

Exposing the SPLC, and Celebrating Their Future Demise

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The SPLC, long portrayed as a civil-rights watchdog, now faces federal fraud charges as years of accusations over partisan smear tactics come to a head.

Like many pro-family organizations in the United States, MassResistance celebrates the DOJ's filing charges against the Southern Poverty Law Center. This hate group masquerading as a civil rights organization has repeatedly targeted us, and it's good to see them finally facing the legal music.

First, a little background . . .

The Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) has long posed as America's premier watchdog against "hate." Founded in 1971 in Montgomery, Alabama, it built a massive endowment—topping hundreds of millions—by mailing dire warnings about rising extremism to fearful donors. Yet beneath the polished facade of civil rights heroism always lay a darker agenda: a partisan smear machine designed to delegitimize, defame, and ultimately destroy conservatives who dare defend traditional values, border security, religious liberty, and free speech.

While most pro-family groups covered or avoided talking about the SPLC, MassResistance has consistently exposed its tactics. With more exposure in a federal criminal case, the institution is facing well-deserved financial and legal freefall. The organization's recent federal indictment for wire fraud, bank fraud, and money laundering—alleging it secretly funneled over \$3 million in donor funds to informants tied to extremist groups like the Ku Klux Klan and Aryan Nations—only confirms what MassResistance has warned about for years: the SPLC was never fighting hate; it was manufacturing it to justify its existence.

For years, MassResistance has endured defamation from this hate group in Alabama. They falsely maligned our president, Brian Camenker, for claiming that the Nazis never targeted homosexuals. They have defamed our field director, Arthur Schaper, as an anti-immigrant activist and conflated him with white nationalists. As a result of this smear campaign, local and national newspapers would reference the Southern Poverty Law Center when describing our efforts and activism. They insisted on hiding behind that institution to smear us as a "hate group." Local parents and activist organizations often stayed away from us because of this unjustified smear. Other pro-family groups also resisted our confrontational approach to activism because they feared the SPLC's "hate group" label.

There have been fatal consequences, of course—as intended, frankly. In 2012, Floyd Lee Corkins walked into FRC headquarters in Washington, DC, armed with a gun and a list of targets drawn from the SPLC’s hate map (one of the organization’s most notorious gimmicks to smear and harm conservatives). He shot and wounded a security guard before being stopped. Corkins explicitly cited the SPLC’s labeling of FRC as motivation. The SPLC condemned the act in vague terms but doubled down on its defamatory actions, refusing to remove the FRC from its “Hate Map” and insisting its criticism was “fact-based.” And that’s what the SPLC is really invested in: they want to foment violence against conservatives. Mark Potok, one of their “researchers,” readily admitted this motive in a 2007 conference: “Our goal is to destroy conservatives.”

Some critics of this hate group have argued that the organization started with the right motives but then went to the dark side, so to speak. The truth is much darker. From its inception, the SPLC sued many groups—including the defunct KKK—for so-called civil rights violations just for the money. It was never about fighting injustice. Morris Dees, one of the cofounders of this hate group, had represented the KKK before turning to civil rights litigation. While he would claim that he had had a moral epiphany, the truth is that he was always a greedy ambulance chaser looking for a more lucrative legal enterprise, nothing more.

Their selective outrage clearly exposed this moral rot. The organization downplayed black separatist antisemitism or Islamist extremism while inflating “anti-LGBTQ+” or “anti-immigrant” threats from groups advocating basic biblical views on sexuality or immigration policy. Their tactics weren’t neutral monitoring; they were ideological warfare. The SPLC partnered with Big Tech, corporate media, and the federal government to blacklist conservatives, influencing everything from payment processors to school curricula.

To their credit, conservative outlets, independent journalists, and organizations like the Heritage Foundation have documented how the SPLC inflated “hate group” counts by counting single-person websites or peaceful advocacy outfits multiple times while ignoring left-wing violence. Lawsuits mounted. The Center for Immigration Studies sued for defamation after being labeled a hate group; courts allowed discovery, revealing internal doubts at the SPLC about its own standards. Other targets pushed back in the court of public opinion, refusing to cower.

But MassResistance directly confronted SPLC influence in schools, libraries, and legislatures. We fought back against their defamation. We confronted reporters and newspapers that listed that hate group as a legitimate source. We even forced local newspapers to retract their libelous claims and stop referencing the Southern Poverty Law Center altogether.

We certainly appreciated the exposure of the organization's internal scandals, too: sexual harassment allegations against founder Morris Dees (leading to his 2019 ouster), racial discrimination lawsuits from minority employees, and bloated overhead that funneled donor dollars into luxury while "fighting poverty." These revelations eroded trust. Donors, including some on the Left, began questioning the hype.

Post-2020, as riots exposed left-wing extremism, the SPLC's credibility crumbled further. Conservative lawmakers, including House Judiciary Committee members, grilled the group's influence on federal agencies. Limited government activists even reached out to MassResistance, asking us to consider testifying before House committees to expose the SPLC.

Then more good news followed, which MassResistance has continued to celebrate. In 2024–25, internal mutiny erupted: mass layoffs of 25 percent of staff, a no-confidence vote against CEO Margaret Huang backed by 92 percent of the remaining employees, and her eventual resignation. Financial woes mounted amid donor fatigue and bad publicity. The SPLC's own reports showed fluctuating "hate group" numbers that suspiciously spiked with Republican administrations—classic fundraising fuel.

With the second Trump administration, the SPLC has faced more troubles. FBI Director Kash Patel severed all ties. House Republicans held hearings exposing coordination with prior administrations to target Christians and conservatives. Then, on April 21, 2026, a federal grand jury in Alabama indicted the SPLC on 11 counts, including wire fraud and money laundering. Prosecutors allege the group secretly paid over \$3 million (2014–23) to informants embedded in or affiliated with violent extremist circles—the very groups it claimed to dismantle—while misleading donors about its work.

This indictment validates a decade of MassResistance's warnings. The SPLC didn't just target conservatives with rhetorical violence; its methods subsidized the extremism it profited from decrying. Real hate exists—Klansmen, neo-Nazis, jihadists—but the SPLC blurred lines to smear pro-family Christians, border enforcers, and constitutionalists as equivalent threats. MassResistance succeeded by refusing silence.

Yet the fight continues. The SPLC vows to "defend" itself, and leftist allies cry foul and claim the organization is being targeted politically. True resistance demands full accountability—no more partnerships with smeared organizations, no more taxpayer-adjacent influence, and relentless sunlight on its remaining assets. Conservatives must reject the hate label entirely, building parallel institutions immune to smears.

For the last ten years, MassResistance has fought the SPLC not with truth, persistence, and principle. We exposed the SPLC as a bully profiting from division, not a beacon against it.

MassResistance proved that determined patriots can topple even the mightiest smear factories. The SPLC's decline offers hope: when citizens reject fear and demand honesty, the house of cards collapses. America rejects manufactured hate. We defend ordered liberty instead.