We at Life Legal are continuing our long-standing defense of the Center for Medical Progress, whose video witness against Planned Parenthood has altered the nation’s abortion landscape in a way that cannot be reversed. CMP has proved, not merely alleged, that PP sells baby body parts, and the consequences for America’s number-one abortion operation are beginning to surface. We’re proud of what we’ve done to keep CMP in the battle — and we’re determined to stay in its corner as long as necessary.

The advocates of death are working furiously to open up yet another floodgate of extermination — by legalizing and indeed promoting unrestricted “physician-assisted suicide.” We are fighting them every step of the way, and winning victories as we go, but the fight is not proving easy.

Right now our efforts on this front focus on California’s End of Life Option Act (ELOA), which is still a powerful threat to the lives of a whole class of human beings dismissed as inconsequential.

Furthermore, we have recently redoubled our commitment to the defense of pro-life pregnancy resource centers (PRCs), which save lives from the abortion juggernaut by providing alternatives that Planned Parenthood never wants to consider. Attempts to crush PRCs through the coercive power of the state — held off with a huge win in the U.S. Supreme Court, one that Life Legal helped to bring about — demonstrate that the abortion industry understands very well how effective PRCs are in preserving human life.

As always, we are pursuing our day-to-day work of standing up for the free speech rights of pro-life sidewalk counselors. These unsung heroes face threats and harassment daily as they stand in the gap for the child in the womb. We have their backs.

We at Life Legal are constantly reminded of how much we depend on the support of pro-lifers like you in everything we do. And we pray that you can continue to grant us your support in the year to come.

As you watch the death advocates strive to advance in every area of society, do not be dismayed. Know that we remain vigilant and strive continuously to defeat their attacks. And keep in mind that you, with your generous support, are striving with us.

Yours for the value of every human life,

ALEXANDRA SNYDER
Executive Director
“We are fighting them every step of the way, and winning victories as we go, but the fight is not proving easy.”
The videos of conversations with Planned Parenthood abortionists, obtained by David Daleiden and Sandra Merritt, are the gifts that just keep giving the pro-aborts a pain. The actual footage is just too convincing to allow for easy dismissal by talking heads. Nothing the pro-aborts have said could undo the sickening amorality of abortionists’ casual talk about “crushing above and below” to get intact abdomens and using a “less crunchy” technique to preserve fetal hearts and livers for sale.

The power of the CMP videos is that they don’t “claim” a thing. Rather, they prove that Planned Parenthood peddled baby body parts for “valuable consideration.” They also show a lot of other realities that pro-aborts are eager to avoid. When you hear abortionists discussing available human body parts, it’s no longer possible to pretend that the target of an abortion is a mere mass of cells.

Contrary to mainstream reporting, Planned Parenthood has failed to avoid the trouble implicit in these videos. Several states have yanked public funding of the abortion mega-corporation. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is proposing to do the same thing. State investigations have found PP guilty of wrongdoing — for example, improper disposal of fetal remains. And federal investigations of the trade in baby body parts, initiated by congressional inquiries, grind ahead.

In response, the pro-aborts have unleashed on CMP a whole array of vengeance schemes, including criminal charges from (yes, here he comes again) that ubiquitous champion of the death culture, Xavier Becerra, Attorney General of California. Life Legal’s efforts on behalf of CMP defendants have centered around two lawsuits, one from Planned Parenthood itself and one from the National Abortion Federation (NAF). Katie Short, our Vice President of Legal Affairs, has been especially active in pressing PP for discovery on various claims made against the people responsible for exposing its seamy program of revenue enhancement. As a consequence, PP has already dropped several of its claims. Katie and the rest of our team intend to keep up the pressure.

Please pray for these pro-lifers being sued by Planned Parenthood for exposing PP’s role in trafficking baby body parts for profit.
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Life Legal handed the “assisted suicide” movement a defeat in May of this year when Superior Court Judge Daniel Ottolia ruled that the passage of California’s End of Life Option Act was unconstitutional. The immediate practical effect of the decision was largely negated in June, when the Fourth District Court of Appeals granted an emergency stay to death advocates, including California Attorney General Xavier Becerra, who complained about the “harm” caused by slowing down the “suicide” pipelines established by enterprising M.D.’s. However, the appeals court did not overturn Judge Ottolia’s ruling. It merely allowed the ELOA to remain in effect pending appeal.

The terrifying consequences of this law have become only too apparent since it took effect in June of 2016. Doctors such as Lonny Shavelson have built practices entirely on helping strangers hasten toward death. The class of those defined as “terminally ill” has been deprived of all protection. Why anyone would celebrate this system of horrors as an advance in human rights lies beyond rational explanation.

Life Legal’s contribution to commonsense restraints on this madness has not come without cost. Shortly after Judge Ottolia ruled, when the practical effect of our work was very much in operation, we received a different sort of death threat. The correspondent, claiming to be a terminally-ill suicide aspirant, threatened to invade our administrative offices and to kill himself in a violent manner in front of our staff — in order to teach us all some sort of lesson. We naturally reported the threat to law enforcement, whose members advised us on precautions. Wesley Smith writes about an early “assisted suicide” witnessed by Lonny Shavelson, the death entrepreneur mentioned above. According to Shavelson’s own account, the good “suicide” profiteer once sat by while a Hemlock Society volunteer forcefully resisted the attempt of a victim, Gene, to rip the plastic bag off his own face. The female volunteer pinned her “client” and held the bag tight around his neck till he stopped struggling. “There is a word for what happened to Gene,” notes Smith, “and that word is murder.” In principle, this is what the assisted suicide movement has always amounted to. We rededicate ourselves every day to resisting its pernicious expansion.
On June 26, 2018, the U.S. Supreme Court handed down a decision in the case of NIFLA v. Becerra — a case that pitted pro-life pregnancy resource centers (PRCs) against California Attorney General Xavier Becerra, who never met a piece of death advocacy he couldn’t put his name behind. At issue was whether the State of California could force pro-abortion speech on licensed PRCs, essentially turning them into abortion referral agencies, and also impose a lengthy disclaimer on unlicensed PRCs whose services require no licensing in the first place. There were some other ridiculous provisions in the California statute in question, such as the need to provide all this compulsory verbiage in up to 13 different languages.

The decision of the Court was not only favorable to PRCs but made reference to some particulars the language of Life Legal’s amicus curiae brief in the case, saying that “California has not demonstrated any justification” for the “government-scripted” disclaimer. The First Amendment rights of pro-life help centers were upheld.

But only for now. The Court’s ruling in NIFLA v. Becerra was not final. The case was returned to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals for further review.

At the same time, we’re seeing a proliferation of attacks on pro-life PRCs. A vicious pro-abort propaganda campaign in Colorado follows California’s lead by targeting life-saving PRCs as “fake clinics,” and there appear to be similar efforts underway in other states. Although this strategy fell short in the U.S. Supreme Court, it inflicted enormous damage in the mainstream media when legislation was being considered.

It is, of course, a very poor argument. If pro-life PRCs were actually acting as “fake clinics,” they would be subject to current statutes against fraud. No special legislation would be required.

We at Life Legal believe that the abortion industry is revving up assaults on pro-life PRCs because they are so effective in saving lives from the abortion mills. For that reason, we are preparing to defend PRCs with even greater determination than before.

It is my pleasure to recommend the excellent attorneys at the Life Legal Defense Foundation. Over the past two and a half years, my team at the Freedom of Conscience Defense Fund has had an opportunity to work closely with Attorney Katie Short and her dedicated staff in the defense of David Daleiden and the Center for Medical Progress. Katie has shown herself to be a highly skilled and resourceful attorney who works tirelessly in the defense of her clients. The Life Legal team has been very responsive to any situation that has arisen in this hard fought litigation, and provided invaluable insight and support in our joint defense efforts. It has been a privilege to serve as their co-counsel in the representation of our courageous clients who have come under repeated unjust attacks from the abortion industry. The Life Legal attorneys are a credit to the legal profession and a great asset to the pro-life movement.

Charles S. LiMandri
LIMANDRI & JONNA LLP
You already read about some major Life Legal victories:

• Yes, we helped defend pro-life pregnancy resource centers against attempts — once again from the pro-abort legislature in California — to turn them into abortion referral centers.

• Yes, we defeated California’s “assisted suicide” law at the trial court level.

• Yes, we enabled the Center for Medical Progress to continue its devastating exposé of Planned Parenthood’s business practice of peddling baby body parts.

But that’s not all.

• One of Life Legal’s signature cases years ago was the defense of Pastor Walter Hoye — who witnessed against a high-volume abortion mill and was unjustly persecuted, prosecuted, and jailed by corrupt officials in Oakland, California. This year, our commitment to Pastor Hoye’s ministry brought forth what may be the ultimate fruit. The abortion mill that he opposed, the abortion mill that Oakland officialdom rallied to support, finally shut its doors! Our success here — and Pastor Hoye’s — illustrates an important lesson for pro-lifers, who often feel helpless and worry that their efforts are wasted. Take heart, pro-life prayer warriors! Not one drop of your faithfulness ever goes to waste. Pastor Hoye’s experience shows that, years later, the persecuted can indeed achieve victory. It can be done. Stick with it!

• Our own commitment to 40 Days for Life, a worldwide apostolate that organizes massive pro-life witness outside abortion mills twice a year, has helped to advance the cause, close mills, and save lives on a scale so vast that the actual effects are impossible to tabulate. The verified number of lives saved now stands at 14,643.

• Early this year, we received news early that the FBI was indeed pursuing an investigation into Planned Parenthood’s crimes and was seeking full access to the videos that CMP turned over to Congress. It’s a great reward to know that law enforcement is finally approaching PP as suspect, not victim. That’s what CMP’s own investigation was about from the beginning.

• We need to mention another victory that fundamentally depended on the heroic efforts of others. In October of last year, a complex of wildfires enveloped much of Northern California and threatened many in Napa County, where our administrative offices are located. We were directly endangered by the fire. Only a couple streets lay between us and its rapidly advancing front, and the fire had leapt several streets before it reached that point. We did evacuate our offices. Our losses could have proved irrecoverable. A lot of people in the Napa Valley lost everything. But brave firefighters from around the state, country, and globe — from as far away as Australia — rallied to save the valley, and our offices were amongst the properties saved. Often in the post-Roe world, we feel as if decency has drained from society as completely as in a dystopian novel. The firefighters who labored in extreme conditions and in the face of extreme danger proved otherwise. There are still heroes out there, and we know we can’t thank them enough.
One thing you learn when you’re in the fight for human life is that no ground is ever secure. Our victories since the last annual report were real victories, but our adversaries immediately turned them into issues again. We at Life Legal have no real choice but to recommit to some of the battles we’ve already fought — in order to protect the victories we’ve already won.

We helped win an important victory for pro-life pregnancy resource centers in *NIFLA v. Becerra*, but the decision was not final. We need to follow through as the 9th Circuit reviews this case. Moreover, all around the country, the pro-aborts are dreaming up ways to harass PRCs out of existence. Abortion mills want to put PRCs out of business because every baby saved from the machinery of murder represents a loss of income to the abortion industry. This issue will only increase in importance as time goes on. We need to keep fighting for PRCs because they save lives every day from abortion.

Another decision of the Supreme Court — *Janus v. AFSCME* — made it clear that unions could not extort money from workers to lobby for policy positions that the workers themselves opposed. We have already been contacted by union members seeking our guidance on the application of this decision. We have been educating pro-lifer workers about their rights — in order to keep millions of dollars from going to pro-abortion groups like Planned Parenthood. We need to upgrade our efforts in this area — and to fight consistently for the rights of pro-lifers in the workplace.

As soon as we defeated California’s End of Life Option Act in superior court, death zealot Xavier Becerra sought and won a stay enabling the continued application of the law. That means we have to fight again in the appeals court. And the death merchants had even more in store for us. So furious was the California legislature to reopen the suicide pipelines that the Senate passed a new law, SB 282. SB 282 is even more extreme than ELOA, since it legalizes aiding, advising, and encouraging suicide, and defines “terminal condition” as anything that might cause death if untreated. If the bill passes the Assembly and is signed into law, we will have to commence a whole new battle on this difficult front.

Thanks to the continued operation of the Center for Medical Progress, the FBI is now investigating Planned Parenthood’s trade in baby body parts. Both PP and the National Abortion Federation are still seeking to punish CMP for daring to expose this bloody business in the first place. We at Life Legal need to maintain our defense of CMP defendants. Lest you think that ours is entirely a reactive role, the fact is that, right now, our Vice President for Legal Affairs, Katie Short, is specializing in discovery. Mounting an effective defense against PP’s lawsuit means ferreting out uncomfortable facts that contradict the “party line” fed by PP to the public through its complicit media allies. Help us keep her at work! It’ll drive PP crazy.

We need to fight for pro-life activists at all levels of commitment — from participants in 40 Days for Life to Fr. Stephen Imbarrato and other heroes of the Red Rose Rescues. Street-level pro-life activism saves lives — and the pro-aborts attempt to shut it down every day. We need your help to stick up for every activist subject to harassment, intimidation, and persecution.

In addition to opposing laws that promote all forms of medical murder, we need to deal with the reality that, in our twisted medical system, individual patients are threatened with termination every day. We need to be ready to rush into court at a moment’s notice to save a threatened life. The truth is that we constantly face new cases involving denial of care. Not all these cases can make it into the news or even into our reports — but they all feature one endangered human life that deserves our intervention.
OUR STEWARDSHIP OF YOUR GIFTS

AS YOU GIVE, PLEASE BE ASSURED THAT LIFE LEGAL WILL BE A WISE STEWARD OF ANY GIFT YOU SEND. THE GRAPH BELOW REFLECTS LIFE LEGAL’S 2017 INDEPENDENT AUDIT BY RINA ACCOUNTANCY CORPORATION.

SUPPORT AND REVENUE
(Fiscal Year: 2017)

Contributions
Donations  2,151,635
(Pro bono) Attorney services  1,450,075
Other income  8,714

TOTAL REVENUE  $3,610,424

CONTRIBUTIONS  60%

ATTORNEY DONATED SERVICES  40%

NET ASSETS, end of year  $1,465,738

EXPENSES
(Fiscal Year: 2017)

See how your gifts go straight to saving the lives of babies.

Program services  3,164,823
Supporting services:
Fundraising  287,299
Administrative  84,813

TOTAL EXPENSES  $3,536,935

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES: 8%
ADMINISTRATIVE: 3%

PROGRAMS: 89%

Life Legal Defense Foundation is a 501(c)(3) public charity that seeks to operate under the highest standards of financial accountability and excellence. All charitable donations to Life Legal Defense Foundation are tax-deductible within the United States. We are audited by an independent accounting firm each year and governed by a Board of Directors.
CLOSING STATEMENT

WE AT LIFE LEGAL ARE OVERWHELMINGLY GRATEFUL FOR THE CONTRIBUTIONS YOU HAVE MADE TO OUR PAST SUCCESSES — AND WE NEED YOUR CONTINUING ASSISTANCE AS WE FACE THE TREMENDOUS CHALLENGES OF 2019.

We at Life Legal are boundlessly grateful for the contributions you have made to our mission in the past — and we need your continuing help as we approach the challenges of 2019.

• Without you, we never could have won at trial against California’s End of Life Option Act — nor saved so many lives from the death-is-the-answer mentality now moving to take over the medical profession!

• Without you, we could never have continued our support for the Center for Medical Progress, whose undercover videos have revealed to the world what Planned Parenthood and its pro-abort allies are really all about!

• Without you, we could never have defended pro-life pregnancy resource centers against California’s attempt to turn them into abortion referral sites, nor fought for pro-life First Amendment rights in the U.S. Supreme Court!

And without you, we won’t be able to continue the battle for life against death fanatics such as California Attorney General Xavier Becerra!

Maybe we can never understand — but the zeal for wickedness really is there. We struggle against it every day.

Please... as a generous and committed pro-lifer... could you contribute $50, $150, $500, or even $1,000 toward Life Legal’s actions in 2019?

Remember: we are going up against government entities who use taxpayer dollars, as well as private organizations that swim in oceans of blood money.

From those who can afford to consider such a high degree of sacrificial generosity, we are especially seeking gifts of up to $5,000, or even $8,000.

We don’t have to match our opponents dollar for dollar, or even dime for dollar. But we do need to raise what amounts to a lot of money for us.

As always, we would be grateful for any amount you choose to give. Life Legal has always depended on the widow’s mite and understands its transcendent value.

At Life Legal, we pray every day for our benefactors. And we ask you to do the same for us.

May the Lord richly bless you in the coming year — and reward you for all you’ve done to defend human life!

You and I find it hard to understand how the murder militants can dedicate themselves so thoroughly to destroying the child in the womb, pushing widespread “suicide with help,” and strangling pro-life free speech.

Selfishness, sure. Anyone can understand that. But why should such selfish characters treat their causes as twisted, upside-down crusades, calling good evil and evil good, and insisting that everyone invert reality in exactly the same way?
The Mission:

To give innocent and helpless human beings of any age, particularly unborn children, a trained and committed defense against the threat of death, and to support their advocates in the nation’s courtrooms.