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Abortionist on Pro-Life Christians: "Their Mere Existence is a Crime Against Women"

□ NATIONAL LIBERTY COUNSEL FEB 16, 2018 | 5:11PM ALBANY, NEW YORK



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Merle Hoffman, president and CEO of Choices Women's Medical Clinic (Choices) in Jamaica, New York, who was questioned under oath yesterday by Liberty Counsel, has said that the "act of abortion positions women at their most powerful" because abortion gives women "power-and the responsibility-of taking life" so that they may control their own lives. "Merle Hoffman has acknowledged the obvious — that abortion is the taking of human life. What is shocking is that she believes killing a helpless child empowers women by enabling them to achieve their selfish goals," said Mat Staver, Founder and Chairman of Liberty Counsel.

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In court yesterday, Hoffman admitted she collaborated with New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman to bring this frivolous federal lawsuit seeking to punish and silence pro-life and Christian speech on public sidewalks outside of her facility. Their "mere existence," she said, is a "crime against women." The case is being heard in a federal court in Brooklyn and will resume next week.

Liberty Counsel represents one of the 13 defendants, Scott Fitchett, Jr., a pre-K teacher who has spent Saturdays peacefully sharing the gospel on public sidewalks wherever he goes, including outside Choices.

Hoffman's abortion facility has performed hundreds of thousands of abortions since 1971. During the hearing this week, the abortionist millionaire testified that peaceful sidewalk counselors are the "American Taliban" and that "their mere existence is a crime against women."

In Hoffman's memoir, Intimate Wars: The Life and Times of the Woman Who Brought Abortion from the Back Alley to the Boardroom, she shares the experience of her own abortion. "The idea of abortion was a valve, an opening, a way to breathe. There was no question of whether I would have one. As we crossed the Fifty-Ninth Street Bridge, I held my stomach and said aloud, 'Sorry little one, it's just not time.' My diary entry from that night reads, 'For one night I am a mother."

Hoffman further states in Intimate Wars that abortion is the taking of human life, and that is why it makes women so powerful.

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"Does the fetus not impede a woman's tendency to maintain her own existence? Is it not an unjust aggressor, threatening the survival of the mother? Is not a woman's choice of abortion an act of selfdefense?... I wasn't immune to the physicality of abortion, the blood, tissue, and observable body parts. My political and moral judgments on the nature of abortion evolved throughout the years, but I quickly came to realize that those who deliver abortion services have not only the power to give women control over their bodies and lives, but also the power-and the responsibility-of taking life in order to do that. Indeed, acknowledgment of that truth is the foundation for all the political and personal work necessary to maintain women's reproductive freedom...The

act of abortion positions women at their most powerful, and that is why it is so strongly opposed by many in society. Historically viewed as and conditioned to be passive, dependent creatures, victims of biological circumstance, women often find it difficult to embrace this power over life and death. They fall prey to the assumption, the myth, that they cannot be trusted with it."

Horatio Mihet, Vice President of Legal Affairs at Liberty Counsel, who questioned Hoffman in court on Thursday, said: "The depravity of those who find 'empowerment' from taking what they rightly acknowledge to be defenseless human lives is matched only by their insatiable desire to shut down any speech that exposes them." Commenting on the documented connection between Hoffman's ideology and the frivolous lawsuit filed by the State of New York, Mihet added: "The very fact that Merle Hoffman has assisted in the destruction of hundreds of thousands of 'little ones' over the last half-century is unspeakably tragic. But her conspiring with New York's Attorney General Eric Schneiderman to punish Scott Fitchett, Jr. for peacefully preaching truth on a public sidewalk is unconscionable. Their fraudulent scheme must be exposed and defeated."

"Merle Hoffman and Attorney General Schneiderman are examples of the shocking reality of the abortion industry," said Staver. "Countless precious lives have already been lost at Hoffman's abortion clinic. Hoffman and Schneiderman are now fighting to punish the peaceful free speech of Scott Fitchett, Jr. and others. It is no wonder they do not care about the First Amendment because they do not care about defenseless human life," said Staver.



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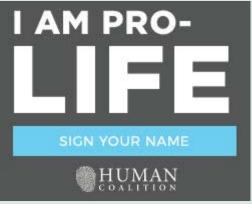


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