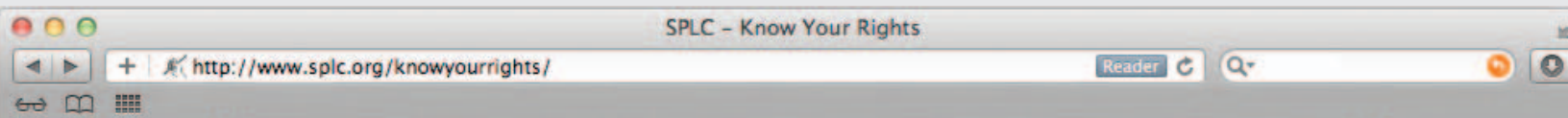




Student Press Law Center

2010 *Annual Report*

2.0 REBOOTED



SPLC

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WITH THANKS TO OUR BENEFACTORS

The Student Press Law Center gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the following institutions without whose support defending the free press rights of student journalists would be a far more difficult task.

As a not-for-profit organization, all contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Additional benefactors can be viewed on our website at:

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FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



I am immensely proud to be chairman of an organization like the SPLC that is having such a positive impact on working conditions for young journalists, but I am heartbroken to have assumed leadership upon the death of a lifelong First Amendment champion, Dick Goehler, whose spirit still guides everything the SPLC does today. We honor Dick's memory every time we offer responsive service to a young person in need, as Dick did so many times in his law practice, and we continue carrying the free-speech torch that he ignited. The SPLC will continue thriving and growing because there is no other choice -- the need for reliable legal assistance is immense, and the obstacles to truthful journalism are too great for students to face them alone.

— **Mark Stodder**, chairman

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The SPLC has always been, and will always be, the 'first responder' on the scene when student journalists' rights are in peril. Increasingly, we're also the authority on using public-records laws to do great journalistic work, and we're helping protect and improve access to the essential information the public needs. And we are leading the fight to let students use the Internet for research and publishing without heavy-handed government interference. With journalism education programs on the chopping block, the SPLC's vigilance and forceful advocacy is needed more than ever before.

— **Frank LoMonte**, executive director



ABOUT THE SPLC

Since 1974, the SPLC has been the authoritative source for information and educational materials concerning student journalism. The SPLC is a direct service provider to thousands of students and educators through our attorney hotline and through our educational seminars and workshops. The SPLC is an advocate for student First Amendment rights, for freedom of online speech, and for open government on campus.

In 2010, SPLC lawyers led 70 in-person workshop events in 27 states, as well as multiple videoconference and webinar sessions, reaching tens of thousands of students and educators. We directly support college and high school student journalists and their advisers in their fight against censorship, intimidation and retaliation.

In addition to speaking to schools and conferences, the SPLC reaches a nationwide audience through the www.splc.org website, blog, podcasts, Twitter and Facebook. During 2010, SPLC journalism interns and staff attorneys distributed 210 news updates, keeping readers informed about the latest trends from the courtroom to the classroom.

While the Student Press Law Center's lawyers are able to handle almost all requests for legal assistance, on occasion students need local representation. To meet those needs, the Center operates an Attorney Referral Network of 150 lawyers across the country who are available to provide free legal representation to local students when necessary, and who file friend-of-the-court briefs in influential cases to speak for the rights of the student media.



NEW IN 2010:

VISIT OUR 2.0 REBOOTED WEBSITE

a new look for a new generation of student journalists

In 2010, the Student Press Law Center **modernized and redesigned** its entire website, the first overhaul in a decade, responding to stakeholder input from surveys and focus groups. The site continues to provide reliable **legal information** and the latest industry **news**, but now also includes:

- **Video Q-and-A's with the SPLC's Attorney Advocate** addressing student journalists' most commonly asked questions, hosted on SPLC's new Vimeo channel.
- **An interactive map of existing and proposed press-freedom laws** – along with tutorials about how to get student press-rights legislation passed.
- **A new “get involved” section** that includes public-service ads, handout materials, a website badge, and other ways SPLC supporters can spread the word about student press rights.
- **Reader-friendly subject-indexed FAQ guides** addressing the most common questions posed on the SPLC attorney hotline.

The improvements to www.splc.org have resulted in a **35 percent increase** in visitors, or nearly 99,000 page views monthly. The SPLC thanks the Taproot Foundation for selecting our organization for an in-kind grant of professional design services.



2010 staff, interns & fellows

Adam Schulman
 Brian Schraum
 Caitlin Byrnes
 Chelsea Keenan
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 Jennifer Kiel
 Josh Moore
 Julia Chapman

Katie Maloney
 Kelsey Ryan
 Laura Dobler
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 Sommer Ingram
 Wayne Pollock



OUR LEGAL TEAM AT WORK

Consulting Attorney Mike Hiestand, Executive Director Frank LoMonte and Attorney Advocate Adam Goldstein.

In 2010, our legal team assisted in defending numerous high school and college students and their advisers. Some notable success stories include:

- Led a coalition of journalism groups interceding on behalf of Medill Innocence Project students from Northwestern University who were facing a legal challenge to their right to claim the protection of the reporter’s privilege.
- Negotiated for the return of illegally seized photos from a police raid of the newsroom at James Madison University’s *The Breeze*, and obtained a public apology from the prosecutor who led the raid.
- Helped the *Kentucky Kernel* newspaper overcome a ban against hand-distributing the paper before and during University of Kentucky football games.
- Obtained a favorable court order quashing a subpoena for the names of commenters on the website of *The Daily 49er* at California State University-Long Beach.
- Prevailed in a Third Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals case, *Layshock v. Hermitage School District*, challenging a high school’s censorship of a student’s off-campus personal website that caused no on-campus disruption.
- Defended the right of publishers of an independent, conservative newspaper to place distribution racks in public areas on the Oregon State University campus.
- Helped the fired adviser and editor of Chicago State University’s *Tempo* newspaper prevail in the first retaliation claim ever brought under Illinois’ College Campus Press Act.

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To get involved, visit:
<http://www.splc.org/support/volunteer.asp>

“WE SIMPLY COULDN’T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT THE SPLC.”

I’ve just completed my eighth and final year in scholastic journalism, and the SPLC has been with me from start to finish. Most recently, a partner and I spent a year preparing for and reporting a series of stories that exposed the complex and exploitive machinery behind the recruitment of international student-athletes. I knew that I’d face several ethical dilemmas reporting on the ground in Cameroon, but as a student journalist without a journalism school, I needed help. As always, the SPLC was there when I needed them most. Ultimately, our series was recognized by the Society of Professional Journalists Mark of Excellence award as the National Winner in In-Depth Reporting. We simply couldn’t have done it without the SPLC. No organization in the country aids and protects important scholastic journalism like they do.

— **Matt Stevens**, UCLA Class of 2011 - *The Daily Bruin*



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