

# **STUDENT PRESS LAW CENTER**

## **POLICY REGARDING DONORS, GIFTS, GRANTS AND SPONSORSHIPS**

The Student Press Law Center, an independent, nonpartisan 501(c)(3), solicits and accepts donations, grants, gifts and sponsorships consistent with our mission to promote, support and defend the First Amendment and press freedom rights of high school and college journalists and their advisers. The goal of such funds are to enhance -- not tarnish or compromise -- SPLC's credibility and reputation as a respected national leader in supporting student press freedoms.

We are committed to building and serving a vibrant community, welcoming students and advisers from as many diverse backgrounds as possible. We expect our donors, funders and sponsors to create a respectful environment for people of all races, genders, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, ability, nationality, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, religions and beliefs.

SPLC will accept one-time and recurring monetary donations, grants, gifts, sponsorships and matches from individuals, partnerships, foundations, corporations or other entities, with the following limitations:

- No gifts that violate federal, state, or local law, statute, or ordinance
- No funder, individual donor and/or closely affiliated business entities that actively promote or support acts or ideas against journalism, journalists or freedom of expression in media or academia
- No funder, individual donor and/or closely affiliated business that engages in acts of discrimination, harassment or hate crimes
- No gift that tangentially may result in inappropriate or undesirable publicity for SPLC
- No funder, individual donor and/or closely affiliated business that conditions its gift on mandating the direction of policy or programs which the SPLC Board of Directors determine to be inconsistent with the mission of SPLC

The SPLC reserves the right to refuse any proposed gift. The SPLC executive staff and Board of Directors also reserve the right to review any gift to determine if it poses any special liabilities for the organization. Any concern or question about the appropriateness of a potential donor or the source of donation will be reviewed and resolved by the Executive Director in consultation with the Board of Directors' Executive Committee and Development Committee. Those committees may choose to bring an issue to the full Board of Directors.

If a member of the SPLC Board of Directors or staff becomes aware of actions by a donor which would contravene any of the above parameters, the Executive Committee and/or the Board of Directors will review the contribution.

**Anonymous donors:** Donors whose identities are known to the SPLC but request anonymity can be listed as “anonymous” on our [donor page](#) with the consent of the Executive Director. For donations larger than \$5,000, the Executive Committee will review requests.

**Donor-advised funds:** The SPLC will review any donations offered through donor-advised funds in which the SPLC is not privy to the name of the contributor. The final decision on accepting such a donation will be made by the Executive Director in consultation with the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors.

**Publicly traded securities:** Gifts of stock will be reviewed by the Executive Director in consultation with the Development Committee. If approved, they will be sold as soon as feasible by the SPLC and will be valued and acknowledged on the date the securities are irrevocably transferred to the SPLC.

**Social giving / community fundraising:** The SPLC endorses independent individuals or groups acting in good faith using credible peer-to-peer fundraising methods, such as Go Fund Me or Facebook, as well as external events or activities that result in monetary donations for the SPLC. The SPLC, however, has no control over or liability for how data may be used by third-party platforms.

**Donor privacy and data security:** The SPLC will not share or sell a donor's personal information to anyone, nor send donors mailings on behalf of other organizations. Any staff or consultants with access to donor records are required to sign strict ethics and confidentiality policies.

**Transparency:** Major donors, foundations and sponsors will be listed and updated on the SPLC website.

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Development Committee, with significant changes approved by the full Board of Directors.

**Adopted:        June 24, 2019**