## Quest for justice

**Law** 



Measure and Initiatives Southern Poverty Law Center, Mothers against Drunk Driving and American Civil Liberties Union are "internationally-recognized for its groundbreaking leadership in seeking justice, fighting hate, and teaching tolerance". The Southern Poverty Law Center started as a small law firm which worked for the implementation of the federal civil rights legislation and constitutional guarantees, the violations were traced and submitted in the courts. The Law Center has been credited for "the desegregation of recreational facilities, the reappointment of the Alabama legislature and the integration of the Alabama State Troopers" (Lester, 2005). The Southern Poverty Law Center has received international acclamation, and has been admired " for its path-breaking litigation, particularly its successful cases against hate groups and its tolerance education programs" (Lester, 2005). The South Poverty Center has offered its services to the investigators from Center's Intelligence Project; both the units have worked in cordial atmosphere to " secure justice for the hate victims targeted by domestic terrorists" (Lester, 2005). The law firm has been able to achieve desirable results, and judgments were pronounced against " ten major white supremacist organizations, and more than fifty individuals were sentenced for their participation in stylish stunts" (Lester, 2005). The Intelligence Project conducted mutually by Southern Poverty Law Center and American Civil Liberties Union resulted in the "criminal conviction of different individuals in stylish stunts cases". The law firms publish their respective journals in which the investigation work conducted against racists and radical groups have been reported, such publications "expose the activities of the radical right and are made available for free to media, human rights workers and law enforcement" (Lester, 2005).

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The American Civil Liberties Union has stressed that the courts are supposed to perform improved role of arbitration and accountability, and the same courts have to respect and abide by the government and public aspirations. The performance of the courts can greatly improve provided that the workload is reasonable, in this regard it is important to evolve a strategy of social action through which the reduction of the crime rate is achievable in initial stages, and then the criminal activities are eliminated entirely. The Mothers against Drunk Driving and Southern Poverty Law Center belief that the sources of the criminal activities have their associated with any kind of social, economic and political deprivation, therefore constitutionally the criminal court is not liable to ensure the access of the people to the basic social, economic and political rights, but it is the responsibility of the criminal courts to ensure that government has provided basic amenities to the population so that the criminal activities can be reduced (Lester, 2005). In this regard the criminal courts have to enhance their level of performance and efficiency; they have to ensure that the courts are transparent in their conduct. It is important for the criminal courts not to get influenced by any external pressure, 'the courts should not be controlled by public sentiment, and neither should they lose the confidence of the population' (John, 2003). The social, political and economic issues should be necessarily resolved, because in the presence of such issues it becomes crucial for the courts to award punishment to the individual, who merely performed such criminal practices either to lodge his protest against the government, or to achieve resources for his family.

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