

June 26, 2018
CH letter to NC
RE: Marc J. Randazza Esq

Fellow Chapter Heads,

A few weeks ago The Satanic Temple announced its intentions to level a lawsuit against Twitter for religious discrimination, because of its handling of TST's, and in particular Lucien's, complaints about their inaction on our behalf. As you know, both accounts were suspended briefly before being restored, after which Greaves promised legal action. Making good on that promise, a campaign was announced and a lawyer selected. However, that lawyer raised red flags with some of us. Not only that the firm representing us was selected without our input (something that was addressed in a previous letter) but that the firm's chief lawyer's reputation and history became a concern for many Chapter Heads as well as members of our chapters.

Many of us were reasonably distraught to find that we were being represented by an attorney that very recently started representing, seemingly exclusively, alt-right and Neo-Nazi clients: Andrew Anglin, Jared Taylor, and Mike Cernovich. And while no one would argue that these people do not deserve the right to legal counsel, some of us questioned the motives of their attorney, Marc Randazza, after seeing him retweeting Cernovich (among other things) and also after learning of his bankruptcy filing, which some of us believe is the drive behind him taking those cases while trying to borrow some of our social capital to scrub off the Nazi stink he's acquired.

We resolved to write these two letters to the National Council, one already sent, to address our concerns but to also reconnect with fellow Temple members to whom we feel we're being alienated from by reason of social stratification within our organization. Our concerns aren't only the concerns of ourselves, but also of our chapters. Many of whom are minorities and many of which already face undue maligning from our families and communities being members of a Satanic religious organization.

As is touched on in the letter, many of us are not happy with the prospect of our minority status being used to bolster the social capital of those people who hate us and undermine our humanity. And though it may not seem like a big deal to some of you I, as a Black Satanist, ask that in this regard you acknowledge your blind spots and recognize that you do not have the whole picture. As minorities, we spend our entire lives anticipating how white people will react to what we do, but you don't have to worry about that, at least not to the same extent, our whole lives are one big chess game where we think two or three moves ahead when it comes to this.

So with that in mind, when you read this letter consider that some of the concerns may sound alien to you but that doesn't make them any less real. The majority of this letter focuses on how the choice of lawyer and firm may affect The Satanic Temple as a whole, which I am also deeply concerned about, as well as the other Chapter Heads who edited and organized it. But literally being the only Black Chapter Head, my perspective naturally gets overwhelmed by the numbers, so this introduction is necessarily Jeremy heavy. Consider it to be like a Supreme Court opinion on a decision - not bearing any legal weight, yet adding perspective.

Like Dex before me, I ask that each of you read this letter considering the interest and perspectives of your fellow Chapter Heads. You don't have to have a visceral reaction like some of us did to Randazza, but in the spirit of the 1st Tenet, try to see what your fellow Chapter Heads and TST members are concerned about.

"If you are able to endorse this letter as-is, I would ask that you please put your preferred

name/pseudonym and your chapter name in the comments. If you have serious misgivings about it, I would ask that you note those in the comments. Please note that this letter has already been drafted and re-drafted over the course of a couple weeks and that it will never reach a point where 100% of us are 100% on board with every part of it. And remember, we can always write more letters if there are things we've missed or if new concerns arise." - Dex

Ave Satanas

26 June 2018

To the National Council of The Satanic Temple:

Friends and colleagues, this letter is intended to further open up lines of communication between National Council and Chapter Heads. All of us are very passionate about The Satanic Temple, as demonstrated by our time, energy, and reputation commitments. Our motivation here is not simply to express concern, and definitely not to make life more complicated than it already is for decision makers in our volunteer-driven organization. Our primary motivation is to offer information and context on a decision that is troubling to a lot of us - a decision arrived at and announced without any Chapter Head consultation or input. The outcome of any subsequent discussion is less important than the process; we need to know that our informed opinions are respected and our voices are heard, and that our input is valued on decisions that affect our ability to organize locally and fundraise for The Satanic Temple's campaigns.

Context

As you know, The Satanic Temple's membership is largely comprised of individuals who have left other religions, those who never followed the religion of their families, atheists looking for a community less sanitized than the leading atheist/secularist/humanist organizations, and many others who have felt marginalized and ostracized. In addition to members and leadership of the Temple, allies support us by participating in our events, lectures, and campaigns; allies who, while not official members, nonetheless extol us as a champion of the "other."

The Satanic Temple is also its Chapter Heads, who dutifully push national campaigns, hold events, stage actions, and raise funds. With respect to Chapter Head efforts, we are concerned that some of the more impactful decisions made at upper leadership levels would benefit from consultation with, or advance notification to, the local leaders who work so hard to give The Satanic Temple a respected and well-known name. These decisions affect how our chapters are viewed by the general public and by our own membership. These decisions, as actions, oftentimes use money raised through our

events and chapter social media. It is our concern that the Chapter Heads have more at stake in the decisions being made at the national and executive levels than National Council and Executive Ministry seem to recognize.

The Issue at Hand

We have a good case against Twitter. We were discriminated against for reasons that can justifiably be presumed to be because of our religious beliefs. Doug's own account was suspended for complaining too loudly about Twitter's inaction, despite credible threats online and in person at our headquarters in Salem. It is understandable that we need a lawyer with experience in the field that we can afford, and is willing to represent The Satanic Temple.

Yet, do we really want to be affiliated with Marc Randazza?

Mr. Randazza has a very [questionable and problematic past](#) involving breach of contract, bribery, destruction of evidence, and a subsequent bankruptcy filing after losing an arbitration. While it is understandable for him to take whatever cases float his way, it is not necessarily understandable that we would accept his services given his history with his clients. Additionally, recently his free speech advocacy seems to be exclusively for far right or right wing interests. From rape apologist Mike Cernovich to actual Nazi Andrew Anglin, Marc Randazza now seems to be attracted to a particular kind of client.

We all agree that everyone is entitled to legal defense. So the issue is not simply his work for repugnant people. As we will see later on, his desire to win at any cost results in questionable decisions, with outcomes resulting in far reaching negative impacts on marginalized communities. (For example, consider how he scammed the porn studio that was paying him for copyright protection by helping out rivals who were stealing their content.)

His treatment of the [SCOTUS decision](#) on the Masterpiece Bakery case seems crass. One might say that this is a callous equivocation of the struggle for LGBTQ rights, which came at the cost of the blood of activists like Harvey Milk, with the ability to discriminate based on "WWJD" and the inconvenience of scrubbing soot out of one's hood and robe. Not to belabor the point, but we all know that Christianity, particularly American Protestantism, is the primary foundation of institutionalized bigotry in this country. It is also the base from which our adversaries form their attacks against us.

Randazza has appeared on [InfoWars](#) multiple times, and during one of the interviews he displayed an inability or unwillingness to discern between the quality of the New York Times and a far-(alt-)right

conspiracy rag like Breitbart (see 10:48). Instead he chose to waffle about listening to both sides. He tacitly endorses the quality of an outlet whose founder believed, until he found out he was being sued, that the [Sandy Hook victims were “crisis actors.”](#) We are all too aware that Alex Jones also commonly propagates various Satanic Panic [conspiracy theories](#). Is it a good idea for The Satanic Temple to have a lawyer that [collaborates](#) with a conspiracy theory shock jock as pernicious and influential as Alex Jones?

Given his financial situation and social media self promotion activities, is it not fair to ask if he has become an ambulance chaser? We cannot look at his resume and public profile without concern for the tangible social impact his associations might have on this organization and its members. Many members of The Satanic Temple are people of color, LGBTQ+, or belong to groups that Randazza’s clients tend to target with their free speech. Again, we understand attorneys often take cases of people that they do not agree with. Randazza has stated that he disagrees with a lot of the clients he represents, and there is no reason to think that his defense of Anglin, Jared Taylor, and others is any different.

However, we cannot ignore the optics of us having a lawyer whose most prominent clients are an alt-right provocateur, a Nazi who ran the Daily Stormer website, Richard Spencer’s predecessor at the National Policy Institute, and now The Satanic Temple. Randazza is a free speech lawyer, but the free speech he is increasingly known for defending is more in line with [the free speech of Jeremy Christian](#) and the “Free Speech Rally” that Christian attended before stabbing two men to death, after being confronted for harassing a muslim teenager.

With at least four Nazis/Nazi adjacent candidates running for Senate, [winning their primaries](#) in some cases, one having the [plug pulled by the GOP](#) after initially polling favorably, one that was [killed by a drunk driver](#), and yet another that was not only won his primary, but was [congratulated by the President of the United States](#), we cannot fool ourselves about the impact this association will have on The Satanic Temple and its persons of color, culturally Jewish, and LGBTQ+ members. This slew of openly Nazi-affiliated candidates illustrates the extent to which bigots are again emboldened to publicly float their hate after decades of progress in the other direction. They’re riding a wave of racist sentiment bolstered by the legitimacy given to them by journalists and lawyers touting a narrow concept of free speech that only considers one point of view, one that Marc Randazza also seems to support.

[Randazza’s defense of Anglin](#) appears more like a defense of hate speech than free speech. His defense strategy is based on the normalization of Holocaust denial, which has terrible implications to us as an organization. Has anyone considered that if Randazza’s defense of Anglin is successful it could undermine our own case, wherein another conspiracy theorist’s reckless speech led to a

madman at our Salem Headquarters threatening our members? More importantly, what does this defense say about the man who is mounting it? The Satanic Temple hiring Randazza for a First Amendment case is potential ammunition for people who misrepresent us, and will likely scare away possible allies. Like it or not, we do not stand alone. Our campaigns are successful because of the people who support them, and if they leave because of this, it would be detrimental to the organization.

Neo-Nazism & Satanism

We cannot afford to be naive about who we choose to associate with. The left-hand path, and Satanism in general, is not immune to rising nationalist, supremacist, fascist popularity in the US. Satanism is no stranger to [white supremacist and Nazi](#) ideology and is experiencing a noticeable uptick in Nazi affiliation connected to recent murders. Satanism may not explicitly or implicitly endorse racism, yet there is a significant intersection between far-right extremism and some notable Satanic groups. Joy of Satan and Order of Nine Angles are openly Nazi affiliated, as is the relatively new Atomwaffen Division. Church of Satan has been more than Nazi-friendly since at least the late 1980s. They have numerous prominent members (past and present) with well-documented neo-Nazi histories, and a cache of new findings deeply connecting Church of Satan to neo-Nazis is going to be published soon.

Doug has made great effort to repudiate his past affiliation with Church of Satan and their philosophy of social Darwinism, and has openly disavowed his work on the Might Is Right podcast. Countless lectures and interviews, the tenets, and the core values of The Satanic Temple he has put forth are undeniable evidence of his intent and motivations. Unfortunately his oft-stated friendship with Adam Parfrey, who curated one of the very first art shows at [Salem](#), is a potential disaster for The Satanic Temple if not handled properly. Posthumously, incontrovertible evidence was brought to our attention by an ally, that proves Parfrey was a secret neo-Nazi sympathizer at best, and at worst, an actual neo-Nazi. Undeniable evidence of Parfrey's longtime close association and friendships with national leader-level neo-Nazis dating back to the 80's, and as recent as [2015 \(at Salem\)](#) is forthcoming. These connections will call into question the legitimacy of Doug's disavowals in many people's minds while at the same time allow them to make ones where none exist.

As you are probably aware, the black community is more resistant to Satanism than most other American ethnic groups (primarily older generations, but not solely). Many black and white individuals perceive Satanism as a primarily white endeavor, if not entirely for white people. This sentiment often comes up in the official Facebook forum, on chapter Facebook pages, and in local chapter communities' discussions. Randazza, with his defense of the alt-right, his tactics in doing so, and the

public recognition he has garnered for it will alienate the people of color who support or are members of the Temple. This will also encourage and validate those who deny that The Satanic Temple has a very real diversity challenge. How alienating would it be to have your race/gender/sexual orientation and status with the Temple used to invalidate your concerns about becoming more associated with guys like Anglin, Cernovich, and Taylor? How could this potential association affect the jobs of our members, especially those who serve in the military, where being involved with hate groups could result in a dishonorable discharge? However unintentional or well meaning, the decision to go with Randazza seems to have been made through a very white lens, overlooking those who are attacked and threatened by the very people Randazza proudly represents.

Conclusion

Hopefully it is clear that present concerns were not initiated by knee-jerk-guilt-by-association paranoia. The adjacency/association factor is but one small variable, that if in isolation would not be an issue worthy of a letter. From Randazza's friendly support of the likes of Alex Jones to his dangerously cynical defense of Andrew Anglin, the conclusion drawn from an analysis of all factors is our concern.

There is a potential we could lose support for our Missouri case, our Grey Faction campaigns, our After School Satan Club, and other protests and campaigns that have garnered us so much attention. As allies leave out the front door, there is an increased likelihood of alt-right and other racists, misogynists, and homophobes sneaking in through the backdoor. They do not need a lot of daylight, and are known to strategically infiltrate organizations they can use to further their agendas. Just like [homophobes were encouraged](#) by the recent Supreme Court decision, the racists that many of us have had to deal with and expel from our chapters and forums will be encouraged. They will cherry-pick our decision to hire Randazza and try to cast us in a light favorable to their beliefs, which could mean the beginning of the end of the Temple as we know it presently.

Numerous members, entire chapters in some cases, have expressed concern to their chapter heads about Randazza's representation, and are re-evaluating their membership in The Satanic Temple. The social capital of Randazza, his associates, and his clients are so toxic that they could threaten our own ability to function under our current mission statement:

“The mission of The Satanic Temple is to encourage benevolence and empathy among all people, reject tyrannical authority, advocate practical common sense and justice, and be directed by the human conscience to undertake noble pursuits guided by the individual will. Politically aware, Civic-minded Satanists and allies in The Satanic Temple have publicly opposed The Westboro Baptist Church, advocated on behalf of children in public school to abolish corporal punishment, applied for equal representation where religious monuments are placed on public

property, provided religious exemption and legal protection against laws that unscientifically restrict women's reproductive autonomy, exposed fraudulent harmful pseudo-scientific practitioners and claims in mental health care, and applied to hold clubs alongside other religious after school clubs in schools besieged by proselytizing organizations."

Being represented by a lawyer with Marc Randazza's awful reputation undermines the foundation for our actions and the goodwill we have accrued over the years. Our case against Twitter is very similar that of the Masterpiece Cake shop. Unlike that couple, we stand to lose a lot of our social capital and even monetary donations by associating our organization with a lawyer who is currently using Holocaust denial as a legitimate defense for a Nazi. This could set a very dangerous precedent. We genuinely care about the success of The Satanic Temple. This should be evident by all of our efforts to raise money for campaigns, create a good reputation through activities such as volunteer work and charity drives through our chapters, and trying to create an accepting community for our fellow Satanists to feel safe in. It would be heartbreaking if this decision jeopardized this organization and negated all of our efforts.

We therefore ask that National Council communicate the following to Chapter Heads:

1. Confirm receipt of this letter.
2. Confirm you are aware of all the evidence presented in this letter.
3. Confirm that you understand the concerns presented in this letter.
4. If the judgement is made to maintain Mr. Randazza as council for TST, to present the reasoning behind the decision.