

AMERICAN FREEDOM LAW CENTER

IMPACT: The American Freedom Law Center (AFLC) is an anti-Muslim law firm that engages in what it describes as “lawfare” against Muslim advocacy and civil rights organizations. AFLC regularly represents anti-Muslim clients, such as the American Freedom Defense Initiative and Stop the Islamisation of America, and AFLC’s co-founder serves as general counsel for the Center for Security Policy.

- In January 2012, **David Yerushalmi and Robert Muise co-founded the American Freedom Law Center (AFLC)**. Muise, an orthodox Catholic from Michigan, and Yerushalmi, described by the New York Times as a Hasidic Jew who has lived in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, describe their organization as **“the nation’s first truly authentic Judeo-Christian public interest law firm.”**
- The AFLC describes **“the Nation’s Judeo-Christian heritage” as facing an internal threat from “secular progressives and sharia-advocating Muslim Brotherhood interests.”** AFLC seeks to **engage in “lawfare” against this “internal threat,”** as well as “civilization jihad,” through “litigation, education and public policy programs.”
- **David Yerushalmi**, co-president, and co-chairman of the AFLC, is described by the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) as the **“father of the anti-Sharia movement.”** He also founded the Society of Americans for National Existence (SANE), identified by the SPLC as an “anti-Muslim organization devoted to promoting his theory that Islam is inherently seditious.”
- In 2010, **Yerushalmi drafted “American Laws for American Courts” (ALAC), which has served as the model for “the enactment of 18 anti-Muslim laws in states in the US between 2010 and 2016,”** according to a 2017 report released by the Haas Institute at UC Berkeley.
- Robert Muise, co-president and co-chairman of the AFLC, has practiced as a constitutional law attorney since 2000, focusing on “pro-life,” freedom of speech, and anti-Muslim cases. Before co-founding the AFLC, Muise was Senior Trial Counsel at the Thomas More Law Center. While at the Thomas More Law Center, in 2011, **Muise defended Florida Pastor Terry Jones, notorious for multiple Quran burnings,** in a freedom of speech case concerning an anti-sharia protest outside of a Dearborn mosque.
- In an interview on an episode of “The Choices We Face” by Renewal Ministries, published in August 2016, **Muise described his work at the AFLC as “evangelizing,”** stating: “That’s evangelizing. I try to do that through the court cases.”
- In their work together at the AFLC, **Muise and Yerushalmi have defended numerous anti-Muslim clients** in cases involving transportation advertisements (here, here, here, here, here and here), an anti-mosque case, two “Muslim-free” gun ranges, a restaurant and “sharia compliant” insurance. AFLC has **defended anti-Muslim individuals and organizations including Pamela Geller and her organizations** the American Freedom Defense Initiative and Stop the Islamisation of America, as well as the **Center for Security Policy**.
- Yerushalmi has stated that the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) “is a Muslim Brotherhood-Hamas front group,” and that the **AFLC and has thus attempted to engage in “lawfare” with CAIR.**

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- In 2015, Yerushalmi and Muise **co-authored a monograph**, published by the SPLC-designated anti-Muslim hate group, the [Center for Security Policy](#), titled **Offensive and Defensive Lawfare: Fighting Civilization Jihad in America's Courts**. Yerushalmi and Muise claim that this publication “illuminates the civilization jihadists’ lawfare against America – and how it can be fought.”
- Several **anti-Muslim individuals serve on the AFLC’s Advisory Board**, including the President of the Center for Security Policy, **Frank Gaffney**; contributing editor to the National Review, **Andrew McCarthy**; **former CIA Director R. James Woolsey**, who [supported](#) an ALAC-modeled ban on “sharia law” in Oklahoma; [former](#) Inspector General for the Department of Defense Joseph Schmitz, and [former](#) U.S. Attorney General Michael Mukasey.
- In August 2017, the **AFLC filed an amicus curiae brief at the U.S. Supreme Court in support of President Trump’s Muslim Ban**, arguing that the Muslim Ban is “constitutional” and an “interim step to extreme vetting for Islamist sharia ideology.” They filed this brief on behalf of several SPLC-designated [anti-Muslim](#) figures, including Andrew McCarthy, Frank Gaffney, Dr. Robert J. Shillman, [William G. Boykin](#).
- The AFLC leadership is **deeply connected to the Center for Security Policy (CSP)**. CSP president Frank Gaffney and CSP Senior Fellow [Joseph Schmitz](#) serve as Advisory Board members to the AFLC, and AFLC’s co-founder, Yerushalmi, has served as the General Counsel to the CSP.
- At AFLC’s 2015 Freedom Fighter award dinner Advisory Board member Andrew McCarthy and Gaffney both [received awards](#) for their work with the CSP. In his speech presenting the Freedom Fighter Award to Gaffney, **Yerushalmi said, “The Center for Security Policy became my model [for the AFLC].”** Later in this speech he **explained the foundational relationship between the AFLC and the CSP, stating:** “Of course when I came to Frank and said **we would like to establish the American Freedom Law Center, essentially as an adjunct, the legal tip of the sphere to the Center for Security Policy**, the **Center for Security Policy wrote a check for \$400,000 as a foundational grant** which enabled us to launch the organization.”
- The AFLC is a registered 501(c)(3) organization, with an [operating budget](#) of over one million dollars, that “is [supported](#) by contributions from individuals, corporations, and foundations.” Although the AFLC represents its clients pro-bono, Muise has [earned](#) a total executive compensation of over \$900k since its founding.
- In addition to a \$400,000 foundational grant, the AFLC also [received](#) \$150,000 from the CSP in 2016. The **AFLC has previously received funding from other anti-Muslim funders** including the [MZ Foundation](#), the [Abstraction Fund](#), the [Alan Hope and Winters Family Foundation](#), and the **American Freedom Defense Initiative, which was founded by Robert Spencer and Pamela Geller**.