

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

2138 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6216

(202) 225-6906  
judiciary.house.gov

April 28, 2026

Mr. Bryan Fair  
Interim President and Chief Executive Officer  
Southern Poverty Law Center  
c/o Mr. Abbe Lowell and Mr. David Kolansky  
Lowell & Associates, PLLC  
1250 H Street NW, Second Floor  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Fair:

We respectfully request your testimony at a hearing of the Committee on the Judiciary on May 20, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in room 2141 of the Rayburn House Office Building. The hearing will examine the role that the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) has played in distorting federal civil rights policy in recent years.

Although the SPLC started with the commendable goal of providing pro bono legal services to indigent defendants, it has shifted in recent times to focusing on an ever-evolving, highly partisan understanding of “hate.”<sup>1</sup> The SPLC has labeled some mainstream conservative groups as so-called “hate groups” based solely upon the group’s conservative or Christian ideology.<sup>2</sup> The SPLC publishes a so-called “hate” map that has led to attacks against conservative organizations, including a shooting at the Family Research Council in 2012.<sup>3</sup> The Biden-Harris Administration relied on the SPLC for civil rights issues,<sup>4</sup> including the Federal Bureau of Investigation using SPLC material to target traditional Catholics as potential domestic terrorists.<sup>5</sup> Recently released information reveals that the SPLC has funneled money to some extremists,<sup>6</sup> raising questions whether the SPLC has been artificially elevating the domestic extremist threat and potentially misleading donors to the SPLC.

---

<sup>1</sup> See Bob Moser, *The Reckoning of Morris Dees and the Southern Poverty Law Center*, THE NEW YORKER (Mar. 21, 2019).

<sup>2</sup> See *The Truth About Morris Dees and the SPLC*, ALLIANCE DEFENDING FREEDOM (last updated June 6, 2024), <https://adflegal.org/article/truth-about-morris-dees-and-splc>.

<sup>3</sup> David Montgomery, *The State of Hate*, WASH. POST (Nov. 8, 2018).

<sup>4</sup> See, e.g., Email from Kristin Clarke, Ass’t Atty Gen., U.S. Dep’t of Justice, to Margaret Muang, President & CEO, Southern Poverty Law Center (Oct. 28, 2022).

<sup>5</sup> See STAFF OF THE H. COMM. ON THE JUDICIARY, 119TH CONG., HOW THE BIDEN-WRAY FBI MANUFACTURED A FALSE NARRATIVE OF CATHOLIC AMERICANS AS VIOLENT EXTREMISTS (Comm. Print July 22, 2025).

<sup>6</sup> Indictment, *United States v. Southern Poverty Law Center, Inc.* (2:26-cr-139 M.D. Ala. Apr. 21, 2026).

Mr. Bryan Fair  
April 28, 2026  
Page 2

Your testimony will inform the Committee in developing potential legislative reforms relating to federal civil rights law. Please be prepared to summarize your testimony with a five-minute opening statement and to answer questions posed by Committee Members. The enclosed Witness Instruction Sheet provides information for witnesses appearing before the Committee. Please note the procedures for submitting written testimony at least two business days prior to the hearing. If you have questions, please ask your staff to contact Committee staff at (202) 225-6906. Please confirm your attendance as soon as possible but not later than 5 p.m. on May 5, 2026.

The Committee looks forward to your testimony.

Sincerely,



Jim Jordan  
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member

Enclosures