



# SPLC

## Southern Poverty Law Center

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March 23, 2019

I wanted to share some important news with you. After more than 30 years at the Southern Poverty Law Center, I've decided to step down. Other legacy civil rights organizations have transitioned to a new generation of leaders, and I believe that we should, too.

You may have seen the news about other leadership changes here at the SPLC, including our decision to end Morris Dees' employment.

When one of our own fails to meet the high standards we set for ourselves, we take it seriously and must take appropriate action. But our work is about the cause, not any one person.

We've heard from our staff that we need to do a better job of making sure that our workplace embodies the values we espouse – truth, justice, equity, and inclusion. We're going to do that, and we have brought in Michelle Obama's former Chief of Staff, Tina Tchen, to help us do it.

That's what our deeply talented and committed staff deserve – and we know it's what you expect from us.

The most important thing for you to know is that during this period of transition and change, the work continues. From combatting the global threat of violent white nationalism, to standing up to the Trump administration for separating families at the border, to fighting for voting rights in the Deep South, the work is going strong.

Thank you for your support.

Richard Cohen  
President

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