

1 July 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. The goal of this letter 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.

Concerns regarding Marc Randazza

As NC is aware, some members of chapter leadership have grave concerns about the selection of Marc Randazza to represent TST in our suit against Twitter. We understand that The Satanic Temple's case against Twitter requires legal representation from an attorney that has expertise in First Amendment matters, and also that the number of attorneys that are both qualified to litigate such cases and willing to work with an organization like ours is very limited. Nevertheless, our concerns are serious enough that we hope NC will consider them thoroughly.

- Randazza has a very [questionable and problematic past](#)¹ involving breach of contract, bribery, destruction of evidence, and a subsequent bankruptcy filing after losing an arbitration.
- While we understand that everyone is entitled to representation and that free speech does not apply solely to speech we happen to agree with, Randazza's free speech advocacy seems to have recently focused exclusively on 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.
- Randazza's [defense strategy](#)² in the Andrew Anglin case is based on Holocaust denial. If successful, it will set a terrible precedent normalizing anti-Semitic conspiracy theories as a viable defense for hate speech and harassment.
- His treatment of the [SCOTUS decision](#)³ on the Masterpiece Bakery case seems like 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.
- Randazza has appeared on Alex Jones's [InfoWars](#)⁴ multiple times, and during one of these interviews he displayed an inability or unwillingness to differentiate between the legitimacy of the New York Times and a far-(alt-)right conspiracy rag like Breitbart (see

¹ <https://bit.ly/2MwT2Qu>

² <https://bit.ly/2mPD5ZE>

³ <https://bit.ly/2JN4BWb>

⁴ <https://bit.ly/2ykrfzV>

10:48). Randazza's involvement with InfoWars amounts to a tacit endorsement of Alex Jones, and thus also Jones's various Satanic Panic [conspiracy theories](#)⁵.

Implications & possible outcomes

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. We fear that aligning ourselves with someone like Randazza is likely to both drive away our existing and potential members, particularly those who already belong to vulnerable and marginalized groups, and also make it even harder for allies to justify the work they do with us and on our behalf. 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.

Many of us have already risked enormous professional and personal consequences in order to participate in furthering TST's mission, precisely because of how strongly we believe in this mission. But aligning ourselves with someone like Randazza feels like a new and potentially more dangerous risk. 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](#)⁶ ideology and is experiencing a noticeable uptick in Nazi affiliation connected to recent murders. Satanism may not explicitly or implicitly endorse racism, but there is still a significant intersection between far-right extremism and some notable Satanic groups. Joy of Satan and Order of Nine Angles are both openly Nazi affiliated, as is the relatively new Atomwaffen Division. Even the Church of Satan has been growing more Nazi-friendly since at least the late 1980s – they have numerous prominent members (past and present) with well-documented neo-Nazi histories.

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 people 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 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?

There is also the possibility that we could lose support for our Missouri case, our Grey Faction campaigns, After School Satan Club, and other protests and campaigns that have garnered us so

⁵ <https://rol.st/2leekWL>

⁶ <https://thebea.st/2MzdlwP>

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 back door. They do not need a lot of daylight, and are known to strategically infiltrate organizations they can use to further their agendas. Just as [homophobes were encouraged](#)⁷ 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.

Conclusion

With respect to Chapter Head efforts, we are concerned that some of the more impactful decisions being made at upper leadership levels would benefit from consultation with, or at least 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, and actions taken by TST at the national level often use money raised at the local chapter level. We feel that the Chapter Heads have more at stake in these decisions than National Council and Executive Ministry may realize.

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.

Sincerely,

⁷ <https://bit.ly/2Jn59Sa>