

JP Morgan Shareholder Meeting Question
Justin Danhof, Esq., General Counsel and Free Enterprise Project Director
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I'm Justin Danhof of the National Center for Public Policy Research. I want to ask about the company's controversial \$500,000 donation to the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC).

A *New York Times* commentary criticized the company for its donation to SPLC, noting that “[I]f Jamie Dimon had done [his] due diligence, [he] would know that the S.P.L.C. is an organization that has lost its way, smearing people who are fighting for liberty.”¹ A *Wall Street Journal* commentary also criticized the donation. It noted that the company said the donation was for “work in tracking, exposing and fighting hate groups and other extremist organizations.”² However, as columnist Kim Strassel pointed out, “[s]ince the SPLC is a far-left activist group, the map comes down to this: If the SPLC doesn't agree with your views, it tags you as a hater.”³

If both the *New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal* criticize your actions, it's likely you've done something very wrong.

The SPLC is little more than a fundraising outfit that publishes an annual “hate group” list to target its political enemies – namely conservatives and Christians. The SPLC considers belief in traditional marriage and support for Muslim civil rights to be hatred on par with the beliefs of the Ku Klux Klan.⁴ In 2012, after a gunman opened fire at the D.C. offices of the Family Research Council, he admitted that he was inspired to do so because the SPLC had listed it as a hate group.⁵ The SPLC has also labeled well-regarded social scientist Charles Murray as a “white nationalist,” a classification for which he has been physically attacked.⁶

The SPLC recently placed me on its hate radar simply because I did a radio interview on a Christian network.⁷ My Christian faith doesn't teach hatred. My mother didn't raise me to hate anyone. I am not raising my daughter to hate anyone. That the SPLC wants people to think otherwise is insulting and appalling.

The SPLC is sitting on more than \$477 million – why should they get another cent from JP Morgan's shareholders?⁸ They are using JP Morgan funds in ways that foment anti-religious bigotry and violence.

I represent a free-market organization. We have never called for a boycott or tried to direct a company's philanthropy. We just want to make sure that the company is actually informed about what the SPLC is doing. Can you explain to us investors why JP Morgan is funding anti-religious bigotry and provocation of violence? And what do you have to say to the numerous conservative and religious leaders who have been ascribed such hateful labels by the SPLC?

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- ¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/24/opinion/southern-poverty-law-center-liberals-islam.html>
- ² <https://www.wsj.com/articles/j-p-morgans-hate-list-1503619180>
- ³ <https://www.wsj.com/articles/j-p-morgans-hate-list-1503619180>
- ⁴ <https://mobile.nytimes.com/2017/08/24/opinion/southern-poverty-law-center-liberals-islam.html>
- ⁵ <https://www.2ndvote.com/splc/>
- ⁶ <https://www.wsj.com/articles/j-p-morgans-hate-list-1503619180>
- ⁷ <https://www.splcenter.org/hatewatch/2018/03/22/anti-lgbt-roundup-events-and-activities-32218>
- ⁸ <http://thefederalist.com/2017/05/17/12-ways-southern-poverty-law-center-scam-profit-hate-mongering/>