



FCDF Update

March 29, 2017

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- Ninth Circuit Maintains Gag Order On National Abortion Federation Videos
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Criminal Charges Brought Against David Daleiden and Susan Merritt



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If your Religious Freedom rights have been violated, contact us for help!

Yesterday, California Attorney General Xavier Becerra announced that David Daleiden and Sandra Merritt have been [charged](#) with fourteen felony counts of unlawful recording and one felony count of criminal conspiracy. At issue is the series of undercover videos released in 2015 of Mr. Daleiden's meetings with abortion providers and fetal tissue procurement company executives. These videos exposed Planned Parenthood's criminal practices of selling fetal body parts for profit, performing partial-birth abortions, and delivering premature babies to obtain valuable baby body parts.

[Freedom of Conscience Defense Fund](#) is currently defending Mr. Daleiden and his organization, the Center for Medical Progress, in lawsuits brought by Planned Parenthood and the National Abortion Federation for the same alleged unlawful recording. In addition, FCDF previously defended Mr. Daleiden and Ms. Merritt in a lawsuit for an alleged unlawful recording brought by StemExpress. FCDF [beat that suit](#). Charles S. LiMandri, FCDF's President and Chief Counsel, commented:

"These bogus charges are nothing more than a calculated distraction on the eve of Planned Parenthood losing its taxpayer funding. It is highly unusual for criminal charges to be brought at the same time as a civil lawsuit. If this were anything but a publicity stunt, then the Attorney General – a zealous pro-abortion politician as a former Democrat Congressman with 100% rating from Planned Parenthood and NARAL Pro-Choice America -- would have left this to the civil courts."

FCDF has connected Mr. Daleiden with excellent criminal defense attorneys to represent him in this matter, and FCDF expects to provide substantial assistance in his defense. Mr. LiMandri commented:

"There is no question the law supports David and Susan. We expect these politically-motivated charges to eventually be dropped, just like the baseless Texas criminal charges and the StemExpress lawsuit. In fact, it should be only a matter of time before responsible government officials bring charges against StemExpress, the National Abortion Federation, and Planned Parenthood."

We recommend:

[Felony Charges for Pro-Lifers Behind Planned Parenthood Videos](#), by Bob Unruh, World Net Daily

[Pro-Life Undercover Video Producers Charged In California](#), by Rodney Pelletier, Church Militant

[Its decision to go after two journalists who exposed Planned Parenthood reeks of selective prosecution](#), by David French, National Review

[Estefano Isaias Sr. and Jr. and Their Fetal Tissue Companies \[Da Vinci Biosciences\] Suffer Legal Setbacks](#), by Matt Coker, OC Weekly

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Ninth Circuit Maintains Gag Order On National Abortion Federation Videos

Last year, David Daleiden [appealed](#) to the Ninth Circuit over an unconstitutional gag order preventing him from publishing videos he took at National Abortion Federation conferences. Today, the Ninth Circuit issued its ruling and upheld that gag order. A petition to the Supreme Court now seems likely, as this is the first appellate decision to ever uphold a prior restraint on speech about issues of undisputed public importance.

Below is the Center for Medical Progress's statement:

The gag order against the release of CMP's footage of Planned Parenthood leadership discussing criminal conduct at National Abortion Federation Meetings is an attack on the First Amendment and an attack on the constitutional separation of powers. These videos are now unquestionably information the public is entitled to, and they are key evidence in the charges and defense of David Daleiden and Sandra Merritt, but the gag order even prevents their release to law enforcement. Planned Parenthood's barbaric abortion business, and their political cronies and cannot cover up these videotapes and stifle free and informed public discussion. CMP will continue to fight this unconstitutional abuse of power and vindicate our First Amendment rights and those of all citizen journalists to speak and publish on matters of urgent public concern.

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The Center for Medical Progress Releases New Planned Parenthood Video

In the wake of disappointing actions by politically motivated California officials, the Center for Medical Progress fought back and released a new twelve-minute [video](#) taken as part of its *Human Capital Project*. The video shows a longtime Planned Parenthood abortion doctor willing to sell baby parts for profit, using criminal abortion methods to get more intact body parts, and even covering up infanticide: "The key is, you need to pay attention to who's in the room, right?"



Thank you for your continued support and prayers!

For Life and Freedom,

Charles S. LiMandri
President and Chief Counsel

If you would like to book Charles LiMandri for your next event or group meeting, please review his [speaker profile](#), and visit our [website](#) and call Kathy Denworth at (858) 759-9948.



Support Our Work and Protect Religious Freedom:

For more information about our work defending your conscience rights, please visit the [FCDF website](#). To support the important work of FCDF, click the button above or send a tax deductible donation to our address. Please prayerfully consider supporting the work of FCDF to help preserve the precious blessings of liberty for our children and grandchildren.

Much of the cost of operating the FCDF is being underwritten by LiMandri & Jonna LLP. This is a civil litigation practice with cases involving business and contract disputes, insurance matters, serious personal injury claims, and real estate litigation. Recommending LiMandri & Jonna LLP to your family and friends for their civil litigation needs is another way you can support FCDF. For more information please visit the [LiMandri & Jonna website](#).

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