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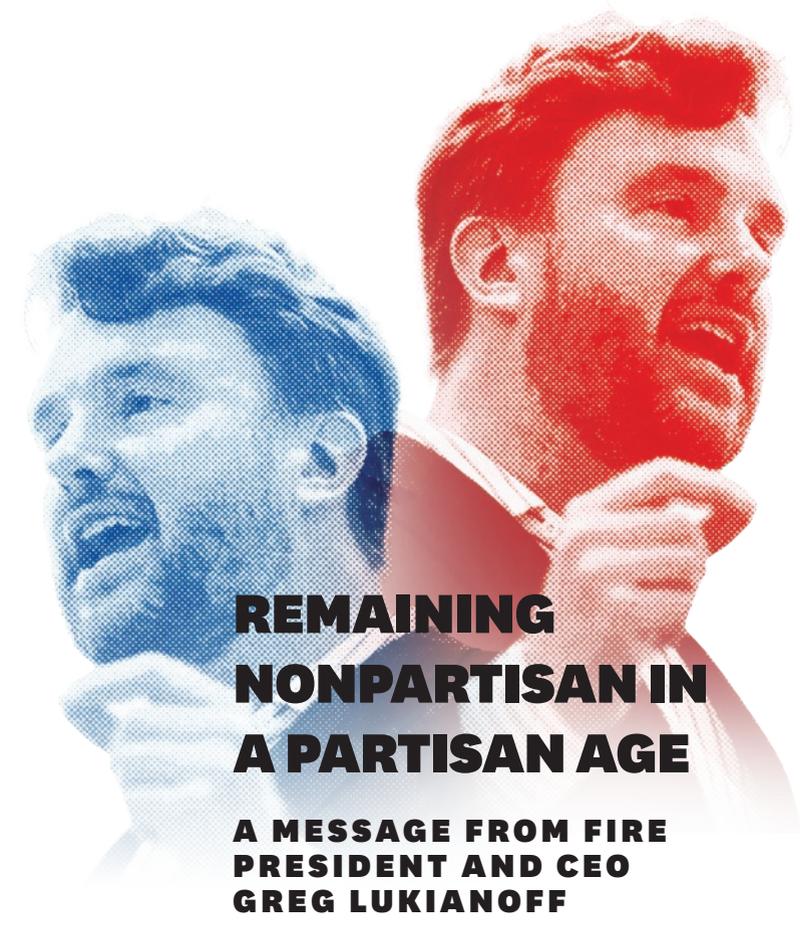
FIRE QUARTERLY

SPRING 2025

PRESS FREEDOM IN PERIL

One Iowa pollster's missed political prediction sparked a lawsuit from President Trump. With FIRE's help, she's fighting back. | 6





REMAINING NONPARTISAN IN A PARTISAN AGE

A MESSAGE FROM FIRE PRESIDENT AND CEO GREG LUKIANOFF

Friends of FIRE,

I've been reflecting on how FIRE has been able to remain nonpartisan even in an era punctuated by intense partisanship. The result is a few pieces of advice I'd like to share. And while they may seem basic, it's times like these when the basics matter more than ever.

First, we must be unwaveringly committed to principle — or, as we say at FIRE, willing to drive the bus into a wall before compromising our core values.

Second, we must actively promote viewpoint diversity. Ideological bubbles are where free speech goes to die, which means innovation, progress, and any hope of achieving our goals are next on the chopping block. The solution is bringing together smart people with differing perspectives who can disagree honestly and work together. This also helps prevent ideological drift, where a group's purpose becomes distorted — sometimes even inverted — over time.

Third, we must be consistent in criticizing abuses. For example, FIRE challenged the Biden

administration over jawboning social media companies, speech-chilling attempts to combat online anti-Semitism, and unconstitutional Title IX regulations. We also fought against the Trump administration's exclusion of the Associated Press from the White House press pool, Trump's baseless lawsuit against Iowa pollster J. Ann Selzer, and Trump-appointed FCC Chairman Brendan Carr's threats to censor views he dislikes.

Nobody has a monopoly on threats to First Amendment freedoms. True nonpartisanship is flagging them no matter their source.

We must also be willing to make common cause with ideological opponents. Progress is only possible through collaboration on mutual concerns, even if we remain deeply divided on other topics. That means applauding good behavior on all sides. For example, Trump's executive order on ending federal censorship, as well as speeches by Vice President J.D. Vance, have echoed FIRE's concerns regarding government overreach, artificial intelligence, and the growing free speech crisis in Europe.

Lastly, we mustn't throw people under the bus. When we attempt a moral separation between ourselves and those we're defending on principle, we erode those principles. We also set an expectation that we'll always do that throat-clearing, making it more conspicuous when we don't. This is a lesson universities learned when they were called out, for example, for vociferously supporting Black Lives Matter but going mum after October 7. Situations like those are also why we promote institutional neutrality as a principle.

Partisan strife has been accelerating, making nonpartisanship a more challenging pursuit. But this turmoil is historically quite commonplace — particularly at the dawn of new technologies like social media and AI. If we remain principled and consistent, however, we can protect free speech and individual freedom.

FIRE is committed to staying the course.

We hope you'll join us.

HER GRAD SCHOOL TRIED TO EXPEL HER FOR TWEETS. NOW IT WILL PAY \$250,000.

Just a month into her studies at the University of Tennessee in September 2019, graduate student Kimberly Diei found herself under investigation by the university’s pharmacy school — for her social media posts.

In one tweet, Kim contributed to a trending discussion on Twitter about the song “WAP” by Cardi B and Megan Thee Stallion, suggesting lyrics for a possible remix. In another, she posted a selfie and referenced lyrics from a popular Beyoncé song.

Kim’s posts complied with the social media sites’ policies and involved expression that the First Amendment squarely prevents public universities from investigating and punishing. What’s more, they were wholly separate from the college, as her accounts operated under a pseudonym and did not reveal her then-identity as a student. But the school said they violated “professionalism” standards — standards it never provided to Kim.

UT ultimately concluded its first investigation, but by the following year, Kim was under a second investigation, and this time, UT administrators voted to expel her. In the midst of preparing for exams, Kim appealed to the dean, who reversed the decision after hearing from FIRE. Then, FIRE sued on behalf of Kim in February 2021.

“I wasn’t about to let my university get away with silencing me or any other student for speaking our truth,” Kim said.

In 2024, a federal appeals court sided with free speech, ruling that Kim’s expression — which administrators called “sexual,” “crude,” and “vulgar” — was “clearly protected” by the First Amendment. Kim, who now works as a pharmacist in Memphis, agreed to a \$250,000 settlement with UT.

In a blow to the qualified immunity that often shields government actors from paying damages for violating constitutional rights, the court emphasized that previous Supreme Court precedent and prior Sixth Circuit rulings put “beyond debate” that the First Amendment protects Kim’s speech. This is a victory not only for Kim, but for students across the country who may fear that professionalism codes will be weaponized against them for expression that has no bearing on their ability to succeed in a given field.

“Staying positive while fighting for my rights for years wasn’t easy, but it was necessary. We all need to speak up when someone tries to take our rights away.”

- KIMBERLY DIEI, FIRE PLAINTIFF

“Kim has proven something FIRE has said for 25 years,” said FIRE attorney Greg Greubel. “The First Amendment robustly protects students’ rights to have a voice outside of school, even if college administrators don’t like what they have to say.”



ARE SNITCH HOTLINES COMING TO A NEIGHBORHOOD NEAR YOU?



The term “Orwellian” gets thrown around a lot these days. But if an official entity dedicated to investigating and even reeducating Americans for protected speech doesn’t deserve the label, nothing does.

These entities are called bias reporting systems, and the odds are they’re already chilling free expression on a campus near you. What’s worse, municipalities and states are now using them too.

Bias reporting systems solicit reports of alleged bias against people for protected identity characteristics. Unfortunately, they often define “bias” in such vague terms that it could be applied to basically anything the complainant doesn’t like, including protected speech. This is doubly so when a school includes the subjective word “hate” in its criteria for language or conduct worth reporting.

As you can imagine, these systems often lead to unconstitutional infringements on protected student and faculty speech. Beyond campus, they threaten to do the same to all Americans.

Bias reporting systems have been popping up across more than a dozen state and city municipalities in the last four years, and the implications are alarming.

Journalist Aaron Sibarum reported that in Philadelphia, for example, authorities fielding “hate incidents” can now ask for exact addresses and various identifying details about the alleged offending party, including their names. In some cases, city officials will “contact those accused of bias and request that they attend sensitivity training.”

The training is voluntary, but it reflects an unsettling level of

government interference in the thoughts and opinions of the public.

Thankfully, there has been pushback on bias reporting systems. Some courts have recognized that they may chill protected speech on campus to such a degree that they violate the First Amendment. The state-level reporting systems raise similar First Amendment issues, especially when law enforcement is involved.

Unfortunately, many states have still passed or are on the verge of passing bills establishing bias reporting systems in their municipalities. The threat remains real, and the consequences of these speech-chilling initiatives are incredibly far-reaching.

If citizens are afraid that the state will investigate them or place them in a government database just for offending another person, they will understandably hold their tongues — even on important issues. That spells trouble for free speech and open debate.

The ability to speak freely is core to our democracy. Any system or protocol that stifles or inhibits free expression is antithetical to the principles and ideals of both our institutions of higher education and our republic. FIRE will continue to speak out against such systems, no matter where they crop up or who they impact, in order to protect the rights of all Americans.

GREAT LAKES, BAD POLICIES: TACKLING PUBLIC COMMENT RULES IN MICHIGAN

Last year, the city of Eastpointe, Michigan, learned the hard way that censorship doesn't pay, ponying up \$83K after the mayor used an unconstitutional public comment policy to violate four citizens' rights at a city council meeting. When that rule was disbanded, we celebrated with Eastpointe residents at their first annual First Amendment Day.

But a free speech advocate's work is never done, and we've since learned that many Michigan cities and towns have unconstitutional policies on the books.

- Rochester Hills City Council bans "inappropriate" public comments at its meetings.
- Clinton Township bans talk of excrement, "disrespectful" references to the supernatural, and "personal attacks."
- Romulus City Council bans remarks with racial, ethnic, religious, sexual or national origin "overtones."

Of course, local governments can impose reasonable, well-defined, viewpoint-neutral restrictions on public comments at their meetings. They can, for example, prohibit genuinely disruptive conduct — such as speaking beyond the allotted time or making true threats. But the rules we've identified go too far, banning large swaths of protected speech.

So we've contacted 20 cities and towns in the state, urging them all — including Grand Rapids, Saginaw, and several around Detroit — to reform their policies and offering to assist them in doing so.

Following our Michigan mailing, one municipality already revised its policy and four others have initiated policy reviews, including two that requested assistance from FIRE. We look forward to working with more cities in Michigan and across the U.S. to stop First Amendment violations before they happen.

IN THE SUNSHINE STATE, THE SHOW MUST GO ON

In March, Miami Beach Mayor Steven Meiner introduced a resolution to terminate the city's lease with an independent local theater and to halt its grant funding after the theater rebuffed pressure from the mayor to cancel its screenings of the Oscar-winning documentary "No Other Land." The mayor characterized the film's depiction of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as "antisemitic" and "one-sided propaganda."

One day before the city commission's scheduled vote on the resolution, FIRE wrote the city urging it to reject the resolution. The next day, almost all commissioners voiced opposition to the resolution and the mayor subsequently withdrew it.



"When political sentiment or personal conviction clashes with the First Amendment, upholding constitutional principles must take precedence."

— **STEPHANIE JABLONSKY,**
FIRE SENIOR PROGRAM COUNSEL

PRESS FREEDOM IN PERIL

FIRE FILES MOTION TO DISMISS PRESIDENT TRUMP'S LAWSUIT OVER A MISSED POLITICAL PREDICTION.

Before the 2024 presidential election, veteran pollster J. Ann Selzer conducted a poll published in the Des Moines Register. The poll predicted — incorrectly — that Kamala Harris would lead Donald Trump by three points in Iowa.

Afterward, Selzer reflected on the results by explaining her methodology, publicly sharing the poll's crosstabs and questionnaire, and even analyzing how her methods might have contributed to missing the mark.

That should have been the end of the story, but instead, the case caught the attention of the highest office in the land. President Donald Trump sued Selzer under Iowa's Consumer Fraud Act, claiming the incorrect poll amounted to election interference.

Trump's claim distorts the purpose of consumer fraud laws, which target sellers who make false statements to get you to buy merchandise.

"Consumer fraud laws are about the scam artist who rolls back the odometer on a used car, not a newspaper pollster," said FIRE Supervising Senior Attorney Conor Fitzpatrick.

By targeting Selzer in such a baseless way, this lawsuit amounts to a "SLAPP" — Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation. Such tactical claims are filed purely for the purpose of imposing punishing litigation costs on perceived opponents, not because they have any merit or stand any chance of success. And it's something President Trump has spoken about doing before.

"I spent a couple of bucks on legal fees, and they spent a whole lot more," he said about a different lawsuit. "I did it to make his life miserable."

Allowing this lawsuit to move forward unchallenged could have dire implications for press freedom, making writers, pollsters, and news outlets reticent to publish material that upsets those in power.

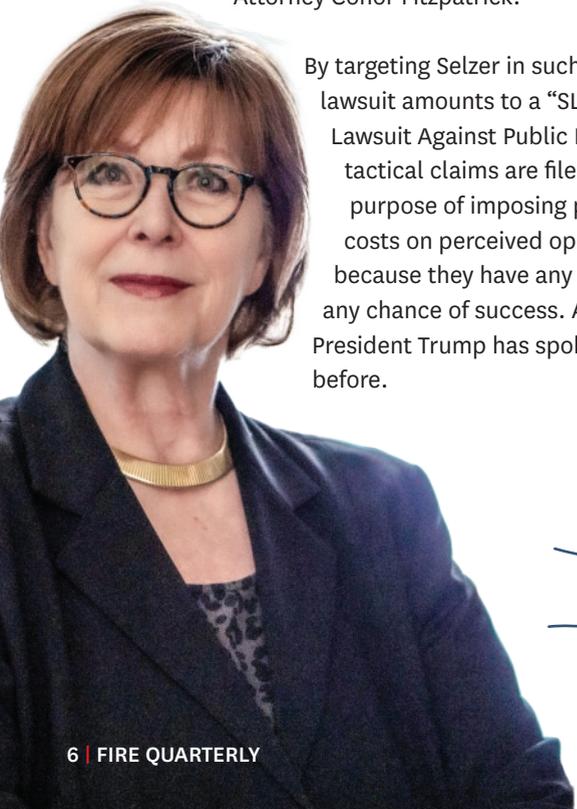
FIRE is representing Selzer to make sure that doesn't happen, and we've filed a motion to dismiss the lawsuit because its claims lack the merit to proceed.

By providing pro bono support, FIRE is helping to remove the punishment-by-process incentive of SLAPP suits — just as we've done when a wealthy Idaho landowner sued over criticism of his planned airstrip, when a Pennsylvania lawmaker sued a graduate student for "racketeering," and when an education center threatened to sue a small, autistic-led nonprofit organization for criticizing the center's use of electric shocks.

"No one should be afraid to assess voter sentiment in an election and publish the findings," said FIRE Chief Counsel Bob Corn-Revere. "Whether it's from a pollster, or you, or me, such political expression is fully and unequivocally protected by the First Amendment."

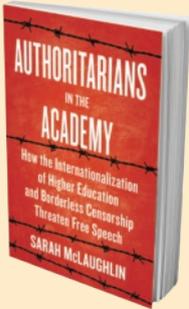
"The response to a mismatch between my final poll and the decisions Iowa voters made should be thoughtful analysis and introspection. I should be devoting my time to that and not to a vengeful lawsuit from someone with enormous power and assets."

— J. ANN SELZER, FIRE PLAINTIFF



PREORDER THESE FREE SPEECH READS!

‘AUTHORITARIANS IN THE ACADEMY’ BY SARAH MCLAUGHLIN



In today’s globalized era, censorship doesn’t always end where another country’s borders begin.

FIRE Senior Scholar of Global Expression Sarah McLaughlin knows this all too well. The mind behind FIRE’s weekly Free Speech Dispatch newsletter, she

documents speech suppression in foreign countries with a focus on how these threats implicate our rights at home. Now, she’s out with a new book aimed at demystifying the influence of foreign nations on free speech in U.S. higher ed institutions: “Authoritarians in the Academy.”

The book exposes how American colleges and universities are compromising free speech principles

for financial gain and global partnerships, taking cues from foreign powers. Through chilling examples in classrooms and boardrooms, it offers a sobering look at how what’s happening in American academia reflects broader societal patterns seen in industries like tech, sports, and entertainment.

“After years of working with students and professors facing censorship in higher ed, I realized there was another quiet but pernicious scandal taking place,” said Sarah. “It’s getting harder to speak freely and openly about authoritarians on campus.”

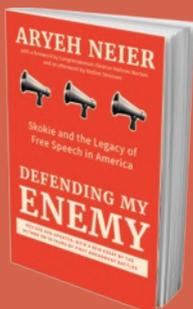
Publisher: Johns Hopkins University Press

Publication date: August 19

Preorder: press.jhu.edu/books/title/53835/authoritarians-academy



‘DEFENDING MY ENEMY’ (NEW EDITION) BY ARYEH NEIER



As national director of the ACLU in 1977, Aryeh Neier was confronted with a case that would define free speech history.

Nazis wanted to march through Skokie, Illinois, home to a large population of Holocaust survivors. Neier,

himself a Holocaust survivor, came to the Nazis’ defense, facing harsh backlash for holding fast to his belief that the First Amendment protects all viewpoints.

In his 1979 book, “Defending My Enemy,” Neier explained the reasoning behind that controversial choice and examined why we must continue to defend free speech without exception.

Now almost 50 years later, a new edition of this timeless work is available for preorder. From The New Press and made possible with support from FIRE, the updated edition features a foreword by Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, an afterword by FIRE Senior Fellow and former ACLU President Nadine Strossen, and a new piece from Neier himself, who offers his thoughts on recent speech controversies and court cases.

In the words of FIRE President and CEO Greg Lukianoff, “At a time when censorship is on the rise globally, ‘Defending My Enemy’ stands as a bold and principled call to action. Every advocate of free expression needs to read this book — and more importantly, live its lessons.”

Publisher: The New Press

Publication date: September 23

Preorder: thenewpress.com/books/defending-my-enemy

Bulk order: thenewpress.com/bulk-orders

STRANGER THAN FICTION

ADMINISTRATORS SUSPENDED DAVID MCNICHOLAS FROM STUDENT HOUSING FOR PUBLISHING CRITICISM OF SCHOOL OFFICIALS IN A STUDENT ZINE.

Criticism of government and public officials is at the core of First Amendment protections. But one New Mexico college used its anti-bullying policy to browbeat student critics into silence.

Last spring, David McNicholas, Institute of American Indian Arts student and senior editor of the Young Warrior student magazine, published two student submissions reacting to recent news of the abrupt resignation of Karen Redeye, a beloved student success advisor at IAIA.

The first was an anonymous editorial urging students to speak up against IAIA's "oppression" and accusing Redeye's supervisors of bullying her. The second was an image of a flyer referencing rumors that Nena Martinez Anaya, the dean of students, misappropriated grant money meant for food aid.

IAIA Provost Felipe Colon told David he was being investigated over complaints that the publication violated IAIA's expansive anti-bullying policy — which bars everything from "teasing, name-calling" and "taunting" to "telling others not to be friends . . . with someone."

Colon found David responsible for bullying, placed him on probation through the end of the 2024-25 school year, and suspended him from student housing.

"I wasn't prepared for it," said the student in an interview with FIRE. "I had to go sleep in a friend's driveway."

To top it off, David was also ordered to issue written public apologies to Garcia and Martinez Anaya — and publish retractions in the Young Warrior and on the student government Instagram account.

Ultimately, he successfully appealed the housing sanctions, got the public apology and retraction order rescinded, and recovered about \$2,000 in lost fees, but he remains concerned about how the school's overreach could impact other students. FIRE urged IAIA to rescind any remaining sanctions on the student and revise its overbroad and vague anti-bullying policy, but the college refused, claiming — incorrectly — its actions did not violate the First Amendment. We've since launched a Take Action campaign, accessible through FIRE's website, through which people can email IAIA's president urging policy reform.

"IAIA's act of censorship is particularly egregious given that it is an arts school dedicated to creative expression," the letter says.

Despite IAIA's bad policy still on the books, David continues to share his thoughts and pursue his interest in journalism. Last semester, he completed an independent study in journalism and free speech, using FIRE's "Guide to Free Speech" as research material. And this semester, he published a new issue of The Young Warrior, which includes a letter from FIRE written on his behalf and, for good measure, a comic poking fun at the provost.

"I can't be worried about who I will offend. If I worried about that, I couldn't get up in the morning. I couldn't be an artist."

-DAVID MCNICHOLAS, IAIA STUDENT

NO ONE SHOULD BE THROWN IN JAIL FOR PROTECTED SPEECH



Columbia University graduate student Mahmoud Khalil

Can the government jail a U.S. permanent resident for their speech? We explained why this is unconstitutional in a March *amicus* brief, joining other civil liberties groups in rebuking the Trump administration for arresting and detaining Columbia University graduate student Mahmoud Khalil for his protected expression.

At the time of the brief, Khalil, a lawful permanent resident, had spent 12 days in a detention center despite not having been charged with a crime. Instead, the administration focused solely on his protected speech, characterizing it as “anti-American” and “pro-Hamas.”

From the pages of the Washington Post and The Wall Street Journal to the airwaves of CNN and C-SPAN, FIRE staffers argued that without providing evidence that Khalil committed a crime or other deportable offense, the government’s actions will give permanent residents reason to fear a knock on the door simply for speaking their minds. We drove home the point that targeting someone for their viewpoint — no matter what that viewpoint is — betrays America’s commitment to free expression.

As FIRE Supervising Senior Attorney Conor Fitzpatrick said in a U.S. News and World Report op-ed, “Giving any government the power to deport critics is dangerous, un-American business.”

HARVARD REJECTS GOVERNMENT’S UNCONSTITUTIONAL DEMANDS

In April, three federal agencies sent a demand letter to Harvard University laying out conditions for the university to continue receiving federal funds.

Among other things, Harvard would be required to deny admission to international students who are “hostile to the American values and institutions inscribed in the U.S. Constitution and Declaration of Independence,” audit certain disfavored academic departments, discontinue DEI, and reform student disciplinary processes and procedures.

If Harvard were to accede to this list of demands, its policies and practices would be transformed to align with the government’s ideological agenda.

But the university is resisting.

FIRE is no stranger to criticizing Harvard: For years, we’ve called out its terrible track record on free speech. And it’s true that institutions take federal funding voluntarily. But it’s also true that the government cannot condition federal funding on institutions giving up their constitutional rights.

Requiring Harvard to relinquish its authority to guide core academic programs would effectively place the federal government in the role of president and provost, unacceptably sending a chill throughout higher education.

“No government — regardless of which party is in power — should dictate what private universities can teach, whom they can admit and hire, and which areas of study and inquiry they can pursue.”

- ALAN GARBER,
HARVARD UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT



FREE EXPRESSION IS ALWAYS IN SEASON

WHEN A TENNESSEE TOWN SET ITS SIGHTS ON RESTRICTING LAWN DECOR, WE SET OUT TO PROVE THERE'S NO WRONG TIME TO EXPRESS YOURSELF.

Christmas in Germantown, Tennessee might be merry and bright, but be careful if your decorations give a fright: You might get dragged into court and fined.

That's what happened to Alexis Luttrell, who set up decorative skeletons in her front yard to celebrate Halloween, then re-dressed the same skeletons for Election Day and Christmas.

In December, a Germantown code officer left a notice that said she had violated a local ordinance which says that yard decorations "shall not be installed or placed more than 45 days before the date of the holiday" and must be removed within "30 days, following the date of the holiday."

In January, she received a citation from the Memphis suburb saying she was still in violation and that she would have to appear before a local judge. If found guilty, she would have been subject to fines and a court order prohibiting her holiday displays.

All this violated Alexis's First Amendment rights. Americans have the right to put up skeleton decorations whenever they want. And by refusing to acknowledge Alexis's Christmas-themed skeletons as Christmas decorations, the city engaged in viewpoint

discrimination, enforcing an arbitrary and narrow idea of the "right" way to celebrate Christmas.

FIRE jumped into action, agreeing to represent Alexis in Germantown municipal court and filing a federal lawsuit seeking to overturn the Germantown ordinance on First Amendment grounds.

"The Holiday Decorations Ordinance violates the First Amendment," the civil rights complaint says: "It is a content-based and viewpoint-discriminatory restriction on speech. It is not narrowly tailored to a compelling government interest. And it is unconstitutionally vague, allowing government officials to arbitrarily punish holiday expression based on their subjective beliefs."

Alexis's municipal court date was originally scheduled for February, but it was postponed for a month after FIRE filed the federal lawsuit. Then, ahead of the March 13 hearing, the city's attorneys dropped the charges, meaning Alexis is no longer at immediate risk of being punished for exercising her rights.

FIRE's federal lawsuit challenging Germantown's ordinance is still pending, but with charges dropped, Alexis's skeletons will stay up and dressed to the nines as the lawsuit progresses through the courts and more holidays arise.

"Holidays come and go, but the First Amendment is here year-round," said FIRE attorney Colin McDonell. "We look forward to seeing all the ways Alexis will express herself for the holidays this year, without government interference."

"I'm beyond pleased that I'm no longer on trial for nothing more than decorating my yard in a way that city hall didn't like. That these charges were ever brought in the first place was utterly surreal, but I'm glad that they're dead and buried — and my skeletons aren't."

ALEXIS LUTTRELL, FIRE PLAINTIFF



IN MEMORIAM: EMBER CLUB MEMBER MICHAEL DARDIA



In January, the world lost longtime FIRE supporter and dedicated free speaker, Michael Dardia.

For nearly a decade, Michael was a champion of our mission and a true friend of FIRE. His generosity spoke volumes, but it was his presence at our events and in our inboxes, and his enthusiasm for our work that truly set him apart. With an unmistakably straight-shooting New York attitude, a quick wit, and a vault of knowledge, he could spark conversation with anyone in the room. We were lucky to have him in the room so many times.

Michael cared deeply about ensuring that free speech thrived, especially in higher education, often challenging the status quo without indulging in the pessimism or condescension that — let’s be honest — can sometimes feel like a tempting release for those of us in the fight for free speech. Michael brought generosity, curiosity, and kindness to everything he did, whether he was raising his children Ben and Anna with his wife Sarah, serving as the deputy director of New York City’s Office of Management and Budget, teaching graduate students at NYU, or serving as vice president of finance for the New York Public Library.

Thank you, Michael, for your support of FIRE and for championing the ideals of liberty. We will miss your storytelling, passion, and conviction.

HELLMAN FELLOWSHIP PREPARES STUDENTS FOR LIFE BEYOND LAW SCHOOL

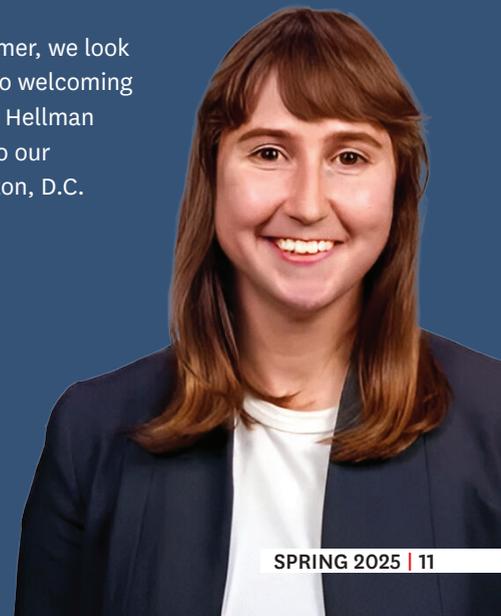
Each year, FIRE offers the Arthur D. Hellman Fellowship in First Amendment Litigation.

This paid opportunity provides law students a \$7,000 stipend for 10 weeks of direct work with FIRE’s attorneys, who guide them in supporting our litigation efforts. Along the way, Hellman Fellows build a long-term relationship with FIRE, with some joining our Legal Network where they can take their own cases *pro bono*, authoring supporting *amicus* briefs, serving as our local counsel, or even returning to work with us as full-time employees.

Hannah Abbott joined FIRE full-time as a litigation fellow after completing the Hellman Fellowship in 2023.

“As a Hellman Fellow, I got to hear stories from ordinary folks across the country, from states I’ve never been to and towns I’ve never heard of,” she said. “FIRE shows up for people whose stories might otherwise never have reached beyond their community, and that kind of 50-state perspective is something I couldn’t have gotten anywhere else.”

This summer, we look forward to welcoming five more Hellman Fellows to our Washington, D.C. office.





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FIRE plaintiffs Linda De Morales and Bill Blanken

CALIFORNIA COLLEGE SYSTEM DROPS REQUIREMENT THAT FACULTY EMBRACE DEI

FIRE's First Amendment challenge against the California Community Colleges system and a community college district came to a satisfying close. On behalf of four professors, we took legal action against a system rule that made faculty hiring and promotions contingent on faculty teaching and endorsing contested DEI concepts like anti-racism. In a victory for more than 50,000 faculty in the state, the system and district backed off, promising the court it will not require professors to teach DEI concepts in the classroom.



FIRE plaintiff Lars Jensen

NEVADA PROF'S ACADEMIC FREEDOM CASE MOVES FORWARD

An appeals court ruled in favor of FIRE plaintiff Lars Jensen, a Truckee Meadows Community College math professor unconstitutionally punished for criticizing his college's revised math standards. Affirming academic freedom, the court ruled that the Nevada professor's right to speak was so clearly established that the administrators were not entitled to dismiss the case on qualified immunity grounds. "This decision will protect professors from investigation or threats of termination for their speech and promote accountability for administrators who violate the First Amendment," said FIRE attorney Daniel Ortner.