the Center's office and the Civil Rights Memorial while white supremacists protested in the street.

## Klansmen firebomb Center offices in 1983 arson

In the early morning hours of July 28, 1983, the alarms sounded. Mamie Jackson got the call just before 4 a.m. "The Law Center is on fire!" she was told by her sister-in-law, who was working at the Montgomery police station. Jackson, director of the Center's mail operations, reached the Center just minutes later; the Center's administrator, JoAnn Chancellor, was already there.

The two stood outside the roped-off area, stunned, and Jackson remembered her concerns two years earlier when the Klanwatch program began: "I just knew something would happen. I had been active in the Movement, had marched, and I knew what to expect. But that still didn't prepare me for the fire."

Firefighters brought the flames under control as other Center workers arrived. They were shocked and worried: How extensive was the damage? Jackson recalls, "Finally the fire marshal escorted us, one by one, into the building so we could see what had been destroyed. I went in with a sense of panic. The office was full of smoke; everything was just in ashes."

As employees began to pick their way through the smoking rubble, they were relieved to see that the fire-proof files had worked — crucial Klanwatch information had been preserved. There was extensive damage to the legal and Klanwatch offices, however. The arsonists had pulled out legal files, doused them with gasoline and set them on fire. The office of Klanwatch director Randall Williams was a total loss; many of his personal files, books and papers were completely destroyed.

### NEW HEADQUARTERS

Though the fire was a serious setback, legal and investigative work was not disrupted. Crucial court documents were prepared at attorneys' homes within two days after the fire. From makeshift offices, Center staffers continued working on lawsuits, monitoring the Klan and publishing the *Poverty Law Report*, the predecessor of the *SPLC Report*.

A building fund was established, and a new, more secure headquarters was designed. Thousands of Center supporters responded with financial support and encouragement.

In the spring of 1984, ground was broken for the new building. The Center moved to its new headquarters on May 24, 1985. Located in the heart of Montgomery, the facility was just one block from the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church and

two blocks from the state capitol. A sophisticated alarm system and other security measures assured Center staffers that they could work in safety.

### KLAN ARSONISTS CONVICTED

An intensive investigation was undertaken to find the arsonists. Center investigators were joined by agents of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms; the Alabama Bureau of Investigation; the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office; and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Investigators uncovered a shocking scenario. The arsonists had crawled through the sewers and emerged through a manhole near the Center. They had broken a window, entered the building, and sprayed gasoline on files, furniture, carpets and walls. They ignited the gasoline and fled.

Two factors had kept the building from being completely destroyed: Faulty ventilation had hampered the flow of oxygen in the building, slowing the blaze; and a recently installed alarm system had alerted the Montgomery Fire Department quickly.

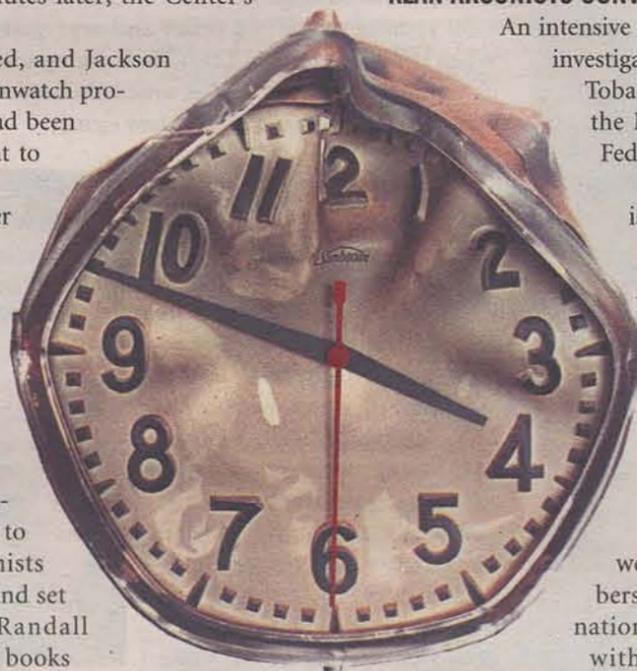
More than a year after the Center fire, three men were arrested: Tommy Downs and Charles Bailey, members of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, and Joe Garner, a national officer of that group. The Klansmen were charged with arson and with possession of explosives. All three pleaded guilty.

Garner, who had hired Downs and Bailey to torch the Center offices, received 15 years in federal prison; both Downs and Bailey received three years in the Alabama state penitentiary.

### NEW HOME, RENEWED COMMITMENT

Instead of destroying the Center, the arson became an impetus for its growth. Over the next two decades, the Center's work expanded into new areas and its staff tripled and outgrew the 1985 building. In April 2001, the staff came together in a new building, reuniting everyone for the first time in years. The attack served to strengthen the commitment of the Center's staff and its donors.

As former administrator JoAnn Chancellor expressed it, "The fire hurt us all emotionally, but it also made us more determined than ever to get the job done."



A melted clock pinpoints the time when the fire was set.

# IN THE COURTROOM

## Center wins justice for victims of intolerance and unfairness

When Morris Dees and Joe Levin founded the Southern Poverty Law Center in 1971, their mission was to win equal rights for the poor and minorities by taking high-impact, high-risk cases that other attorneys had neither the willingness nor the resources to tackle.

In the decades since then, the practice of law at the Center has been characterized by the same imagination, daring and dogged persistence that marked its beginning. Center attorneys have fought segregation, protected society's most vulnerable members, and battled hate groups whose followers have violated the rights of others.

The Center prides itself on handling pioneering lawsuits, some taking years to complete. Many of these cases have resulted in landmark rulings.

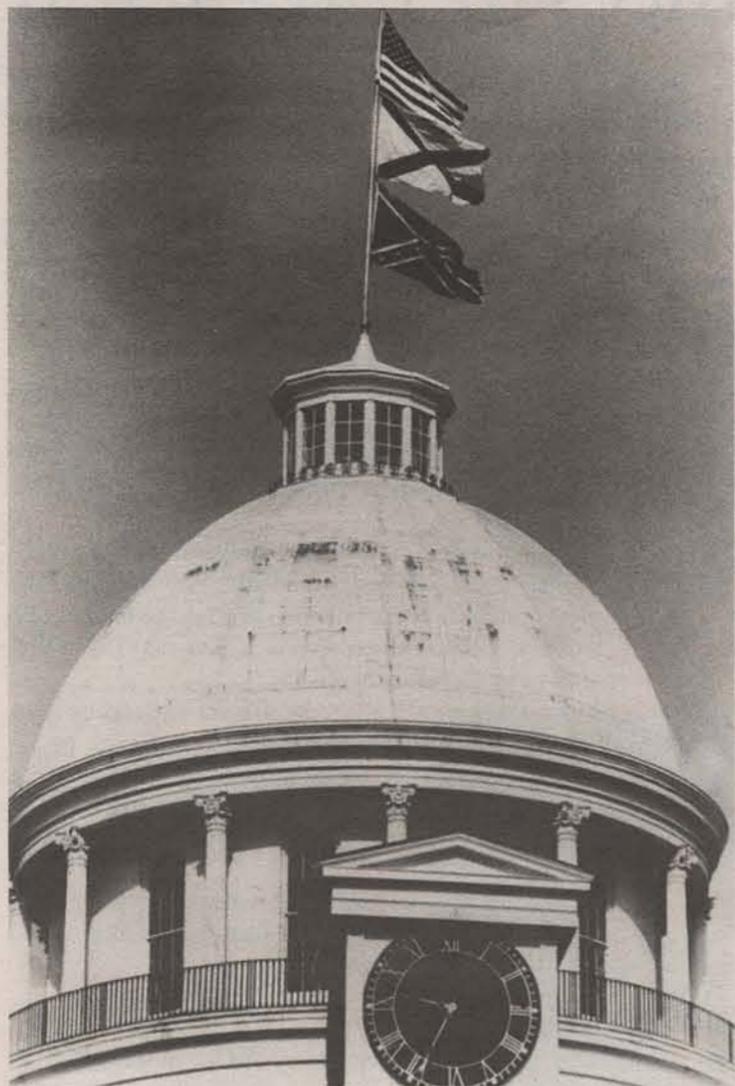
In a series of successful lawsuits, the Center's legal staff developed novel strategies to shut down white supremacist paramilitary activity and to help victims of hate crimes win monetary damages against groups like the Klan and the Aryan Nations. These cases have toppled many of the nation's most notorious hate groups. (See pages 6-7.)

The Center has also litigated scores of civil rights cases in other areas of the law — cases on behalf of minorities, women, factory workers, poor people in need of health care, average citizens suffering under the yoke of unfair tax practices, mentally ill persons, children in foster care, prisoners facing barbaric conditions of confinement, immigrant workers cheated of wages, and many other victims of injustice.

"We've made enormous progress since we filed our first case more than three decades ago," said Morris Dees, reflecting on the Center's work. "And as long as injustice and intolerance continue to exist, Center lawyers will be in the courtroom, fighting for those who need assistance."



Several landmark Center lawsuits have gone to the nation's highest court. Above, legal director Richard Cohen talks to reporters during the state trooper case. Filed in 1972, the case transformed the Alabama troopers from an all-white organization to the most racially diverse state police force in the nation.



### Taking down the Confederate flag

For nearly 30 years, the Confederate battle flag flew over Alabama's state capitol as a constant reminder of the state's determination to maintain white supremacy. A lawsuit brought by Center attorneys — working with black Alabama state legislators — finally brought the flag down in 1993.

## Starting out: challenging the status quo

In 1969, 15 years after *Brown v. Board of Education*, the YMCA was in its 100th year as a social institution in Montgomery, Ala. — and as a powerful symbol of the old order and segregation. When it refused to admit two black youngsters to its summer camp, the YMCA sowed the seed that grew into the Southern Poverty Law Center.

In spite of his law degree, Morris Dees' career to that point had been rooted more in business than in the courtroom. That would change with *Smith v. YMCA*. Challenging a private organization would break new legal ground but would also mean taking on an institution whose governing board included stalwarts of the social, business, and landed community.

Like so many other places, Montgomery took extraordinary steps after 1954 to resist integration. Rather than operate integrated swimming pools, parks and recreational facilities — as ordered to do by the courts in 1958 — the city closed them all. Later, it filled the pools with dirt and sold off or gave away much of the land.

Filling the void left after the City closed its parks, the YMCA experienced phenomenal growth and became the main provider of recreation in the city — on a segregated basis. The kids who swam at the pool for blacks, for example, were excluded from competing in citywide meets.

In June 1969, Dees filed a class action suit to stop the Y's policy of racial discrimination. He

knew the suit was a long shot because private organizations were considered to be beyond the scope of civil rights law. But as he investigated, he uncovered a secret 1958 agreement between city officials and the YMCA giving the Y control of many of the recreational activities formerly sponsored by the city. Because of the secret agreement, U. S. District



Today, children of all races have equal access to YMCA facilities. A 1969 lawsuit by Morris Dees was one of the first to desegregate a private organization.

Court Judge Frank Johnson ruled that the city had invested the Y with a "municipal character." He ordered the Y to stop its discriminatory practices.

Another young Alabamian, Joe Levin, followed the case closely. He was looking for a way to challenge the injustices that were still so pronounced in the South. He knew Morris through a college friend, Morris' younger brother, Allen. Soon Dees and Levin would begin a collaboration that would become the Southern Poverty Law Center.



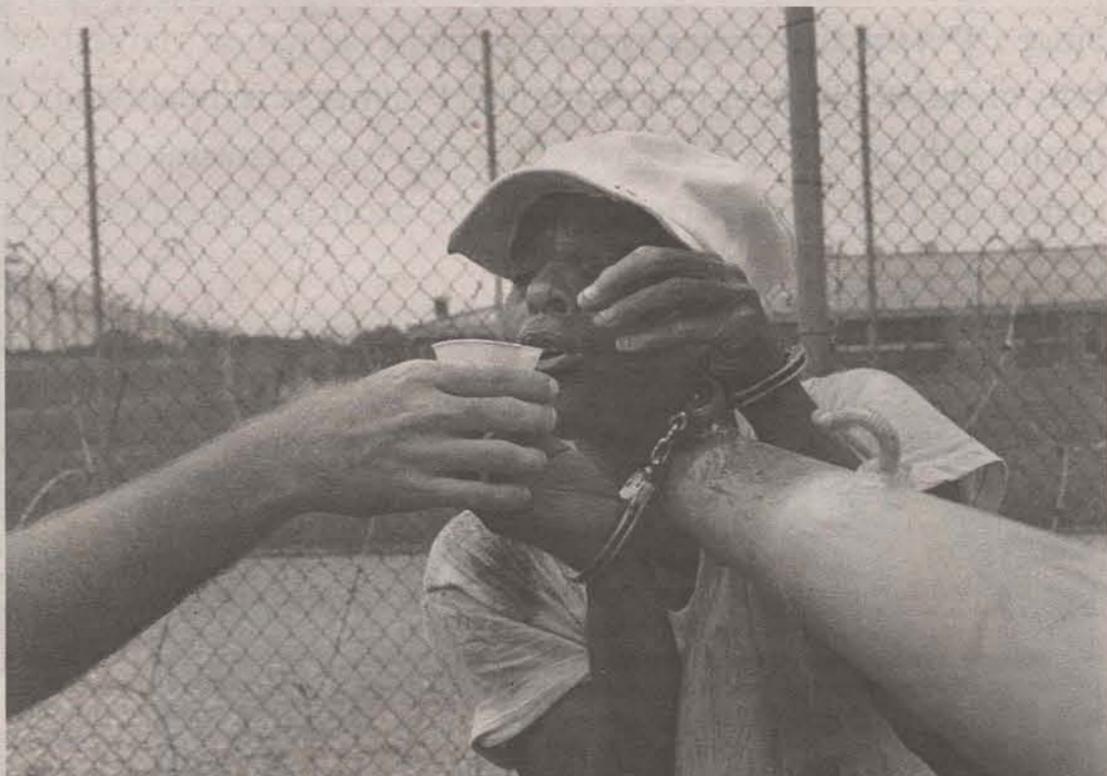
MARY BETH SCHULZ

# PROTECTING THE POWERLESS

The Center has always tackled high-impact cases on behalf of victims of injustice who have few champions. Its history includes the development of pioneering criminal defense strategies in death penalty cases, cases fought to ensure that prisons and jails are not barbaric institutions, and advocacy for medical care and social services for the poor and those dependent on the state.

Center attorneys handle innovative cases that few lawyers are willing to take. Its legal team fights all forms of discrimination and works to protect society's most vulnerable members. Its current legal agenda focuses on protecting the rights of children, institutionalized individuals and immigrants. Combining litigation with legislative advocacy, the Center is achieving significant juvenile justice reform in the South.

New opportunities opened for 1<sup>st</sup> grader Danielle Brown after she received a special device that enables her to communicate with her classmates. Born with a severe speech disorder, Danielle was taunted at school prior to a Center class action that compelled Medicaid to provide her and other similarly impaired individuals with the special equipment.



JAMES MCHITWENYI

A Center lawsuit ended the barbaric practice of shackling inmates to a metal post for long hours under a broiling sun and in cold rain. Larry Hope told a federal court judge that he was made to feel he "wasn't even a human being" when he had to beg for a cup of water.

## 'You found my lost smile;' client expresses gratitude

Like those who came before them, recent immigrants have faced a variety of obstacles in making a home for themselves in this country. Until Center lawyers filed suit, a tax assessor forced those who could not speak English to pay artificially high property tax rates. Here is a letter from one of the Center's clients, Byong-Rye Ahn (a Korean widow who works in a hospital), written after the Center's case forced an end to the practice.

Attn: Rhonda Brownstein, Center Lawyer

Dear Ms. Brownstein:

My family and I would like to express our appreciation for all of the assistance the Southern Poverty Law Center provided. Your assistance was essential in pursuing our court case, because you brought both legal expertise and the power of a large, visible organization dedicated to legal rights into play. In addition, I want to thank you, personally, for the time, effort and concern that you especially demonstrated during this ordeal. You found my smile that I'd lost for awhile and lit a little candle in my heart.

Sincerely,

*Byong-Rye Ahn*

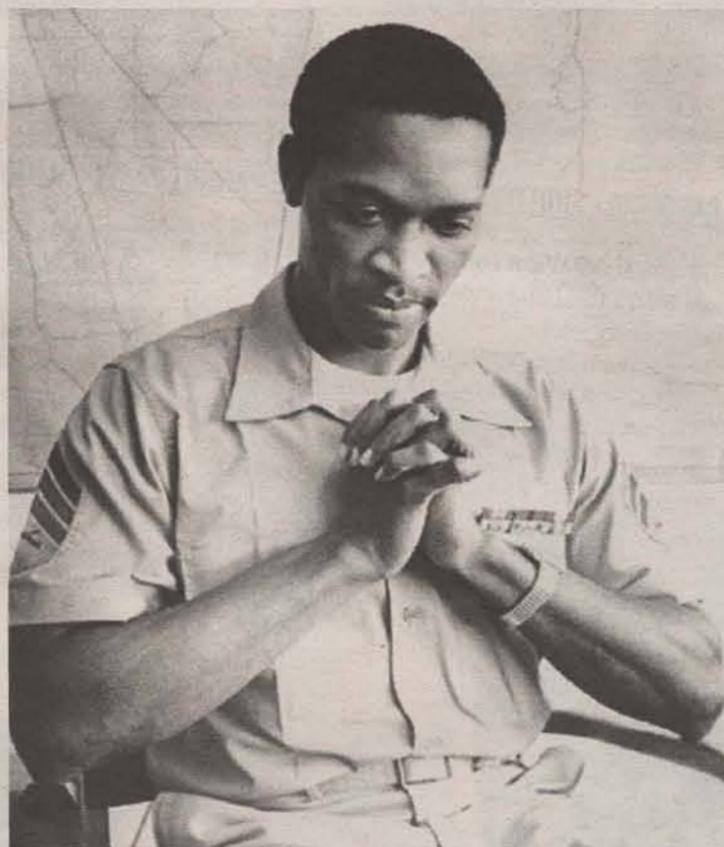
Byong-Rye Ahn



SPECIAL

## Reforming abusive work practices

Forestry workers, mostly immigrants brought to this country under a special visa program, plant hundreds of pine seedlings daily but routinely are grossly underpaid for their work. The Center's Immigrant Justice Project works to reform the abusive employment practices of the nation's forestry industry.



## A long battle ends

Roy Patterson, a highly decorated black Marine sergeant, faced the death penalty after he shot two white Georgia lawmen who had been abusive toward him and his family. After a 12-year legal battle, Center attorneys finally won Patterson's freedom.

## Work earns recognition

In addition to courtroom victories, Center lawyers have won their share of national awards.

Morris Dees, the Center's chief trial counsel, has received the most recognition. Numerous prestigious organizations — including the American Bar Association, the ACLU, Common Cause, and the National



SPECIAL

Center attorneys Richard Cohen and Ellen Bowden earned an Outstanding Public Service Award for their work on behalf of Medicaid recipients.

Bar Association — have honored him for his legal skills and passion for justice.

"Many awards have my name on them," says Dees, "but I don't deserve all the credit. Our courtroom victories have always been team efforts."

Because of his emphasis on a team approach, Dees was especially gratified in 1999. That year the Trial Lawyers for Public Justice named each member of the Center legal team as a Trial Lawyer of the Year Finalist for their work on the Macedonia Baptist Church arson case.

"None of these awards would have been possible," Dees added, "without the backing of our committed supporters across the nation."

# CENTER BATTLES WHITE SUPREMACIST GROUPS

Since 1979, the Center has toppled some of the nation's largest white supremacist organizations by helping victims of racist violence sue for monetary damages. While the groups usually don't have much money, the judgments won by the Center have effectively put them out of business. These courtroom victories were funded entirely by Center supporters; the Center accepts no legal fees from its clients.



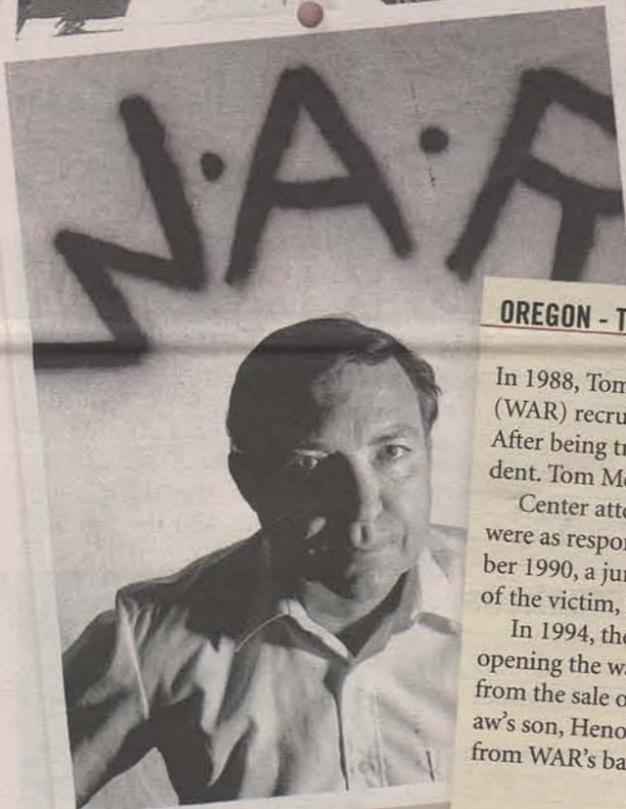
CHRIS BELL

## ALABAMA - THE DECATUR CASE: A 10-YEAR LEGAL BATTLE

In 1979, over 100 members of the Invisible Empire Klan group — armed with bats, ax handles and guns — clashed with a group of peaceful civil rights marchers in Decatur, Ala. The FBI investigated the incident but could not find enough evidence of a conspiracy to charge the Klansmen involved.

Undeterred, the Center filed a civil suit against the Invisible Empire and numerous Klansmen. During the course of discovery, Center investigators uncovered evidence that convinced the FBI to reopen the case. Nine Klansmen were eventually convicted of criminal charges stemming from the attack.

In 1990, the Center's civil suit was finally resolved through a unique settlement. In addition to requiring Klansmen to pay damages, perform community service and refrain from white supremacist activity, the settlement required them to attend a course on race relations and prejudice. The course was taught by the leaders of the civil rights group attacked by the Klansmen back in 1979.



SPECIAL

## OREGON - TAKING ON THE WHITE ARYAN RESISTANCE

In 1988, Tom and John Metzger sent their best White Aryan Resistance (WAR) recruiter from California to organize a Portland Skinhead gang. After being trained in WAR's methods, the gang killed an Ethiopian student. Tom Metzger praised the Skinheads for doing their "civic duty."

Center attorneys filed a civil suit claiming that the Metzgers and WAR were as responsible for the killing as the Portland Skinhead gang. In October 1990, a jury agreed and awarded \$12.5 million in damages to the family of the victim, Mulugeta Seraw.

In 1994, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to review Metzger's appeal, opening the way for Center attorneys to begin distributing funds collected from the sale of WAR's assets. The principal beneficiary of the verdict is Seraw's son, Henok, now a college student who receives more than \$800 monthly from WAR's bank account.



MICHAEL LLOYD/THE OREGONIAN

## NORTH CAROLINA - SHUTTING DOWN THE WHITE PATRIOT PARTY MILITIA

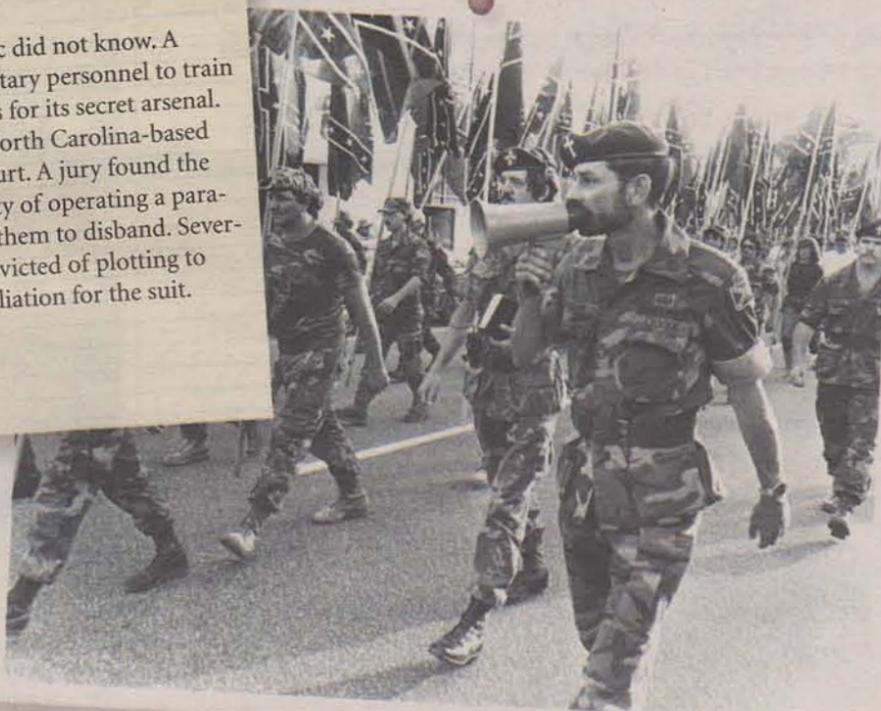
In the mid-1980s, the White Patriot Party was the South's most militant Klan group. With more than a thousand armed members, the group held well-attended public rallies almost every week.

But there was a side to the White Patriot Party that the public did not know. A Center investigation revealed that the group was using U.S. military personnel to train Klan recruits and had acquired stolen military weapons for its secret arsenal.

Center attorneys took the North Carolina-based White Patriot Party to court. A jury found the group and its leaders guilty of operating a paramilitary army and forced them to disband. Several members were later convicted of plotting to blow up the Center in retaliation for the suit.



SPECIAL



SPECIAL



**FLORIDA & NORTH CAROLINA - THE HAROLD MANSFIELD CASE**

On May 17, 1991, Harold Mansfield, a black sailor who served in the Gulf War, was killed by a member of a white supremacist organization called the Church of the Creator. After Klanwatch investigators documented the group's violent history, the Center sued and obtained a \$1 million default judgment against the so-called "Church."

Prior to the conclusion of the case, the Church transferred ownership of its headquarters to neo-Nazi leader William Pierce to keep it from falling into the hands of Mansfield's heirs. In 1995, Center attorneys sued Pierce for his role in the fraudulent scheme and won an \$85,000 judgment.

Pierce heads the notorious National Alliance, the country's largest and most influential neo-Nazi group. He is the author of *The Turner Diaries*, a fictional account of the overthrow of the U.S. government by a racist group that has inspired many real-life terrorists. In a scene that is strikingly similar to the Oklahoma City bombing, *The Turner Diaries* describes the destruction of a federal building by a fuel oil and ammonium nitrate fertilizer bomb. Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh often carried a copy of the book and reportedly placed a call to Pierce's unlisted number shortly before the bombing.

**ALABAMA - THE MICHAEL DONALD LYNCHING CASE**

Nineteen-year-old Michael Donald was on his way to the store in 1981 when two members of the United Klans of America abducted him, beat him, cut his throat and hung his body from a tree on a residential street in Mobile, Ala. The two Klansmen who carried out the ritualistic killing were eventually arrested and convicted. There the case would have ended but for the Center's Klanwatch project.

Sensing a larger conspiracy and convinced that the Klan itself should be held responsible, Center attorneys filed a civil suit on behalf of Michael Donald's mother. In 1987, the Center won a historic \$7 million verdict against the United Klans and all the Klansmen who had played a part in the lynching.

The verdict marked the end of the United Klans, the Klan group that had beaten the Freedom Riders, murdered civil rights worker Viola Liuzzo during the Selma-to-Montgomery march, and blown up Birmingham's 16<sup>th</sup> Street Baptist Church, killing four young black girls. As a result of the case, the group was forced to turn over its headquarters to Beulah Mae Donald, and two additional Klansmen were convicted on criminal charges stemming from the lynching.

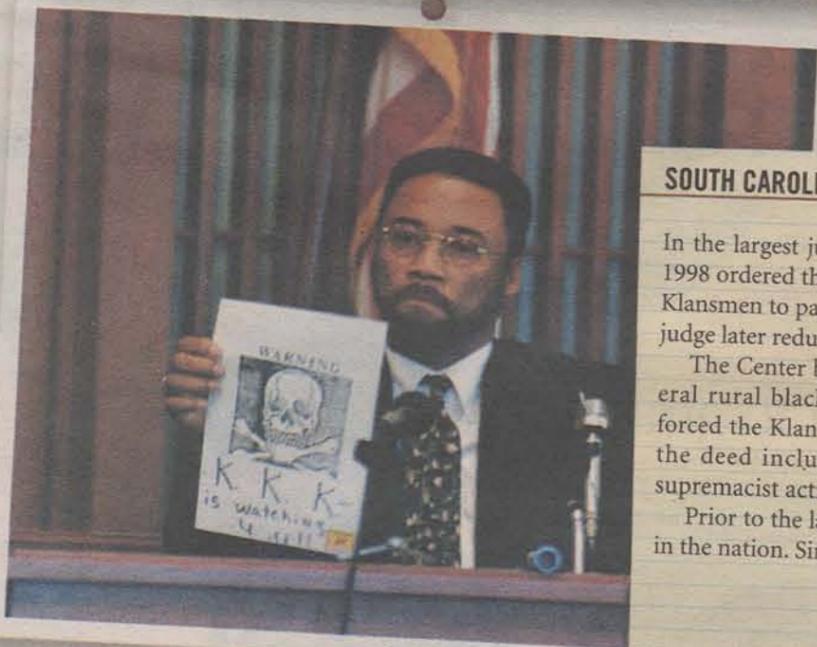
**TEXAS - PROTECTING VIETNAMESE FISHERMEN**

Texas Klansmen in 1981 tried to destroy the fishing business of Vietnamese immigrants by burning their boats and threatening their lives. Armed Klansmen cruised Galveston Bay and practiced guerrilla tactics at secret paramilitary camps.

The Center intervened and convinced the Vietnamese fishermen to stand up for their rights. Center attorneys filed a lawsuit that halted the Knights of the KKK terror campaign and shut down its paramilitary training bases.



JOHN VAN BEEKUN



KEITH GEDAMKE

**SOUTH CAROLINA - MAKING THE KLAN PAY**

In the largest judgment ever awarded against a hate group, a South Carolina jury in 1998 ordered the Christian Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, its state leader and four other Klansmen to pay \$37.8 million for their roles in a conspiracy to burn a black church. A judge later reduced the award to \$21.5 million.

The Center brought the case on behalf of Macedonia Baptist Church, one of several rural black churches burned by arsonists in the mid-1990s. The judgment forced the Klan to give up its headquarters. When the property was eventually sold, the deed included a restriction that it never be used for Klan or other white supremacist activities.

Prior to the lawsuit, the Christian Knights were one of the most active Klan groups in the nation. Since the judgment, almost nothing has been heard from them.

**IDAHO - CLOSING THE ARYAN NATIONS COMPOUND**

In September 2000, the Center won a \$6.3 million jury verdict against the Aryan Nations and its leader, Richard Butler. The judgment forced Butler to give up the 20-acre Aryan Nations compound that had served for decades as the home of a who's who of violent white supremacists.

Aryan Nations security guards chased and shot at Victoria Keenan and her son Jason after their car backfired near the compound entrance in July 1998. After a week-long trial, a jury ruled that Butler and his organization were grossly negligent in selecting and supervising the guards and awarded damages to the Keenans. The Keenans sold the property to a philanthropist who allowed firefighters to torch the compound buildings in a training exercise. Once the debris was cleared, the acreage became an undeveloped "peace park" that serves as an outdoor laboratory for North Idaho College.



JENNY WARRBURG

# UNTIL JUSTICE ROLLS

## The story of the Civil Rights Memorial

Morris Dees called out the names to his audience. "Emmett Till, Andrew Goodman, James Chaney, Michael Schwerner, Medgar Evers, Viola Liuzzo ..."

Dees was speaking at a 1988 NAACP meeting about the Center's recent victory in a case against the Ku Klux Klan for the lynching of Michael Donald. Repeating for the audience a portion of his closing argument at the trial, Dees recited the names of people who had been killed during the Civil Rights Movement.

After the talk, a young member of the audience approached him. "Excuse me, Mr. Dees, but who were these people — Medgar Evers and Viola Liuzzo?"

Others gathered to listen as Dees proceeded to give the students a mini-lesson on the history of the Civil Rights Movement. The next day, Dees vowed to create a monument to honor the memory and achievements of those who had died, and to educate future generations about the important events of the movement.

### CREATING THE MEMORIAL

Dees brought his idea for a memorial to the Center's board of directors, and work began immediately to bring that vision into being. Center researchers compiled a list of people who had been killed between May 17, 1954 (when the Supreme Court outlawed school segregation), and April 4, 1968 (the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.). Architect and artist Maya Lin, creator of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, began drawing plans for the new memorial.

Lin created a design meant to encourage reflection and education. A circular black granite table records the names of 40 who were killed and chronicles the history of the Movement in lines that radiate like the hands of a clock. Water emerges from the table's center and flows smoothly over the top. Water also cascades over a curved black granite wall behind the table. Engraved on the wall are words from the Book of Amos that Dr. King quoted on several occasions: "... until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream."

The water, Lin hoped, would have a soothing effect. And "the ability to see and touch the names glistening in the water — and simultaneously to see one's own reflection — would add to the sacredness of the site."

The Memorial was built at the entrance to what was then the Center's office, just blocks from the First White House of the Confederacy and a stone's throw from the Dexter Avenue church where Dr. King served as minister when he led the Montgomery Bus Boycott. (In April 2001, the Center staff moved into a new building directly across the street from the Memorial. The former office opened as a new Civil Rights Memorial Center in October 2005. See story on page 9.)

In the spring of 1989, construction of the monument began. By that fall, the last of the work was done, and the Civil Rights Memorial was dedicated.

### THE DEDICATION

Over 6,000 people gathered in Montgomery on November 5, 1989, to witness the dedication of the Memorial. Julian Bond, president emeritus of the Center, gave the keynote address; Rabbi Aaron Krupnik gave the invocation. Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King III offered personal observations.

The crowd included hundreds of relatives of the 40 people whose names were engraved on the Memorial. Several relatives were among the speakers: Rita Schwerner Bender, widow of Michael Schwerner; Mamie Till Mobley, mother of Emmett Till; Chris McNair, father of Birmingham bombing victim Denise McNair; and Myrlie Evers, widow of Medgar Evers. Ethel Kennedy, widow of Robert Kennedy, was also present.

In his address, Bond honored those "who died so all might be free." He asked those at the dedication to gather "not in recrimination, but in reconciliation, remembrance and resolve." The monument was then opened to the public, and, as Morris Dees and Maya Lin looked on, family members moved toward the black granite table, reaching through the thin veil of water to touch the names of their loved ones.

### HISTORY SET IN STONE

Every year, the Civil Rights Memorial attracts thousands of visitors from around the world. Civil rights activists from Europe, Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America who visit the Memorial are inspired to continue their efforts for equal rights and world peace.

The Memorial's educational purpose is fulfilled daily. The majority of visitors to the monument are schoolchildren. Through a powerful lesson written in stone, they learn about the "ordinary" people who lost their lives in the struggle for justice and equality.

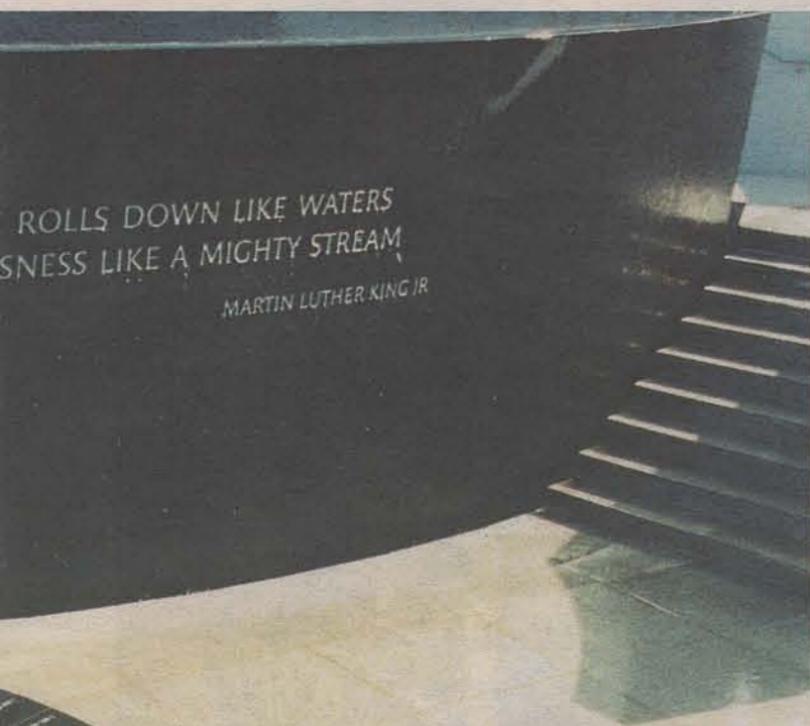
The Civil Rights Memorial chronicles an important part of our continuing struggle against racism. It keeps alive the dreams of those who died during the Civil Rights Movement and inspires those who still dream of a better world.



From left to right: 1. Rosa Parks on a Montgomery bus, 1956.\* 2. Florida elementary school students, 1999. 3. Vada Edwards Smith, sister of martyr Willie Edwards Jr., 2000. 4. Student sit-in in Greensboro, 1960.\*\* 5. Selma-to-Montgomery march, 1965.\*\*\* 6. California high school students, 1999.

## DOWN...

## Maya Lin, memorial designer



SPECIAL

When the Center decided in 1988 to build a memorial to honor martyrs of the Civil Rights Movement, board member Eddie Ashworth thought immediately of Maya Lin. Seven years earlier, when she was a 21-year-old senior at Yale, Lin had been chosen in a national competition to design the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. That memorial had proven to be a place of healing, a place where, as one veteran described, “the living and dead could meet.”

As soon as the Center’s board of directors approved the idea for a Civil Rights Memorial, Ashworth set out to locate Lin.

“I called every Lin in the New York City phone book until I found her,” he explains. “When we asked her if she would be interested in designing a memorial to Civil Rights Movement martyrs, she was surprised that one didn’t already exist.”

It was on a plane trip to Montgomery to visit the site of the proposed memorial that Lin got her inspiration. Reading through some research material, she came across the words “until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream,” a paraphrase from the Book of Amos that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had used in his “I Have a Dream” speech and at the start of the Montgomery Bus Boycott eight years earlier.

“The minute I hit that quote I knew that the whole piece had to be about water,” Lin has stated. “Suddenly the whole form took shape, and half an hour later I was in a restaurant in Montgomery with the people from the Center, sketching it on a paper napkin. I realized that I wanted to create a time line: a chronological listing of the movement’s major events and its individual deaths, which together would show how people’s lives

influenced history and how their deaths made things better.”

Like the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the Civil Rights Memorial invites visitors to touch the engraved names. As Lin envisioned, the Memorial plaza is “a contemplative area — a place to remember the Civil Rights Movement, to honor those killed during the struggle, to appreciate how far the country has come in its quest for equality, and to consider how far it has to go.”

At the dedication of the Memorial, before the public was admitted into the plaza, the families of the civil rights

martyrs gathered. As they touched the names of their loved ones, their tears fell into the flowing water. “I was surprised and moved when people started to cry,” said Maya Lin. “Emmett Till’s



Maya Lin

CHEUNG CHING MING

mother was touching his name beneath the water and crying, and I realized her tears were becoming part of the Memorial.”

During the dedication ceremonies in 1989, shooting began for a documentary film on the work of Maya Lin. That film, *A Strong Clear Vision*, went on to trace the creation of several of Lin’s commemorative pieces, and in 1995 it won an Academy Award for best feature-length documentary.



## Thousands celebrate opening of Civil Rights Memorial Center

Thousands gathered on October 23, 2005, to celebrate the dedication of the new Civil Rights Memorial Center and the Wall of Tolerance housed in it.

“Fifty years ago, Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat just a few blocks away from where we are today,” said Center co-founder Morris Dees in his welcoming remarks. “You’ve come from throughout the United States to be a part of the march that she started.

“Your placement of your name on the Wall of Tolerance shows the march for justice continues,” he said.

The Civil Rights Memorial Center (CRMC) allows visitors to deepen their understanding of the Civil Rights Movement, the sacrifices of the period and the struggles that lie ahead. The facility contains a classroom where students are challenged to consider their personal responsibility to work for justice.

Before leaving the CRMC, visitors can make a public commitment to ideals of the Movement by pledging to work for justice in their daily lives and adding their name to the Wall of Tolerance.

NAACP chairman Julian Bond, greeted with a standing ovation as he was introduced, served as host for the dedication ceremony. He described his longtime relationship with the Southern Poverty Law Center — he was its first president and now serves on its board of directors — and praised those who contribute to its work.



Shelton Chappell of Miami plays a soulful tune by a plaque in the new Center that honors his mother and other victims of racial injustice, whose stories are largely unknown.

“Without your support, the new Civil Rights Memorial Center and the work of the Southern Poverty Law Center would not be possible,” Bond said.

Jerry Mitchell, a reporter for *The [Jackson, Miss.] Clarion Ledger*, said the Memorial, in chronicling the deaths of

40 martyrs, became an instrument of justice. “The Memorial and the [SPLC] book *Free At Last* became a roadmap for me to begin my journey into the investigation of the Civil Rights Movement murders,” he said.

Mitchell’s investigative reports led to the convictions of at least six killers who had walked free for years.

“The Memorial and that book helped ensure those killers would not go unpunished,” he said.

“This event is about honoring heroes,” said U. S. Congressman Artur Davis (D-Ala.), who was the dedication’s keynote speaker. Davis, a lawyer, began his career in 1992 as a SPLC intern.

“It has been the lot of our country that the bravest of us have laid down their lives, some anonymously, some in full view of the world,” Davis said. “All share

courage and are heroes. That’s what we honor today.”

He urged everyone to consider “the enduring power of people who are willing to take a stand.”

“Each of us is a ripple, and together we are all a mighty stream,” said Bond in his closing remarks.

# INTELLIGENCE PROJECT | TRACKING THE THREAT OF HATE

When a murderous madman stormed into a Jewish community center in Los Angeles and started firing at small children and adults, it was the Southern Poverty Law Center's Intelligence Project that identified him within hours as a former guard at the neo-Nazi Aryan Nations. When United Nations officials concerned about hate on the Internet needed to understand the history of U.S. litigation on the subject, they flew an official of the Intelligence Project to Switzerland to testify. When the U.S. Senate's majority leader cozied up to the leaders of a notorious white supremacist group, researchers at the Intelligence Project publicly exposed him.



Hate groups recruit impressionable youth, like these teenagers at a 2003 "white unity rally" held in Virginia to celebrate Hitler's birthday.



Flames pour from the windows of the Aryan Nations "church" as firefighters destroy the structure during a training exercise. A Center lawsuit led to the compound's demise.



The Center published *The Ku Klux Klan: A History of Racism and Violence* in 1982.

For more than 20 years, the staff of the Intelligence Project has been working to track the activities of white supremacist and other extremist groups operating in the United States. Today, at the dawn of a new century, the Project has documented and is tracking a record number of hate groups — more than 760 at last count.

Starting out in 1981 under the name of Klanwatch, the Intelligence Project has expanded over the years to become the nation's preeminent monitor and analyst of American political extremism. The Project collects information, in part, by monitoring underground literature, videos, radio and cable television shows, and, especially important in recent years, by tracking Internet website pages and person-to-person communications. It publishes a periodical, the *Intelligence Report*, which circulates to thousands of law enforcement professionals, scholars, human rights groups and others. The *Report* has won a reputation for penetrating insight into extremism. The investigative work of the Project is now so well known that it has entered the popular culture, winning several mentions on the popular "West Wing" and "Law and Order" TV shows, among others.

One example of the plaudits the Center often wins arose when staffers used a Center file photo of Buford Furrow, pictured in an Aryan Nations guard uniform, to connect the man who shot up a Jewish community center with the notorious neo-Nazi group. A 1999 article in *U.S. News & World Report* said the Intelligence Project had developed the nation's "state-of-the-art tracking system" and had, in the Furrow case, "bested the nation's mighty law enforcement agencies."

Many others have written the Project to offer congratulations. A ranking FBI official wrote to commend the staff on a profile of a white supremacist attorney. A well-known British scholar of fascism described the *Report* as "a brilliant magazine with a major role to play in understanding the real New World Order." Scores of law enforcement officers thanked the Project for "excellent" presentations on hate groups, bias crimes and terrorism. Mississippian Shane Harrell quit a white supremacist group after an Intelligence Project exposé. "I am hereby resigning myself from this movement," Harrell wrote to Center officials. "I wish to live life to its fullest, and to respect ALL of my fellow Americans."

## KLAN INCIDENT SPARKS CIVIL SUIT

The roots of the Intelligence Project stretch back to 1979. That year, Curtis Robinson, a black man, shot a Ku Klux Klansman in self-defense during an attack on peaceful civil rights marchers in Decatur, Ala. When Robinson was convicted of assault with intent to murder by an all-white jury, the Center appealed the conviction and brought its first civil suit against the Klan.

In the course of that trial, Center attorneys and investigators discovered the extent to which the KKK had

rebounded after its decline in the 1960s. Scores of cross burnings, beatings, shootings and other attacks against blacks occurred between 1978 and 1980. In only a few cases were there arrests and prosecutions. The attitude of many in positions of authority seemed to be that if the problems were ignored, maybe they would go away.

But because of evidence collected during the Robinson case, this view was rejected by the Center staff, who felt that action had to be taken immediately against the Klan before the situation got even more out of control. This decision led to the creation of Klanwatch in 1981.

As a result of Klanwatch investigations, the Center began to bring civil suits against white supremacist groups for their roles in hate crimes. These resulted in judgments against more than 40 individuals and 10 major white supremacist organizations over the next two decades. (See pages 6-7.)

As hate crimes became a nationally recognized problem, Klanwatch was instrumental in persuading law enforcement and the federal government to track hate crimes and to develop procedures and training standards for law enforcement.

In 1991, the director of Klanwatch was among the experts invited to testify at a U.S. Civil Rights Commission hearing to examine racial tensions in America. In addition to briefing the commission on the suspected rise in hate crimes, he called for states to enforce bias crime laws and report hate crimes to the FBI.

## MONITORING HATE

While the original purpose of Klanwatch was to gather information about the Klan, the project evolved over the years into monitoring hate crimes and other hate groups, including neo-Nazi, racist Skinheads, Christian Identity adherents and the extremist militias. Today, the most violent hate groups that the Intelligence Project monitors are not associated with the Klan — a fact reflected in the 1998 name change from Klanwatch to the Intelligence Project.

"The names of hate groups have changed through the years," says Intelligence Project chief investigator Joe Roy. "But the problem, unfortunately, has not gone away. Indeed, we've seen an increase in the number of extremist groups in recent years."

Today, the Intelligence Project is the nation's most comprehensive source of information on hate groups. The project's files contain over 21,000 photographs, information on nearly 25,000 individuals and some 125,000 documented reports of bias incidents and other extremist activities. In addition to sharing this information with local and state law enforcement agencies, the Intelligence Project provides data to offices of the FBI; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms; and the Department of Justice.

## CENTER WARNED OF 'RECIPE FOR DISASTER'

Well before the April 1995 bombing in Oklahoma City, Klanwatch detected signs that violence directed at the federal government was brewing within the budding militia movement. Research revealed strategic links between various militia groups and white supremacist organizations and leaders. This analysis prompted the Center in October 1994 to begin tracking the militia movement and its racist elements, and prompted Center co-founder and chief trial counsel Morris Dees to write a letter to U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno and the attorneys general of six states. Six months before the Oklahoma bombing, Dees warned that the "mixture of armed groups and those who hate" was a "recipe for disaster."

In the aftermath of the 1995 Oklahoma City attack, Klanwatch fielded hundreds of requests from law enforcement agencies — and thousands from the media — for information about militia groups and their leaders. Twelve days after the bombing, Dees testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee at a hearing on terrorism. Later that year, a Klanwatch official also testified before a House committee about an increase in antigovernment terrorism.

In 1996, after several incidents involving white supremacist members of the armed forces, Intelligence Project chief investigator Joe Roy testified to Congress about the continuing presence of far-right extremists in the military. In 1999, *Intelligence Report* editor Mark Potok testified about hate on the Internet before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, chaired by Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.). Less than six months later, Roy provided similar testimony to the powerful Senate Judiciary Committee. In 2000, Potok traveled to Geneva, Switzerland, as a United Nations-certified expert to testify and to present a paper on Internet hate to the U.N.'s High Commission on Human Rights.

In more recent years, Intelligence Project staffers increasingly made major presentations to European audiences as well. Staffers spoke at the prestigious George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies in Germany, an international conference on extremism hosted by the prime minister of Sweden, and to the Canadian Human Rights Commission in Ottawa. Potok was part of a U.S. State Department delegation to a conference on tolerance in Cracow, Poland.

In addition, the Intelligence Project has hosted or attended a special German-American conference of scholars, officials and antiracists that is held nearly every year and focuses on European and American manifestations of extremism. In the United States, Project leaders have made presentations to the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, the American Immigration Lawyers Association and the

(Continued at top of next page)

National Institute of Justice, as well as in many university and scholarly venues.

The Project has also engaged increasingly in outreach activities. The most dramatic example may have come in late 2003, when Potok wrote to the Sierra Club, a 750,000-member environmental group, to warn that anti-immigration extremists were engaged in a "hostile takeover" attempt. That letter, along with months of accompanying outreach work to the Club, resulted in the routing of those seeking to convert the Club into an anti-immigration powerhouse.

### EDUCATING THE PUBLIC

While the main focus of the Intelligence Project is tracking hate, the project also offers training to help law enforcement and human relations groups combat organized racism.

In 1992, the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC), the largest law enforcement training facility in the U.S., invited the Center to help develop a training program to improve reporting, investigating and preparation for the prosecution of hate crimes. In 1993, Center staff wrote and began teaching courses that were permanently incorporated into FLETC's newly implemented Hate/Bias Crime Training workshop. Intelligence Project staffers continued to instruct FLETC classes into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Local, state and federal law enforcement agencies increasingly look to the Center for their expertise in hate groups. Today, staffers regularly travel around the country – and, more and more, abroad – to present research papers and audiovisual guides on the extremist right.

As part of its mission, much of the Intelligence Project's focus in recent years has been on educating the media and, thus, the American public.

# The Intelligence Report

## Law enforcement officials rely on magazine's in-depth updates

From a newsletter of a few pages to a glossy, full-color magazine resembling a major newsweekly, the *Intelligence Report* produced by the Center's Intelligence Project has developed over the years into a widely respected publication. Today it is the nation's preeminent periodical specializing in the American radical right.

The *Report* is sent to more than 300,000 people, including human rights groups, politicians, scholars, Center donors, and close to 60,000 law enforcement officers. Thousands more read the magazine online, as each issue is posted on the Center's website ([www.splcenter.org](http://www.splcenter.org)).

"The *Intelligence Report* has become our primary means of communicating important information about extremist groups and individuals to law enforcement officers and the general public," says editor and Intelligence Project director Mark Potok. "Today, it is recognized as an important weapon in the arsenal of those who defend democracy."

One result has been the attention paid to the *Report* by the media, who frequently use its stories in order to produce their own. The groundbreaking journalism contained in the magazine has prompted major features on television, in columns, including those of Bob Herbert of *The New York Times*, and in countless other respected venues.

"It's terrific, just amazing," a Harvard professor said of the award-winning periodical. Another professor, the retired author of an important history of the Ku Klux Klan, described a recent issue as "an incomparable guide and warning," adding that its "sweep and penetration" were remarkable. The director of a Jackson, Miss., police academy described the magazine as "an excellent publication" that "serves the law enforcement community well."

A sampling of some of the *Report's* important stories gives a sense of why the publication has received so many plaudits:

- The Center released a special *Report* that documented the white supremacist activities of the 15,000-member Council of Conservative Citizens, which had claimed to be a "mainstream" conservative group. The investigation revealed that former Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, among other politicians, had hosted the group's leaders and made speeches to its members.

- A special issue of the *Report* entitled "Youth at the Edge" explored the development of "an underclass of white youths, in many cases buffeted by the winds of huge social changes and dislocations," that "is altering the face of American hatred." The issue, analyzing the social and economic bases of hate, received widespread national attention.

- An entire issue of the *Report* was devoted to an examination of the "neo-Confederate movement," comprising a variety of "pro-South" groups. It offered detailed evidence as to why a key group called the League of the South, a large neo-Confederate organization dominated by university professors, was in fact a white supremacist hate group.

- A story entitled "Blood on the Border: The Anti-Immigration Movement Heats Up," documented the rise of right-wing anti-immigrant rhetoric and accurately predicted further bloodshed to come.

- An entire issue, "Dangerous Liaisons: From Los Angeles to Moscow, Extremism Goes Global," was devoted to an investigation of the growing ties between U.S. and European extremists. The issue's lead story, documenting the apparently illegal activities of a group called the American Friends of

the British National Party, resulted in the resignation of the group's leader and a British investigation into the neofascist British National Party.

The magazine has covered a wide array of other topics, including the use of the Internet by hate groups; the development of white power music and its role in the movement; the decline of militias over the latter part of the 1990s; hate on university campuses; and the development of new radical ideologies, including those of a racist variant of neo-Pagan Odinism and the "pan-Aryanism" that

today characterizes most European and American white supremacist organizations. It has exposed the criminal backgrounds of principal Klan leaders and damaged Klan recruitment efforts. And it has increasingly focused on the hateful ideologies and practices of anti-immigration vigilante groups and anti-gay Christian Right organizations.

"We try hard to provide the public with a complete picture of the dangers posed by extremist groups and individuals," Potok says. "But our best work in recent years probably has been in exposing a number of major hate groups that have tried to masquerade as mainstream, if highly conservative, organizations. Americans need to understand what these deceptive groups are really all about."

The *Intelligence Report* has won three major journalism awards and a prestigious design award from The Society of Publication Designers, after converting to a full-color format. As a result of the *Report's* reputation and expertise, its staffers have given presentations ranging from briefings for immigration intelligence officials to lectures to students in Vienna.



## MONITORING HATE IS A PERSONAL COMMITMENT

BY JOE ROY  
CHIEF INVESTIGATOR

Among some of my family's rural acquaintances, the question occasionally surfaces: "What happened to that boy, anyway?" It may be surprising to some folks around here that a former police officer, born and raised in the deep South, would find his niche at the Southern Poverty Law Center. But it's no surprise to me.

I first began working for the Center on a contract basis, serving subpoenas, doing background investigations and helping to track down witnesses. When I came on board as a full-time employee in 1986, a lawsuit was underway against the United Klans of America (UKA), the Klan group whose members lynched Michael Donald.

As we researched the history of the UKA, we uncovered numerous incidents of harassment, bombings and



murder of black citizens. It was my job to find witnesses who would confirm the Klan's involvement in these racist attacks. I became completely absorbed in documenting the UKA's track record of violence in the South.

At one point, the investigation brought me full circle to my years as a teenager in Montgomery. I was in high school in the spring of 1965 when thousands of civil rights marchers prepared to walk from Selma to Montgomery to protest the denial of voting rights for blacks.

I remember talking to Mr. Brown, a black man who was our school custodian, about his plans to march to the Capitol and hear Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. speak.

"Aren't you afraid to go down there?" I asked him.

"Sure, I'm afraid," he answered. "But I'm going anyway. I have to." That day, Viola Liuzzo, a white woman helping the marchers, was murdered by

Klansmen. Her killers turned out to be connected with the UKA—the same organization that I was now investigating for the Donald lawsuit. As I worked long hours looking for witnesses who could testify about Klan activities, I thought about the bravery of Viola Liuzzo and Mr. Brown.

The lessons I learned as a police detective paid off in the Donald case. We tracked down a witness who tied the UKA to violent acts in the 1960s and 1970s. As the Donald trial came to a close, as I listened to Michael Donald's elderly mother publicly forgive her son's killers, I realized that my new job had become a personal commitment. I decided I would stay with the Southern Poverty Law Center for as long as it'd have me.

There have been other court victories since the Donald case, but none has meant more to me. And while the white supremacist movement has become more elusive and more volatile since those days, I have never tired of tracking the threat of hate groups. People like Mr. Brown, who was afraid to march but marched anyway, and Mrs. Donald, who believed in mercy but fought for justice, are my heroes.

# TEACHING TOLERANCE

## A project that helps teachers promote respect and understanding in the classroom and beyond

“Children aren’t born hating,” says Morris Dees. “And that’s why we founded Teaching Tolerance.”

Throughout the Center’s first two decades, lawsuits against hate groups across America had brought Dees face to face with “angry, impressionable young men taught to hate.” The stories they told Dees convinced him that the root causes of intolerance needed addressing in a new way.

But what could be done to sow the seeds of tolerance in young people? As Dees and the Center’s staff looked into existing programs for combating hate, they realized that far too few resources were available to teachers. Educators needed practical tools. They needed a forum for learning new strategies and exchanging ideas. And, always strapped for resources, they needed them at no cost.

In 1991, the Center began to answer these pressing needs with Teaching Tolerance. In the years since, this national education program has developed and distributed high-quality materials to hundreds of thousands of teachers. Along the way, the project’s reach has expanded so that the Teaching Tolerance message goes directly to kids and parents as well as educators.

Echoing the sentiments of thousands of teachers and parents, Professor George Salzman of the University of Massachusetts has called Teaching Tolerance “an astonishingly ambitious project, and desperately needed.”

### MIGHTY TOOLS

“I can’t believe this was free!”

This enthusiastic response, from a California public school teacher who had just viewed a Teaching Tolerance video she called “the finest I’ve ever seen,” exemplifies the enthusiasm of educators across the country who’ve been thrilled to receive - free of charge - a wide range of essential tools for promoting tolerance.

Launched in January 1992, *Teaching Tolerance* magazine was the first national forum where K-12 teachers could exchange fresh ideas for encouraging diversity and read about their colleagues’ challenges and triumphs. Now sent twice a year to more than a half-million educators, the magazine has won many awards, most notably the 1995 Golden Lamp, the highest honor given by the Association of Educational Publishers (EdPress).

But the most important praise comes from the teachers who eagerly read each issue. “When I open the pages of *Teaching Tolerance*,” writes an Ohio teacher, “I know I’m facing some hard truths. And I also know there’s hope.”

Hope and hard truths have also been spread through seven video-and-text kits produced by Teaching Toler-

ance. The first, *America’s Civil Rights Movement*, has been sent to 123,000 schools. Its video component, *A Time for Justice*, won the 1995 Academy Award for Best Short Documentary. *The Shadow of Hate*, a video-and-text kit released in 1995, has gone to more than 114,000 schools.

Geared toward teachers of younger students, a third package, *Starting Small*, was released in 1997. The video and text profile K-3 classrooms where teachers use inno-

Like the teachers it works with, Teaching Tolerance continues to find new ways to offer challenges and hope. Since 1997, a grants program has given teachers and educational nonprofits the resource they often need the most — up to \$2,000 for innovative, student-centered projects that foster tolerance. The most successful projects are featured in each issue of *Teaching Tolerance* magazine to make sure the ideas spread.

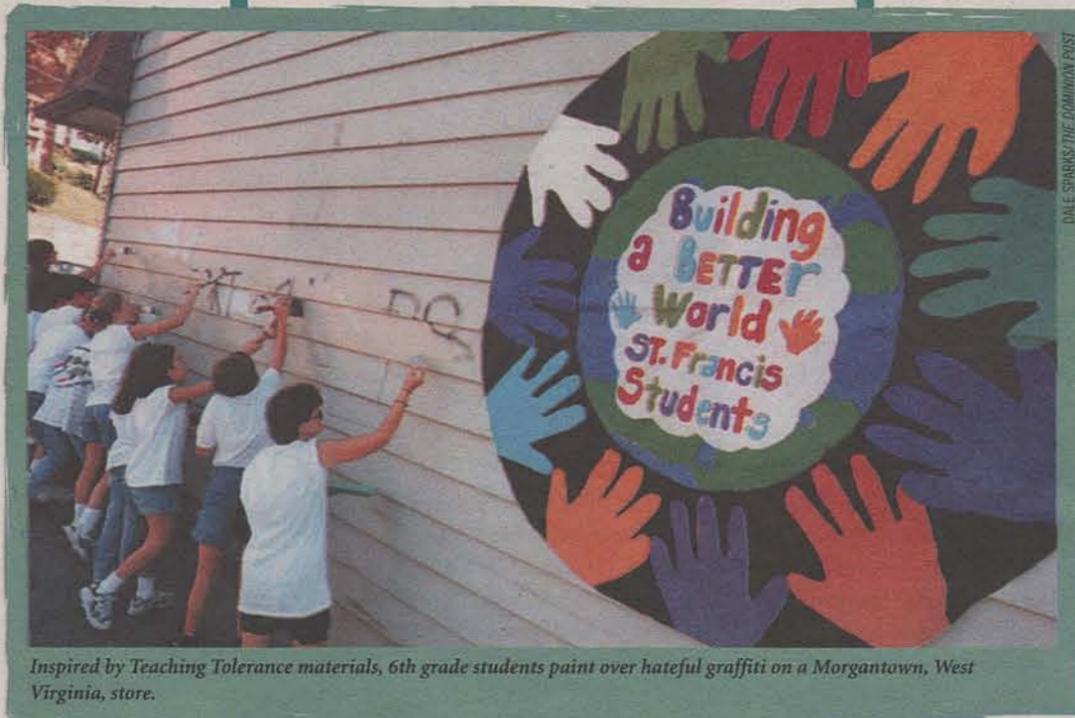
In the spring of 2001, the Center launched a new educational initiative, a website — [Tolerance.org](http://Tolerance.org) — that provides a vast array of resources for promoting tolerance. That fall, Teaching Tolerance added another outreach program: Mix it Up at Lunch Day, a student-led program that encourages students to cross boundaries in the cafeteria, where research shows students are most likely to self-segregate. Participation in the Mix program has more than doubled, demonstrating that students and their teacher allies across the country can help form safe, welcoming schools — places where every student can grow socially and academically.

In recent years, Teaching Tolerance has broadened its scope with new free resources aimed at parents and community leaders. For people struggling to find a response to hate incidents in their communities, the program produced a 28-page booklet called *Ten Ways to Fight Hate* in 1999. The same year, in the wake of the Columbine High School shootings, principals and counselors across the country received Teaching Tolerance’s *Responding to Hate at School*, a 64-page guide to dealing with hate incidents and creating a school environment that makes them less likely. A Spanish version of both handbooks was released in 2003, broadening their impact.

Produced in 2000, the colorful 16-page booklet *101 Tools for Tolerance* offers simple advice for fostering tolerance at home, in schools, in workplaces and in communities. Thousands of these handbooks have been distributed free to schools, businesses, factories, community groups and individuals throughout the country. It is also available in Spanish. The latest offering for a general audience, *Speak Up!*, a guidebook for responding to everyday bigotry, was released in the fall of 2005.

### MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Assessments of Teaching Tolerance materials show that the Center’s efforts have powerful impacts. In a 2005 survey of magazine readers, for example, 98 percent of respondents agreed that *Teaching Tolerance* magazine helps them think more deeply about diversity issues, and 95 percent agreed that the magazine helps them be better teachers. In addition, 94 percent reported that *Teaching Tolerance* helps them be more sensitive to their students’ needs.



Inspired by Teaching Tolerance materials, 6th grade students paint over hateful graffiti on a Morgantown, West Virginia, store.

novative methods to help children practice tolerance. A Place at the Table, released in January 2001, gives high school students compelling stories about people who have stood against multiple forms of discrimination. A fifth video-and-text kit, *Mighty Times: The Legacy of Rosa Parks*, which uses the civil rights pioneer and other Montgomery Bus Boycott activists as models for young activists, began distribution in the fall of 2002.

In the fall of 2003, *I Will Be Your Friend*, a musical anthology for grades 2-5 was released. This songbook teaches activism from our nation’s proud tradition of singing for social change.

The year 2005 saw a wealth of new teaching resources. Early in the year, the Center’s sixth teaching kit, *Mighty Times: The Children’s March*, became available. The film, which won the 2005 Academy Award winner for Best Short Documentary, tells the heroic story of the young people of Birmingham, Alabama, who brought segregation to its knees. In the fall, the Center’s seventh video-and-text teaching kit, *One Survivor Remembers*, was released. The kit’s academy-award winning documentary film tells the empowering story of Holocaust survivor Gerda Weismann Klein.

In the same year, the second set of the Center’s “One World” posters, became available. Designed for use in all grades, the kit includes 10 full-color posters with an accompanying teacher’s guide.

## Innovative magazine provides practical ideas

“For the educator looking for help in teaching kids to get along,” says *NEA Today* magazine, “*Teaching Tolerance* is an embarrassment of riches.” The magazine’s rich quality has been recognized with more than 20 editorial and design awards, most notably the 1995 Golden Lamp Award, the highest honor bestowed by the Association of Educational Publishers (EdPress).

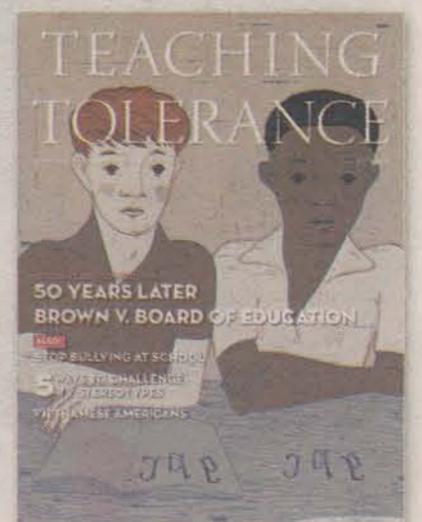
*Teaching Tolerance* began publishing in 1992, giving educators the first national forum to learn and share fresh strategies for intercultural understanding. Published

every spring and fall, each issue contains 64 advertiser-free pages sent at no charge to more than a half-million educators.

In-depth feature stories highlight schools and teachers doing exemplary work in tolerance education. In “Activity Exchange,” teachers report on creative and proven methods for promoting acceptance of diversity. “Teaching Tools” reviews the best new multicultural resources. In “Story Corner,” readers (and the children they read to) are treated to tales of tolerance from around the world. Each issue also

spotlights a successful project, funded by a Teaching Tolerance grant, that promotes respect in the classroom. The final page of each issue, “One World,” pairs inspiring words and images of global peace.

“It never fails,” writes a West Virginia teacher, “that when I feel least optimistic about teaching my own students (and my own three children) about being open-minded, tolerant, and active in the struggle against hate and apathy, your magazine appears in my mailbox, and I have a new batch of hopeful articles and ideas. Thank you so much.”



# Educators praise Center's free resources

Teaching Tolerance has never lacked evidence that its diversity tools and programs are well received. The project has won nearly 50 awards, including a 1998 Global Tolerance Award given by Friends of the United Nations, two Academy Awards and an Emmy for its films. And thousands of letters of thanks and praise - and requests for more free materials - have streamed into the office over the years. Here is a sampling of this feedback:

of us who are trying every day to impact our youth on the issues of tolerance. In some ways, our society is in need of your services more than ever during this current climate of pervasive intolerance. Without your organization, many teachers in our schools would be without the tools and information to impact our students about such provocative topics. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

*S.F., assistant professor,  
Dahlonega, Georgia*

As a history teacher, this magazine is an excellent source to incorporate in my lesson plans. The stories and articles enrich the students' learning experience and celebrate diversity. I have learned many essential facts that contribute to the development of my teaching career. Thank you!

*P.C., teacher,  
Hawthorne, California*

This unit [*One Survivor Remembers*] has profoundly changed my students', as well as my own, views of how we see/interact with the world around us.

*R.S., teacher,  
East Greer, Rhode Island*

I am so honored to be sitting in my classroom with 7th and 8th graders right now, way out

here in Wyoming, showing them *Mighty Times: The Legacy of Rosa Parks*. I would not be able to do this without your work and funding for the video. With Mrs. Parks' death last night, my kids are actually totally engaged in what they are seeing and hearing. ... I know this viewing will help them know forever more who Rosa Parks was and what she did.

*H.T., teacher,  
Casper, Wyoming*

Our students left the classroom still discussing the biographies of civil rights leaders killed, and on another day, talking about the injustices shown in the video [*America's Civil Rights Movement*]. Thanks for developing great educational materials.

*M.W., teacher,  
Schaumburg High School,  
Schaumburg, Illinois*

## MIX IT UP AT LUNCH DAY 2005

It gave me a chance to meet Americans, because I normally hang out with Latin people.

*O.C., student,  
Charlotte High School,  
Punta Gorda, Florida*

We stick to our own types of people. The preps sit at their table, the outcasts at their table and the skaters at their table. [*Mix Day*] helps people get together. It will help them talk and learn about different things about other people.

*S.P., student,  
Johnston Middle School,  
Johnston, Iowa*

Some of the kids came up to me afterward and said that it doesn't make sense to do something like this and then drop it. The kids are telling me we need to do this and things like it more often to promote tolerance. All I could tell them was that they were right.

*M.K., teacher,  
Powell Middle School,  
Brooksville, Florida*

[*Mix Day* is] a social experiment. You're in it even if you're not participating because you watch the people who are. It gets kids thinking about stuff they don't normally think about, stuff that doesn't enter into their everyday thought process.

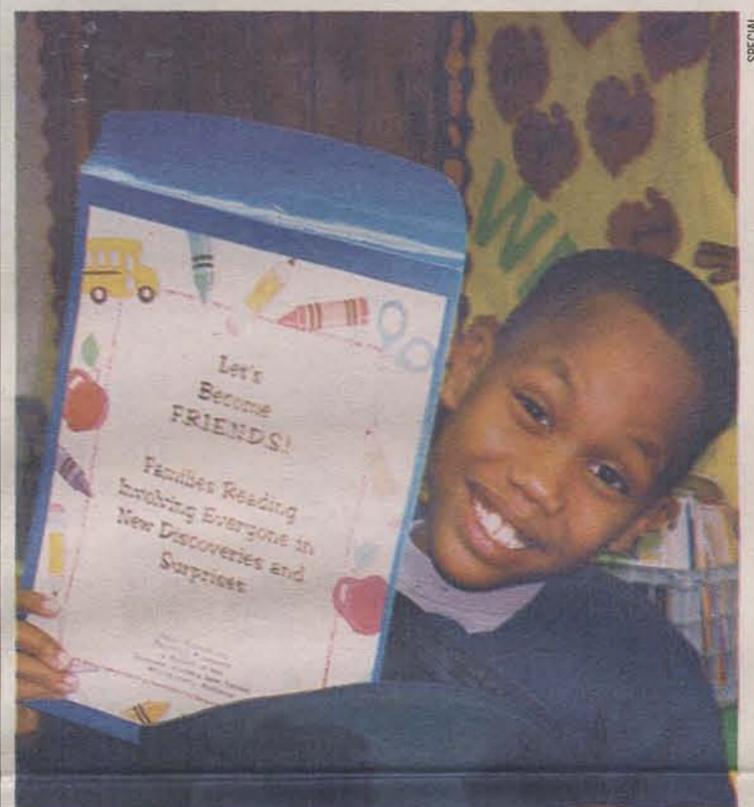
*N.B., student council advisor,  
Albert Lea High School,  
Albert Lea, Minnesota*



Teaching kits like *One Survivor Remembers* are distributed free to educators.

## TEACHING TOLERANCE MAGAZINE AND EDUCATIONAL KITS

*Teaching Tolerance* is one of the most powerful resources available for teachers. I use your website and resources in my job as an assistant professor in a teacher education program. Thank you for providing such high quality resources to those



## Grants foster great tolerance ideas

Reginald Cockeram prepares to take his F.R.I.E.N.D.S. packet home. The 2nd grader participated in a Teaching Tolerance-funded program in Louisiana. Since 1997, Teaching Tolerance's grants program has awarded more than 1,000 grants, for a total of more than a million dollars. The money supports innovative, student-centered projects with concepts as diverse as most student bodies. To make sure these great ideas spread, each issue of Teaching Tolerance tells thousands about the most successful grants projects.

# MIX IT UP | STUDENT ACTIVISM PROGRAM CHALLENGES BOUNDARIES



Students at East Lake High School in Tarpon Springs, Florida, cross social boundaries as they participate in 2005's Mix It Up at Lunch Day.

Since its debut in November 2002, the Center's annual Mix It Up at Lunch program has encouraged millions of students in thousands of schools across the nation to break down the walls of exclusion and isolation.

The program, targeted at middle and high schools, asks students to break out of their lunchtime cliques by taking new seats in the cafeteria, one the most self-segregating areas of any school. The goal? To spark new friendships across group lines, empowering young people to make their schools more welcoming places for all students.

In 2005, more than 6 million students at 15,000 schools participated in Mix It Up at Lunch Day, a 50 percent increase from the previous year.

But Mix It Up is more than a one-day event - and reaches far beyond the school cafeteria. Dialogue groups, a vital part of the program, help students openly and honestly discuss the social boundaries that divide their schools and communities. And Mix It Up Grants help students move from talk to action, providing funding for youth-led projects aimed at addressing school climate and boundaries.

"The Mix It Up program inspires students to identify, question and cross social boundaries in a way that empowers them to action," said program director Tafeni English. "Each year, we see an increase in the number of students who are talking and thinking about the boundaries in their schools, and we know we are making a difference."

# Friends of the Center

## Monthly supporters pledge to help with unexpected needs

The Friends of the Center are a special group of donors who support the Center's work with a monthly pledge. Co-founder Morris Dees had the idea for the Friends soon after the Center began.

In the early 1970s, the Center's legal work dealt primarily with defending and establishing the rights of the poor. Morris knew that well-to-do people protected their rights by paying an attorney a retainer to ensure legal help when needed. He wondered if there was a way the services of the Center's attorneys could be "retained," so to speak, on behalf of the poor.

The answer came in a donor's letter.

Morris often helped open mail from supporters. In one of these envelopes he found \$10 accompanied by a short note. The donor wrote, "I really appreciate what you do. Wish I could send more. Next month I'll try to send you my egg money."

Morris knew what "egg money" meant. He remembered a time when his grandmother used to gather eggs on the farm. She took any eggs the family didn't need and sold them to the local country store. She could spend this extra money on whatever she wanted.

Morris knew that many others who were enthusiastic about the Center's work might be willing to send small gifts on a regular basis. This would provide a steady flow



Father August Thompson, Catholic priest and community activist from Pineville, Louisiana, has been a monthly pledger to the Friends of the Center since July 1973.

of income that would enable the Center's attorneys to act when their help was unexpectedly needed.

Morris wrote to Center donors and asked them to participate in a new group he called the Retainer Program because he asked them to retain the Center's lawyers on behalf of the poor. He explained how many small monthly pledges could add up to a substantial base that the Center could count on. This steady, reliable source of funds would enable the Center to handle sudden

demands on its budget so that its attorneys would never be forced to say "No" when they saw a case that required their help.

As the Center's programs broadened to include its tolerance education projects, the name of the Retainer Program was changed to Friends of the Center. The supporters who have joined this program have been special friends indeed, many continuing their support for decades.

History has proven the value of the Friends of the Center in helping make the Center's work possible. Requests for the Center's legal help are unpredictable and cannot be easily anticipated. It is also difficult to calculate how long a particular case will last. The Center suits that crippled the White Aryan Resistance and the Aryan Nations lasted for several years.

Demand for the Center's Teaching Tolerance education materials can also be difficult

to project. For example, Teaching Tolerance had just released *Responding to Hate in School* when the Columbine High School shootings occurred. Thousands of additional copies had to be printed, at substantial extra expense, in order to meet the sudden flood of requests from schools for free copies of this publication.

The monthly pledge gifts of dedicated Friends of the Center help assure that the Center's attorneys and educators will be ready to act whenever needed.

## Donor earns peacemaker award

Supporting the Center's work fits with Joan Chapin's lifetime commitment to create a peaceful, non-violent world.

"For many years we've been in all kinds of justice issues, and we've continually branched out into a number of different movements, such as the nuclear freeze movement," said Chapin. "A while back we received some information on the Center and started our support because it was another branch of justice that we hadn't been too involved in."

For Chapin, there are not too many branches that she is not involved in. From organizing a service to cleanse the land on which the Ku Klux Klan had held a rally in her hometown to working with junior high-school youth on migrant farm-workers

issues, Chapin has continually devoted herself to a wide variety of social justice issues.

That devotion earned Chapin wide praise late last year when the National Council of Churches of Christ selected her to receive the international "Blessed are the Peacemakers" award. The award is given on behalf of the World Council of Churches and was given to Chapin in honor of her "inspiring, courageous and faithful efforts to build a just and peaceful world."

Chapin says she was initially motivated to work for peace with justice when her pastor gave her an illustrated copy of the Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi. Both Joan and her husband John, retired school social workers, try to live simply, buying clothes at secondhand stores

and groceries from a store that sells in bulk. The goal, she says, is to live a lifestyle that does not keep other people poor.

Chapin is a member of the United Methodist Women; a group that collects data on hate crimes and hate groups in the United States. In 1997 one of those groups, the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, held a rally in Chapin's hometown. In response, the Chapins helped organize a "healing service" on the day after the rally in the same parking lot the Klan used.

Shortly thereafter the Chapins were pictured in the newspaper, holding the Center's hate map, which documents active hate



Center supporter Joan Chapin (left) and her husband, John (right), share a laugh with Center president Richard Cohen during a 2005 visit.

groups in the United States. The map is one of a number of Center resources the Chapins use and hand out to the community, including *Teaching Tolerance* magazine.

"The way we live and the choices we make have a real impact on other people," says Chapin. "They make a difference far beyond us."

VISIT US  
ON THE WEB!

For the latest  
Center news, or  
to make  
a donation, go to

[www.SPLCenter.org](http://www.SPLCenter.org)



### Supporter delivers uncle's bequest

Jay Heit (right) of Los Angeles made a special trip to Montgomery to deliver a bequest to the Center from the estate of his uncle, Albert Heit of New York. Planned giving director Linda Stringer welcomed Heit at the Civil Rights Memorial.

## HONOR A LOVED ONE WITH A GIFT TO THE CENTER

Honoring a friend or family member through a charitable gift to the Center is a meaningful way to pay tribute to someone special. "In memory" and "in honor" gifts allow you to thoughtfully remember loved ones.

The Center accepts gifts in memory of those who have died, and in honor of someone on a special occasion, such as a birthday, anniversary or graduation. It is easy to do and a unique way to support the Center's work. Each issue of the *SPLC Report* includes the names of those recently honored.

If you would like to honor or memorialize someone, contact the Center at 1-888-414-7752. Or you can log on to the donation page on the Center's website, [www.splcenter.org](http://www.splcenter.org)

# Partners for the Future make Center part of their estate plans

Dedicated supporters of the Southern Poverty Law Center who include the Center in their wills or estate plans are members of the Center's "Partners for the Future." These special donors have decided to extend their support beyond their lifetimes, leaving a legacy of tolerance and justice.

## WILL BEQUESTS ARE POPULAR PLANNED GIFTS

The most popular planned gifts are from supporters who include the Center in their wills. After providing for loved ones, there are several ways to include a gift to the Center through a will or living trust. A supporter can:

- Leave the remainder of his or her estate to the Center;
- Designate a specific percentage of the estate; or
- Leave a specific dollar amount.

Writing a will and including a bequest to the Center allows a choice of where assets will go and, in most cases, helps a donor reduce taxes on his or her estate. A bequest or planned gift – regardless of size – is a meaningful way to honor the Center's work and assure its future.

## DESIGNATING LIFE INSURANCE AND RETIREMENT PLANS

Beneficiary designation of life insurance or retirement plan proceeds is another popular gift-planning technique. A supporter can name the Center as beneficiary of a life insurance policy that is no longer needed. In addition, if the Center is named as owner and beneficiary, a supporter qualifies for a charitable deduction of the cash value of the policy. The donor can also receive a charitable deduction on any annual premiums left to pay.

Traditional retirement plan assets are subject to income and estate taxes when left to heirs. Leaving the proceeds from an IRA or 401(k) to the Center by beneficiary designation or through a will, however, will avoid income and estate taxes.

## DONATING APPRECIATED SECURITIES

Appreciated securities can be one of the most advantageous ways of giving. Although the value of a stock might have fallen from its peak, it is an excellent source for a charitable donation as long as it is still worth more than it cost. When a supporter donates appreciated securities that have been owned for more than one year, he or she is entitled to a charitable income tax deduction for the full fair market value, up to 30 percent of his or her adjusted gross income. The donor also avoids capital gains taxes that would be due if the securities were sold.

*Beatrice Tukesbury has established several gift annuities for the Center.*

If a supporter owns appreciated stock or mutual funds that are paying low dividends – or if he or she is uncomfortable with the uncertainties of the stock market – a life income plan, such as a charitable remainder trust, pooled income fund or charitable gift annuity, should be considered. Appreciated securities or cash make a meaningful gift to help the Center's future programs while providing potential benefits to a supporter such as:

- Annual income for life in the form of fixed or variable payments;
- An income tax deduction that can be carried forward into additional tax years;
- Avoidance or reduction of capital gains tax
- Savings from estate taxes;
- The satisfaction of making a significant gift to the Center.

## ESTABLISHING A CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY

The most popular life income gift used by Center supporters is the charitable gift annuity. Hundreds of donors have established gift annuities with the Center, and many supporters have more than one. The Center's planned giving department can provide a personalized confidential summary of benefits at no obligation.

## PLANNED GIVING INFORMATION

For more information about Wills, charitable gift annuities or other planned giving opportunities, contact the Center's planned giving department toll-free at 1-888-414-7752, or complete and mail the form on this page.

You can find planned giving information, or make a Tribute Gift, online at the Center's website, [www.splcenter.org](http://www.splcenter.org). The Center's planned giving department can also be reached by email at [plannedgiving@splcenter.org](mailto:plannedgiving@splcenter.org).

Supporters who have already included the Center in their Wills or estate plans are encouraged to notify the planned giving staff. We want to welcome you as a Partner for the Future.



*The Rev. Petty D.W. McKinney, who died in 1999, made the Center the beneficiary of two annuity policies.*



## Donors welcomed during visit

*George and Margaret Alexander of London, Ohio, talk with Center founder Joe Levin (left) on a visit to Montgomery. The Alexanders have been Center supporters since 1985.*

## Supporter gives Center her Holocaust compensation

*University of Maryland professor Dr. Marianne S. Meijer lost both of her parents in the Holocaust. She recently donated to the Center the reparations paid to her by the government of France. Here is her letter to Morris Dees, which was accompanied by a check for \$23,593.*

I have been a supporter of the Southern Poverty Law Center for some time, and particularly of your Teaching Tolerance program.

I am a Holocaust survivor. Born in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, I moved with my parents, Egon and Olga Schwarz, to Paris, France, in 1938, from where they were deported to Auschwitz in September 1942.

I was 16 years old at the time and managed to reach Geneva, Switzerland, with my younger twin siblings.

I returned to the Netherlands in August 1945 and came to this country with my husband in August 1953. I am now an Associate Professor Emerita of French Language and Literature at the University of Maryland.

It was not till President Chirac was elected a few years ago that a French president publicly announced that France had played a part in the deportations during the war by collaborating with the Nazis. He said so at the yearly commemoration at the Vel d'Hiv in Paris, where Jews used to be assembled for deportation.

Following this public confession, the French government passed a decree last year promising compensation to children, like myself, who were made orphans through the murder of one or two parents.

I received this compensation last week. I want to donate it to your Teaching Tolerance program, in the hope of lessening the chances of others going through what I went through.

May I use this occasion to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the wonderful work that you have been doing all these years, and for your devotion to the cause of tolerance.



*Dr. Marianne S. Meijer*

## SPLC INFORMATION REQUEST

Yes, please send me free information on the following ways I can support the Southern Poverty Law Center.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wills   | <input type="checkbox"/> Charitable Gift Annuities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Living Trusts                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance policies        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Retirement Plans                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Securities                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friends of the Center<br>Monthly Pledge Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Giving             |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> In Honor/Memory Gifts     |

PRINT NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

- I have already provided for the Center in my will or estate plans.

MAIL TO:

Southern Poverty Law Center • 400 Washington Avenue • Montgomery, AL 36104

The Southern Poverty Law Center is a nonprofit organization that combats hate, intolerance, and discrimination through education and litigation. Its programs include Teaching Tolerance, Tolerance.org and the Intelligence Project. The Center also sponsors the Civil Rights Memorial, which celebrates the memory of individuals who died during the Civil Rights Movement.

SPLC REPORT EDITOR  
Penny Weaver

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Photos by Penny Weaver unless otherwise noted.

# Center's education work lauded

In 2001, the **National Education Association**, the nation's largest teacher organization, selected Center co-founder Morris Dees to receive its highest honor, the Friend of Education Award.

"At this time in the history of American education, when safety and tolerance have suddenly come into a sharp and urgent focus on the national education agenda, it would be very difficult for us to find a person more deserving of this award than Morris Dees," said NEA president Bob Chase. "We honor the groundbreaking work that Dees and the Center have done to address hate and bias in communities and the classroom."

The Center's work to promote equity and respect through education did not begin in earnest until 1990, but in just over a decade these efforts have garnered recognition from numerous educational and media organizations.

## TEACHING TOLERANCE HONORS INCLUDE ACADEMY AWARDS

In 2005, *Teaching Tolerance* won its second **Academy Award** when *Mighty Times: The Children's March* garnered the Oscar for Best Documentary Short Subject. The film, a tribute to young activists in 1963 Birmingham, joined *A Time for Justice*, which won the prestigious award 10 years earlier. Both films, distributed free to more than 80,000 schools, feature archival footage, news photos and eyewitness narration from the civil rights struggle of the 1960s. Five of the Center's films have been nominated for the Academy Award. One of those, *Mighty Times: The Legacy of Rosa Parks*, won a 2005 **Emmy Award** in the Children/Youth/Family Special category.

*Teaching Tolerance* magazine has won more than a dozen Distinguished Achievement Awards from the **Association of Educational Publishers** (EdPress). In 1995, the publication received the Golden Lamp, the highest honor that EdPress bestows.

Other *Teaching Tolerance* publications have also won widespread acclaim. The **National Association for the Education of Young Children** selected the 1997 *Starting Small* book as a special premium for its members. The following year, the book *Us and Them* was awarded citations by the **National Council for the Social Studies** and the **New York Public Library**.

Additional honors for *Teaching Tolerance* have included the Multicultural Agency of the Year Award from the **National Association for Multicultural Education** in 1996; the Honor Award from the **National MultiCultural Institute** in 1998; and the Global Tolerance Award from the **Friends of the United Nations**, also in 1998. The



Center founder Morris Dees (right) accepts the National Education Association's (NEA) top award from NEA president Bob Chase. The 2001 NEA Friend of Education Award recognized *Teaching Tolerance's* groundbreaking work to address hate and bias in communities and classrooms.

latter award recognizes individuals and institutions that have significantly advanced tolerance through an unwavering determination to combat racism, prejudice, anti-Semitism and hate violence. In 2001, the *Teaching Tolerance* film *A Place at the Table* won a Gold Remi Award at the **Houston International Film Festival**.

## CENTER WINS RECOGNITION FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

The Center's efforts to promote equality and fairness in public life have drawn commendations from a broad spectrum of agencies and institutions, including the **National Council of Jewish Women**. In 1999, the organization awarded Morris Dees its Faith and Humanity Award.

Chapman University in Orange, Calif., presented its **Albert Schweitzer Award of Excellence** to the Center in 2001. The award is the highest service award Chapman gives and is designated for those organizations that exemplify the Nobel Peace laureate's humanitarian devotion to serving others.

"The Southern Poverty Law Center has waged a courageous and successful battle in the courts against racism, white supremacy organizations, and other hate groups," said Marv Meyer, Chapman professor and director of the university's Schweitzer Institute. "Albert Schweitzer's legacy leads us to explore and resolve how we treat others and what we do for others. The Southern Poverty Law Center exemplifies that legacy."



Center president Richard Cohen (center) celebrates the 2005 Oscar with filmmakers Robert Hudson (left) and Bobby Houston.

# Community overcomes hate with help from Center

COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO — Turning a deaf ear to hate-filled rhetoric didn't work in Idaho. Until the Center successfully sued its leader, one of the nation's most notorious hate groups operated with impunity there for nearly a quarter of a century.

In 1974, Richard Butler, a retired aerospace engineer from California, bought 20 acres near Hayden Lake, a few miles north of here. He never hid his intention to build a haven for hate groups and a command center to bunker in during the hate war he planned to lead. The compound became a rallying site and headquarters for the Aryan Nations and other white supremacists.

Most area residents, while perhaps not agreeing with Butler's beliefs, ignored his hateful messages. They took the position that Butler's supporters were "outsiders." Annual marches through downtown Coeur d'Alene were met with little resistance. Politicians wanted no part of a confrontation with Butler, and leaders feared "bad publicity."

But as Butler's numbers grew, rhetoric spilled outside the compound. An annual "Aryan Nations Congress" brought Skinheads,

neo-Nazis and outright criminals to Idaho. Few residents challenged them for fear of reprisal. But the hate speech evolved into hate crimes. A swastika was scrawled on a Jewish-owned restaurant. Biracial children were threatened. The home of a priest on a human rights task force was firebombed.

*"We could not have done this without the Center's help and intervention."*

The city lost business because of the Aryan Nations, and, because of the nationwide media coverage of its criminal activity, Idaho's image was sullied.

But the \$6 million verdict the Center won on behalf of Victoria Keenan and her son Jason against Butler and his hate group in September 2000 was a milestone, marking a significant turnaround for Coeur d'Alene and Idaho. (See "Center Takes On White Supremacist Groups" on pages 6-7.) Butler was forced to hand over his compound to the Keenans.

"I was extremely proud of the message Idahoans sent to the world with that verdict," said Idaho Governor Kirk Kempthorne. "The

unanimous decision by a jury of 12 very courageous citizens represented a clear victory for the true values of Idaho. It sent a loud and clear message to the nation and the world that we take civil and human rights issues seriously, and that we have zero tolerance for hatred."

A philanthropist bought the former Aryan Nations property from the Keenans, burned its buildings and turned the land into a "peace park." Other signs of progress include the establishment of a Human Rights Center in Coeur d'Alene, creation of a Hispanic Cultural Center in Boise, and a marketing campaign promoting the slogan "Idaho, the Human Rights State."

After a long struggle with hatred, Idahoans are declaring victory, and many credit the Center's successful lawsuit against the Aryan Nations as the crowning achievement in the long battle against bigotry.

"My wife and I joined the Kootenai County Human Rights Task Force when we moved here three years ago," said John Wade. "But it took an action such as the Keenan trial to push this cart over the hill. We could not have done this without the Center's help and intervention."