

SRF

SUMMIT
FOR
RELIGIOUS
FREEDOM

April 13–16, 2024

Washington, D.C., and Virtual



Welcome to the Summit for Religious Freedom – SRF!

Welcome! We cannot think of a more important time to be coming together to defend our country's promise of church-state separation. Thank you for making the effort to join us at the Summit for Religious Freedom.

Americans United for Separation of Church and State, in collaboration with many of our allies, created SRF as the hub for our collective fight to protect religious freedom, church-state separation, and the issues that depend on them – including LGBTQ+ rights, abortion access and reproductive rights, thriving public schools and so many more.

Together, we'll learn more about the unprecedented threats posed by Christian Nationalists and their political allies who are on a crusade to force us to all live by their narrow religious beliefs. You'll be equipped with both information and tools to defend everyone's right to live as themselves and to believe as they choose. And you'll feel the power we have when we come together to fight for church-state separation.

You are a critical part of our growing community of passionate advocates who understand that, now more than ever, we must call on our nation to recommit to separate church and state. We are so happy you are here.

Get ready to learn, to find new friends and collaborators, and to be inspired!



With hope and appreciation,

Rachel Laser, President and CEO

Americans United for Separation of Church and State

P.S. Don't forget – even after this Summit, we'll continue to come together, first during **SRF Rewind** and then throughout the year as part of our **SRF365** virtual programming to educate, build power, network and take action together. Stay tuned.

Schedule

SUNDAY, 4/14

- 8am – 9am** Breakfast
- 8:15am – 8:45am** Young Attendee Breakfast Meet Up
(open to all age 25 and under)
- 8:45am – 9:30am** Welcome Remarks & Special Guests
- 9:30am – 11:00am** Keynote 1: Dr. Anthea Butler
- 11am – 11:30am** Break and Book Signing: Anthea Butler
- 11:30am – 12:30pm** Breakout Seminars A
All Breakout Session details can be found on pages 10–16.
- 12:30pm – 1:30pm** Lunch
- 1pm – 2:30pm** Keynote 2: Erin Reed
- 2:45pm – 3:45pm** Breakout Seminars B
- 4pm – 5pm** Breakout Seminars C
- 5pm – 5:30pm** Book Signing: Andrew L. Seidel, Rob Boston and Linda K. Wertheimer
- 5pm – 7pm** Welcome Reception
*Pool Deck (weather permitting)
Alternate: Grand Ballroom*

MONDAY, 4/15

- 8:15am – 9:15am** Breakfast
- 9am – 11am** Breakout Workshops
- 11:15am – 12:15pm** Breakout Seminars D
- 12:15pm – 12:45pm** Book Signing: Rep. Jamie Raskin, Katherine Stewart and Anne Nelson
- 12:30pm – 1:30pm** Lunch
- 1pm – 2:30pm** Keynote 3: Rep. Jamie Raskin
- 2:30pm – 2:45pm** Closing Remarks
- End of Main Conference Program.*
- 3pm – 6pm** Hill Day Training and Dinner
Hill Day training and dinner for registrants of Hill Day only.
- 5:30pm – 6pm** Pre-Screening Reception
- 6pm – 8:30pm** *Bad Faith* Film Screening & Talk Back Panel

*Program as of April 5, 2024.
Subject to change.*



Hill Day

Pre-registration for Hill Day was required and, unfortunately, all slots are filled. If you weren't able to register, you can still take action to support the Do No Harm Act. Use AU's quick and easy form to contact your Members of Congress by scanning or visiting go.au.org/supportDNHA.



SRF's Hill Day will take place in-person on Tuesday, April 16. It will be a fun and exciting opportunity for people who have registered for Hill Day to have face-to-face conversations with congressional staff on Capitol Hill. At the meetings, you can share why you support church-state separation and the Do No Harm Act. You will also hear from Members of Congress.

In order to participate in Hill Day, registrants must attend the Hill Day Training on Monday, April 15, following the SRF Closing Remarks. At the training, we will teach you how to lobby, give you specific talking points and answer questions you might have. Also, we will provide you with your schedule for Hill Day at the training.

Tuesday, 4/16: Hill Day Schedule

- 7:30am** Meet in Washington Plaza Hotel Lobby for Bus Loading (with luggage if needed)
- 8am** Bus Departs Hotel for Hill Day Venue
- 8:30am – 9:30am** Hill Day Welcome Program and Breakfast
- 10am – 4:30pm** Congressional Meetings on Capitol Hill
- 12pm – 1pm** Boxed Lunch Available at Hill Day Venue
- 12pm – 5pm** Bus Departs Hill Day Venue for Hotel hourly

SRF365

SUMMIT FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Beyond the in-person event, the Summit for Religious Freedom (SRF) is designed to be augmented by a continuous series of virtual programs, called **SRF365**.

This programming creates a year-round hub for educating, building power, networking and taking action together.

This ensures an ongoing collective fight for religious freedom, church-state separation, and the issues that depend on them while collaborating to defeat the biggest threats to these values including Christian Nationalism, right-wing radicals, and their coordinated campaign to force us to all live by their narrow religious beliefs.

SRF365 PRESENTS

On God's Campus:

Voices from the Queer Underground



Summer 2024

Scan or visit thesrf.org/365 for details.

Keynote speakers



Dr. Anthea Butler

Historian of African American and American religion, author of *White Evangelical Racism: The Politics of Morality in America*

Anthea Butler (she/her) is the Geraldine R. Segal Professor in American Social Thought and chair of the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

She is a historian of African American and American religion and is an expert on the threat of Christian Nationalism. Professor Butler's research and writing spans African American religion and history, race, politics, Evangelicalism, gender and sexuality, media, and popular culture.

Butler is also a commentator for MSNBC, and in a recent column, warned about politicians who claim to be running with God's sanction.

She will be joined by **Andrew L. Seidel** of Americans United for Separation of Church and State and **Alison Gill** of American Atheists for a panel discussion following the keynote address.



Erin Reed

Journalist and social media influencer

Erin Reed (she/her) is a transgender journalist based in Washington, D.C. She tracks LGBTQ+ legislation around the United States for her subscription newsletter, ErinInTheMorning.com. Her work has been cited by the Associated Press, Reuters, *The New York Times*, *The*

Washington Post, and many more major media outlets. You can follow her on Twitter and TikTok @ErinInTheMorn.

She will be joined by **Amy Couch** of Americans United for Separation of Church and State and **Clarke Wheeler** of National Women's Law Center for a panel discussion following the keynote address.



Rep. Jamie Raskin

Representative for Maryland's 8th Congressional District, author of *Unthinkable: Trauma, Truth and the Trials of American Democracy* (2022).

Congressman Jamie Raskin (he/him) serves as the Ranking Member on the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability. He served as the Lead House Manager in the second Senate impeachment trial of former President Donald Trump, which ended with a 57-43 vote to convict the president for inciting a violent insurrection against the government to overthrow the 2020 presidential election. Raskin also served on the Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th attack on the U.S. Capitol and served three terms on the House Judiciary, Oversight and Administration Committees.

He will be joined by Americans United President and CEO **Rachel Laser** and **Wajahat Ali** of the Western States Center for a panel discussion following the keynote address.

Arnold & Porter is a proud sponsor of **Americans United** and its mission of defending religious freedom and the separation of church and state.

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Breakout sessions

BREAKOUT SEMINARS A • SUNDAY AT 11:30AM

GRAND BALLROOM

How the Courts Have Undermined Public Education and Religious Freedom

Samantha Sokol (she/her), Dena Sher (she/her) and Alex Luchenitser (he/him)
Americans United for Separation of Church and State

Linh Dang (she/her)
National Education Association

This session will cover how recent education-related court decisions like *Carson v. Makin*, *Kennedy v. Bremerton* and others have impacted public schools and students across the nation. Our combined panel of litigation and policy experts will discuss the on-the-ground effect of these rulings, and how they have harmed the religious freedom of students and families, undermined the strength of our public education system, and even led to new damaging proposals like a religious, taxpayer-funded public charter school in Oklahoma. We will include how we are fighting back in this difficult landscape.

NATIONAL BALLROOM A

Building Power and Community with Social Media

Andrew L. Seidel (he/him)
Americans United for Separation of Church and State

Brandon Wolf (he/him)
Human Rights Campaign

Jess Piper (she/her)
Blue Missouri

Tim Whitaker (he/him)
The New Evangelicals

Erin Reed (she/her)
Erin in the Morning

Social media can divide us, but the most successful influencers can build inclusive communities and empower people through activism. Come hear from several huge social media influencers and experts on how they build community and power.

NATIONAL BALLROOM B

Freedom Under Fire: Christian Nationalist Attacks on Nearly Every Aspect of Life & How To Push Back

Logan Casey (he/him) and Tessa Juste (she/her)
Movement Advancement Project

Across virtually every aspect of life – from reproductive and LGBTQ+ rights to schools and even democracy itself – people’s freedoms are under attack in America. While the myriad attacks may seem unrelated, they are deeply connected: each is part of a coordinated effort to strip people of their freedoms and to enact state control, driven by far-right and Christian Nationalist extremists. This session will show how these attacks are connected and discuss some of the major players driving these attacks and their methods. The session will also provide attendees the opportunity to apply what they have learned to their own advocacy strategies in a breakout session.

Got FOMO?

SRF Rewind



is a second chance for SRF registrants to attend and view the sessions that you missed during the summit.

Scan or visit thesrf.org/rewind to view the schedule and sign up for this unique opportunity.

GRAND BALLROOM**Past, Present and Upcoming Battles Over Health Mandates and Religious Accommodations****Zach Pekelis (he/him) and Erica Coray (she/her)***Pacifica Law Group*

To stem COVID-19's spread, government officials and private employers adopted vaccination requirements covering millions of employees, which led to thousands of workers seeking religious exemptions. This flood of religious accommodation requests and resulting lawsuits prompted courts to consider which anti-vaccine and anti-healthcare beliefs qualify for religious protection. This session will examine the law governing religious exemptions from public health requirements, its application to COVID-19 vaccination, public schools, contraceptive coverage, and the future of religious exceptionalism in law and society.

NATIONAL BALLROOM A**Youth Activism for Church-State Separation****Ranen Miao (he/him) and Dane Sherman (he/they)***Americans United Youth Fellow Alumni***Luke Fisher (he/him) Sanchi Rohira (she/her)**

How is the next generation of church-state separation activists fighting for freedom without favor and equality without exception – and how can you join them? In this session, you'll hear directly from youth activists about their perspectives on church-state separation and how they are advocating for change in their communities and online.

NATIONAL BALLROOM B**Plain Words: Dismantling and Countering the Linguistic Framework of Christian Nationalism****Bruce Gourley (he/him)***Good Faith Media*

We will examine nine powerful words representative of core concepts within Christian Nationalism. Three words are emotional, three are foundational, three are motivational. Collectively, the messaging of these words is highly effective in opposition to church-state separation. We will discuss the stories behind the words, identify counter stories, and consider simple ways to effectively turn the tide against the authoritarian narrative of Christian Nationalism.

GRAND BALLROOM**When the Religious Rights Come Together****Ani Zonneveld (she/her)***Muslims for Progressive Values*

Since the 2016 election and the subsequent culture wars, conservative religious groups have sought to capitalize on domestic disunity to advance the power of religious extremist ideology by targeting reproductive rights, the basic human rights of LGBTQIA+ people, in the name of religious freedom. Ani's presentation will specifically draw lines between and highlight the impact of a burgeoning alliance between far right Christians and conservative Muslims.

NATIONAL BALLROOM A**Challenging Christian Nationalism at the Local Level****David Morris (he/him)***Americans United***Cynthia Holmes (she/her)***AU—St. Louis Chapter***Lizz Hammon (she/her)***Stop Moms for "Liberty"***Mirabelle Stoedter (she/her)***AU—Nashville Chapter*

Christian Nationalists attack public school curriculum, ban books and push local governments to support religious activity in communities across the country. Local activists are engaging their communities through outreach, education and organizing efforts to challenge this threat. They know that silence is not an option. We'll hear from AU and partner organization volunteer leaders about the work they're doing in their communities, and they'll discuss how anyone can organize locally.

NATIONAL BALLROOM B**Will it be Preaching or Teaching Religion in the Post-Kennedy Era?****Linda K. Wertheimer (she/her)***Author***Tim Hall (he/him)***Religion Matters***Sinthia Shabnam (she/her)***Islamic Association of Raleigh*

How did the 2022 Supreme Court ruling on a praying football coach upend the landscape on school prayer and religion in public schools? These panelists will discuss how the ruling could affect religious minorities and the non-religious, how it could lead some schools to think they can promote Christianity, and how educators can better accommodate religious literacy and diversity.

GRAND BALLROOM**So You Want To Be An Organizer****David Brown (he/him) and Christina Iacono (she/her)***Unreasonable Podcast*

Every one of us has the power to be an agent of change. As we witness the advancement of White Christian Nationalism, it's easy to feel hopeless. But Americans in overwhelming numbers hold firmly that our nation must remain a pluralistic democracy free from religious oppression. And therein lies our power to fight back. There's important work to be done and it starts with each of us! But how to harness that power and convert it into action items that make a real difference? Join us for this workshop of a deep dive into the mechanisms of effective organizing. It will consist of a primer for organizers, followed by a sequence of campaign-building stations designed to help customize and solidify your personal plan to help preserve church/state separation, democracy, and civil liberties in your community and beyond. This year, more than ever before, each of us must be ready to hit the streets. This workshop will provide your roadmap for success.

NATIONAL BALLROOM A**Having More Effective Conversations About Abortion Through Shared Values, Religious Freedom & Church-State Separation****Brian Silva (he/him), Alicia Johnson (she/her) and David Morris (he/him)***Americans United for Separation of Church and State***Clarke Wheeler (she/her)***National Women's Law Center*

Learn powerful ways to talk about abortion and how church-state separation and inclusive religious freedom run through it all. With these tools and skills, participants will be able to help change the conversation and move the needle of support on these topics in everyday situations.

NATIONAL BALLROOM B**Understanding the Equality Act****Rae Leiner (they/them) and Allen Morris (he/him) LaLa Zannell (she/her)***National LGBTQ Task Force**ACLU*

This workshop is aimed at providing information about the power of the Equality Act and how it is the piece of legislation that our intersectional movements for equity should be working to advance. It picks up the mantle of where the Civil Rights Act brought us in terms of expanding on protections at the intersections of race, class, gender, sexual orientation and ability.

Our interactive session leaves space for Q+A throughout, including a basic civics lesson to help participants understand what it takes to push legislation in the federal arena, defining terms, understanding the current iteration of the Equality Act language and what we need to do to build the kind of movement that will have a fighting chance of passing the bill.

BREAKOUT SEMINARS D • MONDAY AT 11:15AM**GRAND BALLROOM****The State of US Democracy and Emerging Threats: Project 2025**

Project 2025 – a 900-page “Mandate for Leadership” developed by the Heritage Project and an advisory board of extremist organizations – is an unprecedented effort by special interests to threaten and undermine democracy. Plans publicly documented in Project 2025 threaten both the American people and our nation's overall constitutional order – including threats to the separation of church and state, the US as a multi-racial democracy, affordable and quality healthcare and housing, public education and public libraries, and many more. Join this session to learn more about Project 2025 and our collective work to defeat anti-democratic forces in the courts and our communities.

NATIONAL BALLROOM A

Reclaiming Our Faith: America's Christians Countering Christian Nationalism

Karli Wallace Thompson (she/her)
Faithful America

Maureen O'Leary (she/her)
Interfaith Alliance

With hundreds of far-right politicians using Christ's name to deny election results, enact a theocratic agenda, and spread dangerous conspiracy theories – all with the blessing of pastors and televangelists – Christian Nationalism is the single biggest threat to democracy and the church today. Millions of American Christians oppose this toxic ideology and have both a unique opportunity and obligation to do so. So what are they doing to stop it? Join us as we explain the strategies and tactics being used by our organizations to mobilize Christians to support the separation of church and state and stop Christian Nationalism.

NATIONAL BALLROOM B

A Peek Inside the Right's Playbook: Unpacking Scenes from the 2023 Pray, Vote, Stand Summit

Rev. Naomi Washington-Leapheart (she/her)
Frederick Clarkson (he/him)
Political Research Associates

Katherine Stewart
Author and journalist

White Christian Nationalism is one of the biggest threats to our democracy. Learn to recognize how this threat manifests as we explore the inside of the 2023 Pray, Vote, Stand Summit. Who shows up at such a gathering and why? How does the Right use dominionism to ground its strategy? What narratives about religious freedom, church-state separation, and other important ideas are evident in materials produced by the Right? We'll discuss this and more!

Bad Faith Film Screening

GRAND BALLROOM
DOORS OPEN 5:30PM | MOVIE STARTS 6PM

On January 6, 2021, invocations to Jesus rang out across the Capitol as violent forces attempted to overthrow our government. *Bad Faith: Christian Nationalism's Unholy War on Democracy* reveals how Christian Nationalism has for decades spread fear and anger, distorting political issues into battles between good and evil. Financed by the secretive Council for National Policy, the movement has succeeded in infiltrating the Republican Party and has become one of the most powerful political forces in the nation.

Join us to discover the origins of this organized grasp for power and the grassroots coalition of secular and interfaith leaders bravely confronting the unholy forces threatening our democracy.

Dig deeper after the screening with a panel of experts:



Rob Boston (he/him)
Americans United for Separation of Church and State

Lisa Sharon Harper (she/her)
Freedom Road

Todd Stiefel (he/him)
Heretical Reason Productions; Stiefel Freethought Foundation

Stephen Ujlaki (he/him)
Panarea Productions

Katherine Stewart (she/her)
Author and journalist

Anne Nelson (she/her)
Author, lecturer and journalist

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Thank you to Americans United for their historic protection of the separation of church and state.

- Todd Stiefel, President,
Stiefel Freethought Foundation

Standing at the intersection of FAITH and CULTURE

At Good Faith Media, we...

- Support Religious Liberty for ALL.
- Fight for Church/State Separation.
- Counter Christian Nationalism.

- News & Opinion
- Original Podcasts
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American Constitution Society

ACS

As the nation's leading legal network, ACS is at the forefront of defending our constitution. The 2024 ACS National Convention will examine the increasing attacks on our rights and freedoms, including efforts to distort and undermine the First Amendment, and how we address them. Join us in Atlanta, Georgia, June 6-8 and be part of the conversation.

acslaw.org

Notes



AMERICANS UNITED

FOR SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE

OUR VISION

The foundational principle of **separation of church and state** safeguards our right to **live and believe as we choose**. We envision a nation where our government does not promote any religion or spiritual belief, our laws do not allow anyone to use their religious beliefs to harm others, and where we come together as equals to **build a stronger democracy**.

We are a nonpartisan, not-for-profit educational and advocacy organization that **brings together people of all religions and none** to protect the right of everyone to believe as they want – and stop anyone from using their beliefs to harm others. We fight in the courts, legislatures, and the public square for **freedom without favor and equality without exception**.

OUR MISSION

Americans United is the shield protecting the foundational American principle of freedom of religion – including the right to believe or not believe – for all.



Unite in the fight for religious freedom.

Make a gift to AU today at au.org/srf.



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**FREEDOM WITHOUT FAVOR
EQUALITY WITHOUT EXCEPTION**