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17	CENTRAL DISTRIC	OI OF CALIFORNIA
18	YOUNG AMERICA'S	
19	FOUNDATION; BROOKE BROLL; and MACY ROEPKE,	
20	Plaintiffs,	No. 2:24-cv-8507
	,	
21	V.	
21 22		
	GENE D. BLOCK, Former Chancellor, University of	VERIFIED COMPLAINT
22	GENE D. BLOCK, Former Chancellor, University of California, Los Angeles, in his	VERIFIED COMPLAINT JURY DEMANDED
22 23	GENE D. BLOCK, Former Chancellor, University of	
22 23 24	GENE D. BLOCK, Former Chancellor, University of California, Los Angeles, in his personal capacity; DARNELL HUNT, Interim Chancellor, University of California, Los	
22 23 24 25	GENE D. BLOCK, Former Chancellor, University of California, Los Angeles, in his personal capacity; DARNELL HUNT, Interim Chancellor,	

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Angeles, in his personal and official capacities; MICHAEL BECK, Administrative Vice Chancellor, University of California, Los Angeles, in his personal and official capacities; MONROE GORDEN, JR., Vice Chancellor, University of California, Los Angeles, in his personal and official capacities; MICK DELUCA, Associate Vice Chancellor, University of California, Los Angeles, in his personal and official capacities; MIKE COHN, Director, Student Organizations, Leadership & Engagement, University of California, Los Angeles, in his personal and official capacities; JASMINE RUSH, Dean of Students, University of California, Los Angeles, in her personal and official capacities; and RICK BRAZIEL, Assistant Vice Chancellor, University of California, Los Angeles, in his personal and official capacities, Defendants.

Chancellor and Provost,

University of California, Los

INTRODUCTION

The University of California, Los Angeles ("UCLA") has 1. chosen sides in a contentious political debate on the state of Israel.

Campus orthodoxy—that Israel is an illegitimate "settler, colonialist" project and an unlawful "occupier" of lands belonging to indigenous Palestinians—is reinforced and displayed in hundreds of ways, big and small, from the way UCLA hires faculty, to the seminars it hosts, to the courses it promotes, and—most importantly—to the voices it allows to dominate campus conversations.

- 2. UCLA's leaders are certainly entitled to their opinions, no matter how wrongheaded, and they do not necessarily violate the free speech guarantees of the First Amendment merely by expressing anti-Israel views or allowing others to do so in a lawful manner.
- 3. What they cannot do, however, is apply a double standard to campus speech, depending on which side of the debate the speaker is on.
- 4. But this is exactly what the Defendants in this matter have done—treating anti-Israel expression with extreme deference (so much so that during the 2023-24 school year, UCLA tolerated months of abusive and even criminal misconduct by anti-Israel activists, purportedly in the name of "free expression") while throwing up roadblock after roadblock to thwart a modest pro-Israel speaking event

put forward by Plaintiffs, a conservative organization and a small group of students who are willing to take on the campus mob by publicly discussing pro-Israel points of view.

- 5. As an example of how extreme the imbalance has become: during a period in April and May 2024, anti-Israel agitators were given such free reign by UCLA that they began to physically exclude Jewish students from parts of campus—all while chanting such things as "death to the Jews," and "free Palestine from the hand of Jews." The agitators were not only unchecked by the UCLA Police, but campus security actually facilitated the Jewish-exclusion zones.
- 6. Based on these events, a court in this district recently found that Jewish UCLA students are likely to succeed on the merits of a claim that UCLA violated their constitutional rights. *Frankel v. Regents of Univ. of California*, No. 2:24-CV-04702-MCS-PD, 2024 WL 3811250, at *6 (C.D. Cal. Aug. 13, 2024); *id.* at *8 ("Defendants are prohibited from knowingly allowing or facilitating the exclusion of Jewish students from ordinarily available portions of UCLA's programs, activities, and campus areas . . .")

- 7. At the same time UCLA was complicit in the widespread violation of students' rights and in other criminal and abusive conduct by anti-Israel activists, it was doing everything it could to derail Plaintiffs' proposed pro-Israel lecture planned to take place in mid-May 2024 under controlled conditions in the Student Union. UCLA repeatedly ignored requests for information, withheld paperwork approvals, prevented Plaintiffs from effectively advertising in advance of the event, and engaged in other bureaucratic delay tactics.
- 8. When that did not work, UCLA resorted to less subtle forms of censorship. At the very last minute, just before the lecture was scheduled to take place, UCLA pulled a fast one: locking the doors to the event space, and claiming that the talk needed to be moved to an out-of-the way location because of purported security concerns arising from threatened counter-protest activity.
- 9. But UCLA should have anticipated the possibility of counterprotests for days if not weeks, and cannot possibly claim to have been taken by surprise. In fact, it did anticipate this possibility, as administrators had expressly withheld approval for the event weeks before because of the mob. Indeed, the activists threatening to counter-

protest were the same ones who had recently established an unlawful encampment that UCLA had facilitated. UCLA cannot, of course, reasonably claim that it needed to handicap Plaintiff's pro-Israel event at the last second due to an emerging threat from protestors who UCLA itself had emboldened by its extreme passivity (not to mention its active complicity) only days before.

- 10. In reality, UCLA's last minute switch was simply a continuation of what it had already been doing: taking an extremely fastidious approach to one side of the debate (the pro-Israel side) and playing so "hands off" with respect to the other side that the campus was descending into spirals of vandalism and violence.
- 11. Defendants imposed this double standard because they disagree with Plaintiffs' pro-Israel message. In so doing, they engaged in viewpoint discrimination in violation of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.
- 12. Defendants also violated the First Amendment for the independent reason that when they locked the lecture hall doors and tried to move Plaintiffs' event to an out-of-the-way venue, they gave

official government sanction to a potential campus "shout down" mob that set out to prevent Plaintiffs from having their say in public.

- 13. Even if one could reasonably believe that UCLA officials were neutral on the question of Israel (which, to be clear, they were not), they still violated the First Amendment by taking the easy way out when the mob threatened to cancel Plaintiffs' speech—choosing **not** to enforce laws against disruptive and potentially violent "shout down" tactics, but instead choosing to silence Plaintiffs, the target of the mob's threats.
- 14. Compounding these constitutional violations, UCLA's actions were taken pursuant to policies that give the university unbridled discretion to determine a number of factors crucial to the success or failure of a speaking event, such as the number participants allowed to attend, the location of the speech, its timing, and pre-event publicity. Because those policies fail to meaningfully guide UCLA administrators' decisions, they are facially overbroad and unconstitutional.

- 15. Plaintiffs seek to hold Defendants accountable for thwarting the May 2024 lecture, a plain violation of well-established First Amendment law.
- 16. But this lawsuit is about more than the May 2024 lecture. Plaintiffs have a continuing right to speak on campus generally and to present the mainstream perspective on the Middle East conflict in particular. To that end, as the new academic year begins, Plaintiffs intend to host a series of on-campus speakers and activism projects that will present pro-Israel and conservative viewpoints. Plaintiffs' first planned activity will be an on-campus appearance on October 21, 2024 by noted Daily Wire commentator Ben Shapiro, who is a popular conservative podcaster and media personality.
- 17. Plaintiffs have been seeking to engage UCLA in the planning process since early August. However, just as it did with respect to the May 2024 speaking event, UCLA has repeatedly thrown up roadblocks and delays, and has refused to approve the event or commit to providing adequate security. Time is running short and the window during which Plaintiffs can adequately publicize the event is rapidly closing. And, given the probability that anti-Israel and left-

wing activists will threaten to counter-protest, there is an imminent probability that, absent relief from this Court, even if UCLA approves the event now, it will change its mind at the last minute and shut it down, just like it did in May 2024.

18. Accordingly, Plaintiffs seek injunctive relief to prohibit Defendants from violating the First Amendment. A court in this district recently ordered UCLA to protect Jewish students from religious discrimination by activists, *Frankel*, 2024 WL 3811250; it is high time that UCLA also protects pro-Israel and pro-Jewish voices from the cancel culture mob.

PARTIES

- 19. Plaintiff Young America's Foundation ("YAF") is a nonprofit corporation whose mission is to educate the public on the ideas of individual freedom, free enterprise, a strong national defense, and traditional values.
- 20. YAF runs a number of educational and public service programs including a Campus Lectures and Activism program that brings conservative and liberty-minded points of view to American colleges and high schools and the Young Americans for Freedom project,

which sponsors students and student groups on campus. One of those student groups is YAF at UCLA, a registered student organization.

- 21. Plaintiff Brooke Broll is enrolled as an undergraduate in the UCLA Department of Education and Social Transformation. She holds generally conservative and pro-Israel political views, which she believes are vastly underrepresented on campus. Ms. Broll seeks to engage in free speech activities promoting similar views, including by hosting campus speakers. Ms. Broll also desires to hear the views of conservative and pro-Israel speakers and to participate in a public dialog on campus that takes those views seriously. Ms. Broll hopes that students holding left-wing and anti-Israel views will listen to and engage in good faith with the speakers she intends to bring to campus. Ms. Broll is a YAF at UCLA member and was its Vice Chairman during the 2023-24 school year.
- 22. Plaintiff Macy Roepke is also enrolled at UCLA as an undergraduate in the Department of Education and Social Transformation. She holds generally conservative and pro-Israel political views, which she believes are vastly underrepresented on campus. Ms. Roepke seeks to engage in free speech activities promoting

similar views, including by hosting campus speakers. Ms. Roepke also desires to hear the views of conservative and pro-Israel speakers and to participate in a public dialog on campus that takes those views seriously. Ms. Roepke is a YAF at UCLA member.

- August 2007 to approximately August 1, 2024. In that role, Defendant Block was responsible for adopting policies and procedures, and overseeing university operations, for all aspects of university life, including security, campus events, and free speech policies and activities. Defendant Block's acts and decisions were the acts and decisions of UCLA. As detailed further below, Defendant Block made decisions to accommodate and encourage extensive (and often unlawful) anti-Israel activism on the UCLA campus, while applying far more restrictive standards to conservative and pro-Israel expression. He is sued in his personal capacity.
- 24. Defendant Darnell Hunt was the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost of UCLA from September 2022 to approximately August 1, 2024. On August 1, 2024, Defendant Hunt became the Interim Chancellor of UCLA. In his former capacity of Executive Vice

Chancellor, he was responsible for advising the Chancellor and for overseeing campus operations. On information and belief, Defendant Hunt participated in the decisions undertaken by Defendant Block and the other Defendants in this matter. In his current capacity, he is responsible for adopting policies and procedures, and overseeing university operations, for all aspects of university life, including security, campus events, and free speech policies and activities. He is sued both in his personal capacity and in his official capacity.

Chancellor and Provost of UCLA. In that capacity, Defendant Levine advises the Chancellor, oversees campus operations, and develops and implements campus policies and practices for all aspects of university life, including security, campus events, and free speech policies.

Defendant Levine was personally instrumental in UCLA's adoption around September 4, 2024 of new campus rules that effectively cap the number of conservative and pro-Israel organized events that can take place on campus while allowing an unlimited number of left-wing and anti-Israel events. See infra ¶¶ 146-53. Defendant Levine is sued both in his personal capacity and in his official capacity.

- 26. Defendant Michael J. Beck is the Administrative Vice Chancellor of UCLA and has served in that position since March 2016. Defendant Beck was in charge of the public safety operations of the school at all relevant times through May 5, 2024. Defendant Beck is sued in both his personal capacity and in his official capacity.
- 27. Defendant Monroe Gorden, Jr., is the Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs, of UCLA and has served in that position since April 2018. In that capacity, Defendant Gorden has responsibility for student-facing policies and procedures, including setting and enforcing rules governing speech and speech-related conduct, campus demonstrations, student organizations, and campus speaking events. Gorden is sued both in his personal capacity and in his official capacity.
- 28. Defendant Mick DeLuca is the Associate Vice Chancellor of Campus Life, UCLA and has served in that position since 2014.

 Defendant DeLuca has administrative oversight of the Student Organizations, Leadership, and Engagement office ("SOLE"), the office with initial responsibility governing student-group events on campus. Defendant DeLuca reports to Defendant Gorden. Defendant DeLuca is sued both in his personal capacity and in his official capacity.

- 29. Defendant Mike Cohn is the Director of SOLE. Defendant Cohn participated in all decisions governing the May 15, 2024 campus event planned by Plaintiffs. Defendant Cohn is sued in both his personal capacity and his official capacity.
- 30. Defendant Jasmine Rush is the UCLA Dean of Students. In that capacity she is responsible for enforcing the student code of conduct, among other things. Defendant Rush is sued in both her personal and official capacities.
- 31. Defendant Rick Braziel is the Associate Vice Chancellor for Campus Safety at UCLA. In this role, Defendant Braziel serves as the head of the newly created Office of Campus Safety at UCLA, which as of May 5, 2024, oversees the UCLA Police Department ("UCLAPD"). Defendant Braziel is sued in his personal capacity and his official capacity.
- 32. All individual Defendants are persons acting under color of state law within the meaning of 42 U.S.C. § 1983.
- 33. Each Defendant is personally responsible for the constitutional violations alleged.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 34. Plaintiffs bring this action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §§ 1983 & 1988 for deprivations of their rights secured by the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution.
- U.S.C. § 1343, which provides for original jurisdiction for suits brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §§ 1983 & 1988. The Court also has jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, because this matter arises under the Constitution and laws of the United States.
- 36. Venue is appropriate in this district under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2), because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to Plaintiff's claims occurred in this district.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

UCLA's Extreme Deference to and Active Complicity in Anti-Israel Expression

- 37. UCLA has a long history of accommodating and even encouraging anti-Israel expression on campus.
- 38. Indeed, in a report based on surveys of Jewish undergraduate students at 50 United States college campuses taken in

VERIFIED COMPLAINT

2016, UCLA ranked near the top (6th place) on the list for expressions of hostility to the state of Israel.¹

39. By no means were the anti-Israel sentiments expressed solely by fellow students. At UCLA, approximately a quarter of survey respondents specifically noted being subjected to anti-Israel views from faculty, staff, or administrators.² And a whopping fifty percent of Jewish UCLA students expressed discomfort about stating their opinions on the Israel-Palestinian conflict on campus due to the anti-Israel environment.³

¹ Leonard Saxe, et al., Hotspots of Antisemitism and Anti-Israel Sentiment on US Campuses, Brandels U., Steinhardt Social Research Inst. (Oct. 2016),

https://scholarworks.brandeis.edu/esploro/outputs/9924088244301921/filesAndLinks?index=0, at 8 Fig. 1 (noting that approximately 60% of survey respondents perceived a hostile campus environment with respect to Israel, in contrast with lower ranked schools such as Tulane, Syracuse and the University of Miami where fewer than 10% of respondents felt similar hostility); see also id. at 43-46 (singling out UCLA as one of a handful of "hotspots" for anti-Israel and antisemitic activism),

² *Id.* at 9, Fig. 2

 $^{^{\}scriptscriptstyle 3}$ Id. at 12, Fig. 4 (UCLA respondents' levels of discomfort second only to CUNY-Brooklyn).

- 40. The same survey ranked UCLA as the worst campus for perceptions of a hostile environment toward Jews generally.⁴
- 41. These perceptions did not come out of thin air. UCLA has bent over backwards to accommodate campus lectures and other activities by virulently anti-Israel and antisemitic advocates for years.
- 42. To take just a few examples, in 2014, UCLA approved a talk by Omar Barghouti, co-founder of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement against Jewish and Israeli institutions.⁵ The talk was sponsored by UCLA student group Students for Justice in Palestine ("SJP") and was subtitled "Towards a Global Intifada." It featured false claims such as that "Israeli soldiers shoot Palestinian children 'for sport,' [that] they 'provoke' the children, 'entice them like mice, and then shoot them' for no reason [o]ften, . . . just because the soldiers are 'bored." ⁷

⁴ *Id.* at 16, Fig. 6

⁵ Roberta P. Seid, Omar Barghouti at UCLA: A speaker who brings hate, JEWISH JOURNAL (Jan. 16, 2014),

https://jewishjournal.com/commentary/opinion/126186/.

⁶ *Id*.

 $^{^7}$ Id.

- Israeli institutions was later taken up by the Undergraduate Student Association Council ("USAC"), UCLA's official undergraduate student group. In response, Southern California Congressman Brad Sherman released a statement saying that "I am embarrassed and disappointed that the . . . Student Associations at my alma mater UCLA passed resolutions to Boycott, Divest and Sanction Israel. The BDS movement calls for the destruction of Israel and the boycott of anyone of Israeli nationality making it inherently discriminatory and antisemitic. I fear these actions have made it even more difficult for Jewish students to have a safe campus environment."8
- 44. In 2018, SJP hosted a national anti-Israel conference on UCLA's campus. While Defendant Block stated during the lead up to the conference that "[m]uch of what will be said . . . may be deeply objectionable even personally hurtful to those who believe that a complex conflict is being reduced to a one-sided caricature, or see a

⁸ Brad Sherman, Sherman Statement on USAC passing resolution endorsing Boycott, Divest and Sanctions movement (Feb. 26, 2024), https://sherman.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/sherman-statement-on-usac-passing-resolution-endorsing-boycott-divest.

double standard that demonizes the world's only Jewish state while other countries receive less condemnation for dreadful behavior," he allowed the conference to continue, citing the free speech rights of SJP.⁹

- 45. While the impulse against censoring the SJP conference, in the abstract, aligns with First Amendment values, it would represent a true commitment to free speech only if matched by similar deference to the pro-Israel side of the debate—which, sadly, does not exist.
- 46. In 2019, undergraduate UCLA anthropology students were required to attend a guest lecture by Rabab Abdulhadi, an activist who pushed the view that advocating for the validity of a Jewish state in the Middle East was equivalent to "white supremacy." The lecture led to charges of antisemitism against UCLA. UCLA officials, including

⁹ Gene D. Block, Chancellor Block: Why the controversial Students for Justice in Palestine conference will go on at UCLA (Nov. 13, 2018), https://newsroom.ucla.edu/stories/chancellor-block-why-the-controversial-students-for-justice-in-palestine-conference-will-go-on-at-ucla.

¹⁰ Aaron Bandler, *UCLA Guest Lecturer Calls Zionists White* Supremacists, JEWISH JOURNAL (May 21, 2019), https://jewishjournal.com/los_angeles/298850/ucla-guest-lecturer-calls-zionists-whitesupremacists/.

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Defendants, do not appear to have taken any action related to this incident.

- In 2022, UCLA refused an application by a medical school 47. student to establish a Students Against Anti-Semitism club, notwithstanding that the university had approved many identity-group organizations, several with explicitly anti-Israel and antisemitic views.¹¹
- UCLA's course catalog, too, shows that anti-Israel messaging 48. is part of the official curriculum of the university. For example, courses are offered in "Colonization and Nationalism: Jewish Settlement in Palestine-Israel, 1882 to 1948" including discussion of "Zionist settlement policy and practice . . . colonialism, socialism, and national conflict over Palestine."12 Among other things, this course reflects the highly-contested (to say the least) point of view that the settlement of Jews in Israel is a type of "colonialism," rather than what it really was:

¹¹ UCLA Delegation Visits Israel as Antisemitism Rises, 124 NEWS, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ezmkpTlf Mw at timestamp 3:48 to 4:30 (last visited Sept. 6, 2024).

¹² UCLA Catalog 2023-2024 at 702, https://registrar.ucla.edu/file/2b7e14c9-ea73-4c99-abdf-3e618e32e403.

the establishment of a modern state by a people who had been indigenous to the region for approximately 3,000 years.

49. None of this is to say that UCLA should not allow anti-Israel speech on campus when lawfully expressed without violence or other illegal conduct. But when apparently benign tolerance for one side of a contentious debate is not matched by a similar tolerance for the other side, claimed fealty to the principles of "free expression" become implausible.

As Anti-Israel Activism Became Increasingly Violent after the October 7, 2023 Hamas Attack, UCLA's Tolerance Evolved into Complicity

- 50. At UCLA, expression of anti-Israel and antisemitic viewpoints became much more aggressive following the October 7, 2023 attack in southern Israel by Hamas terrorists that included murders, mutilations, rapes, and kidnappings of hundreds of innocent civilians.
- 51. In many cases, anti-Israel activism after October 7 has gone beyond merely offensive and intimidating speech, and has veered into criminal activity including outright threats, assaults, and vandalism.
- 52. But UCLA's deference to the anti-Israel point of view is so deeply entrenched, that for months it did nothing in the face of these

escalating threats and violent episodes, all purportedly in the name of the "free speech" rights of the anti-Israel activists.

- 53. Almost immediately after the October 7, 2023 rampage, activists on campus began to shower praise on Hamas and to ask for more of the same. Among other celebratory exclamations, On October 9, 2023, the UCLA Cultural Affairs Commission stated that "decolonization is not a metaphor" and "we honor th[ose] on the front lines," in reference to Hamas terrorists who had just slaughtered hundreds of innocent Israeli civilians, including children. ¹³
- 54. For another example, at an October 12, 2023 anti-Israel demonstration at Bruin Plaza, activists chanted in Arabic, "Itbah El Yahud," which translates to "slaughter the Jews." Identifiably Jewish

¹³ Alicia Verdugo, UCLA Cultural Affairs Comm'ner (@culturalaffairs), The Cultural Affairs Commission of UCLA stands in solidarity with Palestinians in their struggle for liberation from Israel, Slide 2, INSTAGRAM (Oct 9, 2023),

https://www.instagram.com/p/CyMSRCuSlAR/?img_index=1.

¹⁴ Anna Abramzon, *Outnumbered at UCLA's Pro Hamas Rally*, THE TIMES OF ISRAEL (Oct. 17, 2023), https://blogs.timesofisrael.com/outnumbered-at-uclas-pro-hamas-rally/.

and/or Israeli individuals were present, and could not help but have felt threatened and intimidated by the activists.

- 55. Jewish UCLA faculty were targeted for abuse, including being called "Loudmouth Jew[s]." And SJP and other anti-Israel activists swarmed parts of campus chanting such things as "death to Israel," "death to Jews," and "beat that fucking Jew," the later while bashing a pinata bearing an image of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. 16
- 56. Defendants were aware of these incidents, yet did nothing about them. Indeed, Defendant Block issued a statement purporting to condemn these, and other "reprehensible acts of Antisemitism," but also

¹⁵ Inna Faliks, *UCLA Response to Antisemitism Hits a Sour Note*, JEWISH JOURNAL (Nov. 22, 2023), https://iowishiournal.com/comments.ru/eninien/265400/uela.response

 $[\]underline{https://jewishjournal.com/commentary/opinion/365490/ucla-response-to-antisemitism-hits-a-sour-note/}.$

 $^{^{16}}$ Yaron Steinbuch, UCLA students batter Bibi piñata to chants of 'Beat that f-king Jew!', New York Post (Nov. 10, 2023),

 $[\]frac{https://nypost.com/2023/11/10/news/ucla-students-batter-bibi-pinata-to-chants-of-beat-that-f-g-jew/.}{$

(again) showing deference to the activists on the basis that their activity was allegedly "protected speech under the First Amendment." ¹⁷

- 57. UCLA's strong(ish) words, but lack of concrete action led, predictably, not to a cooling off of campus tensions, but to increasingly violent and threatening conduct by anti-Israel agitators.
- 58. For example, on November 28, 2023, masked anti-Israel activists were photographed on campus using large knives to "stab" and remove posters of Israeli hostages. Defendant Block was aware of this incident, and its obvious implicit threat, but did nothing in response.
- 59. Swastikas, pigs holding bags of money, and other antisemitic imagery and tropes showed up all around the UCLA campus throughout the fall, winter and spring of the 2023-24 school year.

¹⁷ Gene D. Block, et al., *Standing Against Bigotry at the University of California* (Nov. 10, 2023), https://chancellor.ucla.edu/messages/standing-against-bigotry-at-the-university-of-california/.

¹⁸ Jenel Treza, *UCLA students seen brandishing knives on campus destroying posters of kidnapped Israelis*, OPOYI (Nov. 28, 2023), https://opoyi.com/usa/ucla-students-seen-brandishing-knives-on-campus-destroying-posters-of-kidnapped-israelis-see-photo/.

- 60. In March 2024, during a required course, UCLA medical school students were forced to attend a class led by a UCLA "activist in residence," who has called October 7 "justice." The "activist in residence"—who is part of a program to "turn the university inside out" through university-funded left wing activism²⁰—led students in pro-Hamas chants such as "free Palestine!" Defendants, of course, had facilitated the "activist in residence" program and the conduct of its grantees.
- 61. But the worst anti-Israel and antisemitic conduct would not come until late April 2024, when an "encampment" was established on Royce Quad, a central location on the UCLA campus which, in normal times, is used daily by a large portion of the student community.

¹⁹ Aaron Sibarium, *UCLA Med School Requires Students to Attend lecture Where Speaker Demands Prayer for 'Mama Earth,' Leads Chants of 'Free Palestine*", WASHINGTON FREE BEACON (Apr. 4, 2024), https://freebeacon.com/campus/ucla-med-school-requires-students-to-attend-lecture-where-speaker-demands-prayer-for-mama-earth-leads-chants-of-free-palestine/.

²⁰ https://challengeinequality.luskin.ucla.edu/activist-in-residence/ (last visited Sept. 18, 2024).

- 62. On April 25, 2024, a group of anti-Israel activists set up tents, signs, tables and other semi-permanent structures in Royce Quad. *Frankel*, 2024 WL 3811250, at *2. The activists created their own chains of authority, limiting who could enter or pass through the so-called "encampment," which was in reality an arbitrarily delimited piece of university real estate that should have been accessible to any student or campus guest, without regard to activists' preferences. *Id*.
- 63. The activists set up checkpoints around the perimeter of their encampment and required anyone wishing to cross to wear a wristband, given only to individuals who called for the elimination of Israel. *Id.* In addition to preventing anyone who disagreed with them from accessing Royce Quad, the Powell Library, and other campus facilities (which were accessible only through the encampment), as a court in this district recently held, the activists specifically excluded Jewish students and faculty who "refused to denounce their faith." *Id.* at *1.
- 64. Defendants were, of course, well aware of these events.

 Indeed, in preliminary injunction proceedings in a separate lawsuit pending in this district, UCLA did not dispute that any of this

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misconduct took place. Id. at *1-2. In that lawsuit, UCLA "[i]instead . . . claim[ed] that it ha[d] no responsibility to protect the religious freedom of its Jewish students because the exclusion was engineered by thirdparty protestors." *Id.* at *1.

As the days dragged on to over a week, encampment 65. activists also engaged in increasing acts of violence and intimidation. Among other things, on April 25, 2024, activists attacked and knocked unconscious a pro-Israel student.²¹ On April 26, 2024, a Jewish professor at the UCLA medical school, Nir Hoftman, was assaulted by anti-Israel activists while he was walking to give an interview to a news station, according to reports.²²

https://www.thecollegefix.com/ucla-becomes-hotbed-of-anti-israel-hate/

²¹ Tzvi Joffre, Anti-Israel protesters at UCLA attack Native American woman opposing Hamas, The Jerusalem Post (April 28, 2024), https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/article-798915; see also https://stopantisemitism.org/04/28/jewish-native-american-studentassaulted-on-california-college-campus-by-pro-hamas-mob/.

²² UCLA Professor Nir Hoftman: This is total lawlessness and anarchy, Fox News (Apr. 29, 2024), https://www.foxnews.com/video/6352003273112?msockid= 210a9cb8be0d686f077f8fe9ba0d665d; Jennifer Kabbany, UCLA becomes hotbed of anti-Israel hate, The College Fix (Apr. 30, 2024),

- 66. On April 28, 2024, masked anti-Israel activists left the encampment to surround, push and shove Jewish and pro-Israel bystanders. The activists pepper-sprayed Jewish and pro-Israel students, and knocked at least one to the ground, requiring hospitalization.²³
- 67. During this period activists also regularly menaced Jewish and pro-Israel students with symbols such as inverted red triangles used by Hamas to indicate targets for terrorist attacks.
- 68. The activists' conduct plainly violated a number of campus rules then in effect, including:
 - UCLA Regulations on Activities, Registered Organizations, and Use of Properties (Sept. 25, 2017), attached as Exhibit A at ¶¶ IV(A)(2) (prohibiting such things as "block[ing] entrances to or otherwise interfer[ing] with the free flow of traffic into and out of campus buildings," "produc[ing] amplified or non-amplified sound that disrupts campus activities," and "engag[ing] in physically abusive, threatening, or intimidating conduct"); IV(B)(1), IV(B)(6) ("No person, while in or upon any [UCLA] property may wear a mask, personal disguise or otherwise conceal one's identity with the intent of intimidating any person or group . . ."), IV(B)(7), IV(B)(8), IV(D)(12), IV(F)(3), App'x 4

²³ Frankel Dec. $\P\P$ 39-43.

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§§ 100004-100007 (defining criminal misdemeanor offenses for non-students/faculty/staff);²⁴

- UCLA Procedure 850.1 (Placement of Temporary Structures on the UCLA Campus);
- UCLA Policy 860 (May 8, 2000) (Extracurricular Use of University Facilities), superseded by UCLA Interim Policy 860 (Sept. 4, 2024).
- UCLA Student Affairs Pub. "Your First Amendment Rights as a Student at UCLA"25 at 3 (protest activities must "not interfere with the orderly operation of the campus and must be conducted in a manner that reasonably protects others from becoming involuntary audiences.")
- Id. at 7-8 (students prohibited from "interfere[ing] with the free flow of traffic into and out of campus buildings.")
- Id. (students prohibited from "intimidating, harassing, or obstructing any University employee, student, or any other person having lawful business with the University.")
- *Id.* (students prohibited from "camp[ing]" without authorization)
- The activists also likely violated a number of state laws, 69.

including criminal laws. For example:

²⁴ These regulations were in effect at the time of the encampment. They have since been superseded by UCLA Interim Regulations 850, 860 & 862 (Sept. 4, 2024).

Available at https://deanofstudents.ucla.edu/file/b06df921-414c-4bed-bf48-b3889f4aea8b (last visited Sept. 18, 2024); see also UCLA Interim Policy 862 (Sept. 4, 2024).

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- Cal. Penal Code Tit. 8 Ch. 9 §§ 240-248 (defining assault and battery offenses)
- Cf. Cal. Penal Code §§ 626.4 & 626.6 (empowering university officials to notify persons such as the encampment activists who interfere with the orderly and peaceful operations of the campus to leave on penalty of a misdemeanor offense)
- 70. Despite the illegality of the encampment, Defendants did nothing to remove it or to hold those responsible to account.
- On the contrary, Defendants, including specifically 71. Defendant Block, shamefully instructed UCLAPD to "stand down," and not to interfere with the activists.²⁶
- Worse still, UCLA security actually facilitated the activists 72. in achieving their goals. Shortly after the encampment was established and as activists sought to carve out as wide an "exclusion zone" as possible, rather than immediately pushing back and preventing the unlawful takeover of a portion of the UCLA campus, UCLA security helped the activists establish a "border" to keep non-activists out by setting up metal bicycle racks as barricades around the encampment.²⁷

²⁶ Declaration of Kamran Shamsa ISO Plaintiffs' Mot. for Preliminary Injunction, 24-cv-04702-MCS-PD (C.D. Cal.) [Dkt. 64-3] ¶ 12.

²⁷ Declaration of Michael Beck IOT Plaintiffs' Mot. for Preliminary Injunction, 24-cv-04702-MCS-PD (C.D. Cal.) [Dkt. 62-3] ¶ 6.

In other words, Defendants facilitated the acquisition of "territory" by the activists.

- 73. UCLA publicly justified its extreme passivity toward (and indeed participation in) the illegal encampment by reference to its purported commitment to "free speech."
- 74. In reality, UCLA knew that the activists were operating very far beyond the outer limits of permissible speech, and were engaging in widespread violations of campus rules, state laws, and criminal statutes. UCLA's passivity was not borne out of a commitment to free speech principles, it instead represented agreement with the point of view held by the anti-Israel activists.²⁸

²⁸ UCLA recently announced a policy against its top leadership "mak[ing] public statements on [most] societal, public and political matters." https://evcp.ucla.edu/announcements/2023-24/resources-related-to-free-expression-safety-and-well-being-at-ucla/#statement-on-statements (Sept. 12, 2024). Of course, the fact that UCLA's leaders may refrain from making public statements on social and political issues does not mean that they lack views on those issues, or that they will not act on their views. As detailed throughout this complaint, UCLA's leaders disagree with and have actively suppressed Plaintiffs' point of view. Nothing about the new policy on public statements changes this.

- 75. Around May 1, 2024, after negative press reports concerning the encampment became too intense to ignore, Defendants finally sought the help of the Los Angeles Police Department. The encampment was cleared as of May 2, 2024.
- 76. While the UCLA campus was mostly empty during the summer break, and anti-Israel activity was muted, students returned to campus for the start of the new year around September 23, 2024. A judge in this district recently held there to be "an imminent risk that [] exclusion [of Jewish students by anti-Israel activists from parts of campus] will return in the fall with students, staff, faculty, and non-UCLA community members." *Frankel*, 2024 WL 3811250, at *5.

In a Contrast That Could Not Be More Pronounced, UCLA Treats Pro-Israel Speech—Including Plaintiffs' Speech—with Disdain

- 77. UCLA is anything but accommodating or solicitous to student or faculty groups that seek to promote conservative and pro-Israel views.
- 78. Even before the Plaintiffs in this lawsuit sought to stage an educational event in May 2024, UCLA allowed anti-Israel activists to intimidate other speakers.

- 79. In February 2024, a talk sponsored by the Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for Israel Studies to take place in Royce Hall by former Israeli Minister of Foreign Affairs Tzipi Livini was threatened by anti-Israel activists. Rather than addressing the threats, the University let the mob win, as the talk retreated to an online-only format.²⁹
- 80. Next, it was Plaintiffs' turn to attempt to bring ideological balance and a different point of view to the UCLA campus. In the spring of 2024, Plaintiff Broll and other members of YAF at UCLA decided to invite Middle East expert Robert Spencer to UCLA through YAF's Campus Lectures program. Mr. Spencer would give a talk providing a counterpoint to the campus orthodoxy on the Israel/Hamas conflict and the question of Israel's legitimacy more broadly. The talk was to be followed by an open question and answer ("Q&A") period during which audience members, including both pro-Israel and anti-

²⁹ Michael Starr, *Tzipi Livni UCLA talk moved online after anti-Israel protest*, THE JERUSALEM POST (Feb. 28, 2024), https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/article-789482.

Israel students, would be invited to raise questions, share views, and participate in an exploration of these vital public questions.

- 81. Mr. Spencer is the founder of Jihad Watch, an organization dedicated to exposing dangerous and radical strains of Islamic thought.
- Matthew Weinberg, contacted representatives of the UCLA Student Organizations, Leadership & Engagement ("SOLE") office and the Associated Students of UCLA ("ASUCLA") to reserve a room in the Student Union, and to work out logistics, for the Robert Spencer talk, then titled "Radical Islam on College Campuses" (the name would later be changed to "Everything You Know About Palestine Is Wrong"). SOLE is the administrative unit responsible for approving speaking events. Defendant Cohn is the director of SOLE and all of its employees report to Defendant Cohn.
- 83. On April 16, 2024, the Student Union confirmed that a suitable conference room was available on May 15, 2024. Mr. Weinberg immediately responded, attempting to lock in a reservation for that date. UCLA did not timely reply.

- 84. On April 22, 2024, after five days without a response, Mr. Weinberg again followed up to determine whether the room reservation had been finalized and to address a few logistical issues. Among other things, Mr. Weinberg requested campus security for the event, including a UCLAPD presence to contend with possible counterprotestors.
- 85. Again, UCLA failed to timely respond to Mr. Weinberg's April 22, 2024 security request, or to his April 23, 2024 email again asking for confirmation that security would be provided.
- 86. In the meantime, Plaintiffs expended time, money and resources designing promotional materials to advertise the Robert Spencer event. Plaintiffs sought to provide a perspective on the Israel/Hamas war that was almost entirely absent from the UCLA campus. They hoped to reach a significant number of individuals and welcomed especially students who held anti-Israel views. Plaintiffs believe in the power of open and free discussion and the value of bringing people with diverse views together. Even if anti-Israel students were not ultimately persuaded by Mr. Spencer, Plaintiffs

would have viewed the event to be a success simply by raising questions that had not previously occurred to those students.

- 87. Without official approval by UCLA of the event, however, Plaintiffs were prevented from distributing promotional materials.
- 88. As time before the event grew shorter and shorter, Plaintiffs' ability to effectively use pre-event publicity was, of course, diminished further and further.
- 89. On April 26, 2024, Mr. Weinberg spoke with Kenneth Qian, a direct report of Defendant Cohn. Mr. Qian stated that as far as he was concerned, the event was approved, but that he needed to confirm with Defendant Cohn personally and would get back to Mr. Weinberg ASAP. Neither Mr. Qian nor Mr. Cohn timely followed up with Mr. Weinberg.
- 90. On April 29, 2024, a full week after requesting security for the event, but having not received any official communications from UCLA, Mr. Weinberg again wrote to Defendant Cohn and his reports to confirm the room reservation and security arrangements. Mr. Weinberg also indicated that if a response was not immediately

forthcoming, he would have no choice but to escalate the matter to the office of the Chancelor.

- 91. On information and belief, however, the Chancelor's office was already aware of Plaintiffs' plans to bring Mr. Spencer to the UCLA campus. Given the years' worth of campus activism on the anti-Israel side tacitly and sometimes explicitly approved by Defendants, it strains credulity to believe that when Plaintiffs' indicated they were seeking to host Mr. Spencer to discuss "Radical Islam on College Campuses," (as the talk was originally titled), the leadership of the university was not immediately informed.
- 92. In any event, on April 30, 2024, UCLA finally responded to Plaintiffs' numerous inquiries concerning logistics and security for the Robert Spencer talk. Defendants organized a Zoom meeting involving Defendant Cohn's reports, representatives from UCLAPD, the UCLA Deputy Fire Marshall, and several other high-level administrators. On Plaintiffs' side, YAF Campus Event Coordinator, Breana Marsh, YAF Associate General Counsel Madison Hahn, Ms. Broll, and Mr. Weinberg attended.

- 93. Much of the discussion centered on security.

 Representatives from UCLAPD stated that the decision on universityprovided security would be made after the call by the top levels of
 university administration, specifically including individuals at a higher
 level than the Chief of Police for UCLAPD.
- 94. The UCLAPD representative also stated that the decision would depend on whether the encampment, then on its sixth day, was still there on May 15, 2024, in which case there might be a "large population of [anti-Israel] people on our campus" who would likely object to and seek to shut down the Robert Spencer event. (As it turned out, the encampment would be disbanded two days later on May 2, 2024).
- 95. The meeting ended in an entirely unsatisfactory manner.

 UCLA refused to approve the event or to commit to providing security.

 UCLA further refused to provide even a timeline for when it might approve the event. As the event was then a mere 15 days away,

 Plaintiffs' ability to engage in adequate pre-event publicity was diminishing rapidly.

- 96. In the face of UCLA's refusal to commit to anything related to the Robert Spencer event, and with time running down, on May 1, 2024, undersigned counsel sent a letter to UCLA's Chief Campus Counsel, demanding that the university approve the event immediately and noting the possibility of litigation. A true and correct copy of the letter is attached as Exhibit B. The letter pointed out that UCLA and its leadership were liable for engaging in viewpoint discrimination against conservative and pro-Israel speech and that giving in to a potential "heckler's veto" by agitators could further expose the university to liability.
- 97. While UCLA's counsel did not respond in writing, at 9:28 p.m. that same night, UCLA suddenly changed its tune.

 Representatives from the Student Union, who had been silent for over a week sent an email to confirm administrative details for the event. By May 6, 2024, all outstanding administrative items were completed, and UCLA appeared to provide final approval for the event albeit with only a week to spare.
- 98. After receiving approval on May 6, 2024, Plaintiffs immediately began generating publicity and advertisements.

- 99. For example, Plaintiff Broll personally began an intensive campaign of flyering on campus bulletin boards, handing out palm cards, and putting up posters in campus dormitories. Ms. Broll spent substantially all of her free time in the brief lead up to the event seeking to get the word out.
- 100. For another example, Plaintiff Roepke tabled and passed out flyers during the week leading up to the event. Ms. Roepke also visited UCLA dormitories in the middle of the night to advertise the talk.
- 101. Given the short time, however, the effectiveness of these efforts was blunted.
- 102. During the evening of May 14, 2024, Plaintiffs Broll and Roepke, along with other YAF at UCLA members attempted a last-minute publicity push by projecting an announcement on the outside of a campus building. The projection was approximately twenty feet high, and was designed to attract attention.
- 103. During this publicity push, anti-Israel activists accosted Plaintiffs, threatening to "shut down" the Robert Spencer talk.

104. The activists also asserted that projecting an image on the side of a UCLA building was in violation of campus rules. This was incorrect. There was no such rule.

Plaintiffs to campus authorities. Within hours, UCLA Dean of Students, Defendant Rush, called Plaintiffs and threatened disciplinary action if they did not immediately stop their promotional activities. While there were no campus rules prohibiting their activity, and Defendant Rush could not cite one, Plaintiffs acquiesced to Defendant Rush's demands and stopped promoting the Robert Spencer talk out of fear that Defendant Rush would ban their event.

106. Despite the many roadblocks thrown up by Defendants, and despite the diminished effectiveness of Plaintiffs' publicity efforts caused by Defendants, a substantial number of students and community members planned to attend the lecture on May 15, 2024.

At the Last Minute, UCLA Canceled the Robert Spencer Talk Without Warning

107. On the afternoon of May 15, 2024, the day of the event, when an advance team Including Plaintiffs Broll and Roepke, Ms. Marsh and YAF Program Officer for Campus Advancement Aléjandro Flores

arrived to inspect the event space, they were told by UCLA staff to leave the room, which was then locked against their re-entry.

- 108. What followed was a lengthy game of "who has the key," that would have been comical, but for the fact that Plaintiffs' First Amendment rights were at stake. Specifically, representatives from the Student Union and from SOLE falsely stated that now that the lecture room was locked, they were unable to find a key to re-open it for Plaintiffs.
- about two hours after Defendants locked the door to the event space (but somehow could not find the key), Defendant Braziel contacted YAF personnel on site by telephone. Defendant Braziel stated that UCLA had made a determination that it was unprepared to provide adequate security for the Robert Spencer event in the assigned location because of the possibility of counter protest activity by anti-Israel activists.
- 110. Anti-Israel activists had posted on social media that they would seek to "cancel" and "shut down" the event, but at the time UCLA made its determination, no appreciable protest activity had taken place.

- 111. In deference to potential counter-protestors, Defendant
 Braziel stated that the talk could go forward only if Plaintiffs agreed to
 move it to a different part of the UCLA campus in an out-of-the-way
 location in a computer science lecture hall behind the Geology building,
 approximately a half-mile from the Student Union complex and the
 center of campus.
- 112. Defendant Braziel did not explain why the agreed-upon venue in the Student Union complex could not be adequately secured.

 Contrary to Defendant Braziel's unexplained assertion, there was no reason that the Student Union location could not be adequately secured.
- 113. Defendant Braziel also did not explain why moving to the out-of-the-way alternative location would present fewer security challenges than the Student Union location.
- UCLA had had weeks to prepare for the possibility of counterprotestors. If there were real "security concerns," there is no reason
 they could not have been raised much earlier, and no reason the parties
 could not have discussed ways to ameliorate any such concerns.
 Waiting until the last second to assert such concerns was transparently

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a way to play "gotcha" and to bully Plaintiffs into moving to a less effective location.

- Moving the event to the remote location would also have been counterproductive from a security perspective. UCLA was purportedly concerned with the possibility of illegal or violent conduct by counter-protestors seeking to shout down and disrupt conservative, pro-Israel speakers on campus. But giving in to the demands of potentially violent and disruptive counter protestors is not a way to prevent violence or to enhance campus security—indeed, giving in would have exactly the opposite effect by encouraging more of the same in the future. See, e.g. Dariano v. Morgan Hill Unified Sch. Dist., 767 F.3d 764, 770-71 (9th Cir. 2014) (O'Scannlain, dissenting from denial of reh'g en banc) (when school authorities give in to the demands of hecklers, they create "perverse incentive[s]" and send a message that "by threatening violence against those with whom you disagree, you can enlist the power of the State to silence them.").
- 116. Moving to the out-of-the-way location was also not a reasonable or neutral alternative to holding the event in the planned Student Union space.

- 117. Among other things, changing the location at the last second without any advance warning would limit attendance. Moreover, unlike the approved location, there was very limited foot traffic at the alternative location, reducing the possibility for passersby to attend and further suppressing turnout.
- audio-visual equipment that Plaintiffs had long intended to use to capture the event for later broadcast. Plaintiffs had previously informed Defendants of their intention to record the event and had specified their audio-visual and filming requirements.
- 119. Contrary to Defendant Braziel's assertions, Defendants' demand that the event be moved to the out-of-the-way location was not a security-driven decision. Instead, it was meant to thwart the ability of Mr. Spencer to reach his intended audience.
- 120. Moreover, holding the event in the central Student Union complex was part of the communicative message. Plaintiffs deserved not only to host a pro-Israel event, they deserved to host it in the center of campus life to show that there are other legitimate views worth discussing on the issue of Israel and that their speech did not represent

a second class point of view, no matter how out of step with the fashionable elite ideologies of UCLA's leadership and activist class.

- science lecture hall, on the other hand, would also have sent a message—that UCLA disagreed with the distasteful opinions of pro-Israel speakers like Robert Spencer; that the university sided with the counter-protestors who sought to shut Mr. Spencer down; and that the university's commitment to "free expression" was merely a front.
- a student or visitor to the UCLA campus was assaulted or threatened by a group of common criminals UCLA's response should be to remove the victims of the assault from the vicinity. UCLA would, of course, protect the targets, and would enforce its neutral campus rules and the criminal laws of the state of California against the perpetrators.
- on the basis that they have a disfavored viewpoint. As the Ninth Circuit held long ago, "[i]t is clear to us that [campus] police had the obligation of affording [a controversial speaker] the same protection they would have surely provided an innocent individual threatened, for

example, by a hoodlum on the street. A politically motivated assault is no less illegal than assaults inspired by personal vengeance or by any other unlawful motive." *Jones v. Bd. of Regents of U. of Ariz.*, 436 F.2d 618, 621 (9th Cir 1970).

- 124. By Defendant Braziel's refusal to allow the event to go forward as planned and his denial of security at the original location, he forced its cancellation. As a result, UCLA prevented Mr. Spencer from giving his talk and reaching his intended audience.
- 125. Anti-Israel activists celebrated Defendants' cancellation of the Robert Spencer event. For example, an activist bragged on social media, "Yes... WE LOCKED THEM OUT. The @UCLA [activist] community succeeded in LOCKING THE DOORS on the virulently anti-Palestinian Robert Spencer on May 15 as he planned to speak." 30

UCLA Acted Pursuant to Policies that Grant Unbridled Discretion to Impose Onerous "Security Measures" on Peaceful Speech

126. In making a determination that "safety and security" concerns empowered it to unilaterally move the Robert Spencer event to

³⁰ Linda Mamoun (@mamoun_linda) (May 20, 2024), https://x.com/mamoun_linda/status/1792666950461735225.

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an out-of-the-way alternative location at the last moment, UCLA acted pursuant to UCLA Interim Policy 862.

The version of Interim Policy 862 in effect during April and May 2024 is attached as Exhibit C. The Policy was updated on September 4, 2024. However, with minor exceptions noted below, the relevant provisions did not undergo substantive changes. The September 4, 2024 version is attached as Exhibit D.³¹

Under both versions of Policy 862, pursuant to an assessment of "safety and security needs," UCLA may impose a number of "security measures" that can impact the ability of a speaker to reach his or her intended audience and that can generally undermine the success of a planned event. Exhibit C ¶ IV.B.1 & Exhibit D, Interim Policy 862 ¶ III.G (authorizing UCLA to do such things as "adjust[] the venue, date, and/or time of the event, . . . [and] impos[e] controls or security checkpoints" in the area). UCLA can also cancel events after

³¹ Exhibit D incorporates both the September 4, 2024 version of Interim Policy 862, and the September 4, 2024 version of Interim Policy 850, which now contains definitions relevant to the interpretation of Interim Policy 862.

they have begun for alleged safety reasons. UCLA Interim Policy 860 \P III.I. 32

- measures, other than pointing to a non-exhaustive list of "safety and security criteria," and admonishing UCLA officials to "base [their determinations] on objective and credible evidence of specific risks" and to use "professional judgment." Exhibit C ¶ IV.B.1; see also Exhibit D, Interim Policy 862,¶ III.G.
- 130. The non-exhaustive list of criteria to be considered under the old version consisted of:
 - "(a) the proposed location of the event, (b) the estimated number of participants, (c) the time of the day that the event is to take place, (d) the date and day of the week of the event, (e) the proximity of the event to other activities or locations that may interfere, obstruct, or lessen the effectiveness of the security measures being implemented, (f) the resources needed to secure the event, (g) the anticipated weather conditions, (h) the estimated duration of the event, (i) any objective and credible evidence regarding actual threats to campus safety or security, and (j) any similar viewpoint-and content-neutral considerations relevant to assessment of campus safety, security, and services."

Exhibit C, ¶ III.C.

³² https://www.adminpolicies.ucla.edu/pdf/860.pdf

- 131. The new version contains essentially the same list of criteria, with the only material changes being the addition of a new consideration as to whether alcohol will to be served, and a change of the criteria based on "... evidence regarding *actual* threats to campus safety or security," to "... evidence regarding *possible* threats."

 Compare Exhibit C, ¶ III.C with Exhibit D, Interim Policy 850, Attachment A (Definition of "Safety and Security Criteria")(emphases added).
- any security measures and provides no further guidance on the application of the various criteria to the determination of a safety and security need. The policy does not give UCLA administrators any guidance as to how to weigh the existence or absence of different criteria, does not define relevant terms, and does not give precise criteria for application of the rule.
- 133. Because UCLA's policies confer essentially unrestrained discretion on officials to impose onerous conditions on free speech, they are facially overbroad and unconstitutional.

Plaintiffs Suffered and Continue to Suffer Harm from Defendants' Constitutional Violations

- 134. Defendants thwarted Plaintiffs' efforts to reach an audience with pro-Israel and conservative messages on May 15, 2024.
- as an audience member to listen to pro-Israel and conservative messages on May 15, 2024. Robert Spencer was ready and willing to speak; Ms. Broll was ready and willing to listen; and but for Defendants' unconstitutional conduct, Ms. Broll would have been able to receive expressive content from Mr. Spencer on May 15, 2024.
- to participate in a unique public dialog concerning the state of Israel and its enemies on May 15, 2024. The planned Robert Spencer event was to consist of both a lecture by Mr. Spencer and a question and answer ("Q&A") period during which audience members would be invited to share their views, raise questions, and engage in open public inquiry and dialog concerning the underlying issues. Ms. Broll intended to participate in the Q&A and to listen, learn from, and engage with the views of other audience members—including anti-Israel audience members. Given that pro-Israel and conservative points of view are

vastly underrepresented on the UCLA campus, this opportunity was unique and important. Defendants' conduct thwarted Ms. Broll's ability to engage in open discourse and inquiry at the May 15, 2024 event.

- 137. Defendants also harmed Plaintiff Roepke by violating her right as an audience member to listen to pro-Israel and conservative messages on May 15, 2024. Robert Spencer was ready and willing to speak; Ms. Roepke was ready and willing to listen; and but for Defendants' unconstitutional conduct, Ms. Roepke would have been able to receive expressive content from Mr. Spencer on May 15, 2024.
- 138. Defendants also harmed Plaintiff Roepke by violating her right to participate in a unique public dialog concerning the state of Israel and its enemies during a Q&A session on May 15, 2024. Ms. Ropeke intended to participate in the Q&A and to listen, learn from, and engage with the views of other audience members—including anti-Israel audience members.
- 139. Plaintiffs have suffered irreparable harm as a result of Defendants' conduct because the "loss of First Amendment freedoms, for even minimal periods of time, unquestionably constitutes irreparable injury." *Elrod v. Burns*, 427 U.S. 347, 373 (1976).

- 140. Plaintiffs have also suffered pecuniary harm as a direct result of Defendants' unlawful actions. These include, but are not limited to, amounts YAF expended in preparation for the Robert Spencer event such as staff time designing communications materials and organizing the event, travel expenses for the YAF advance team, and film crew costs.
- 141. YAF has also been harmed in its ability to act as an effective conservative advocacy organization. Among other things, to the extent Defendants undercut YAF's ability to stage a successful event, recruitment of potential members has been made that much harder. Students are less likely to join an organization that may be perceived as disfavored by the administration. YAF has also suffered from a diminished capacity to raise funds for similar reasons caused by Defendants' conduct.
- 142. Plaintiffs Broll and Roepke have also been harmed because they expended considerable personal energy and time to promote and facilitate the May 15, 2024 speech by Robert Spencer, which expenditures of energy and time were rendered futile by Defendants' unconstitutional conduct.

143. An award of compensatory damages would not be sufficient to deter Defendants from further violations of the First Amendment against conservative and pro-Israel speakers. Accordingly, an award of punitive damages is appropriate and necessary to deter further violations by Defendants.

Plaintiffs Intend to Bring More Ideological Diversity to the UCLA Campus But There is an Imminent Likelihood that UCLA Will Again Violate Plaintiffs' Rights

- 144. Plaintiffs have a continuing right to express themselves on campus, despite Defendants' hostility to their points of view.
- 145. Plaintiffs are planning a series of campus events during the 2024-25 school year. The events will present conservative and pro-Israel viewpoints that stand in stark contrast to the views of UCLA's leaders, much of its faculty, and its activist class. Given UCLA's past conduct discriminating against conservative and pro-Israel points of view, there is an imminent likelihood that UCLA will violate Plaintiffs' constitutional rights again.
- 146. Even worse, shortly before the start of the 2024-2025 school year, on September 4, 2024, UCLA adopted a series of new regulations governing campus speech that essentially enshrine viewpoint

discrimination and the heckler's veto against conservative and proIsrael speakers as the official policy of the university. The policies
effectively place a cap on the number of pro-Israel and conservative
speaking events on campus for the school year, while allowing an
unlimited number of left-wing and anti-Israel speakers to present their
views. The policies also incentivize left-wing activists to create as much
mayhem as possible during conservative events, so as to more quickly
reach the speech cap set forth in UCLA's new rules.

- 147. Under UCLA's new policies, organizers of campus events must notify UCLA whenever a "a possible demonstration [is] likely to occur." UCLA Interim Policy 860 ¶ III.K.³³ If such a demonstration "could disrupt the event, the event will be deemed a Major Event and subject to UCLA Policy 862, Major Events." *Id.* ¶ III.J.
- 148. As soon as UCLA has expended a certain fixed annual sum on security costs for "respond[ing] to Public Expression Activities [i.e., counter protests]" against so-called "Major Events," the university will

³³ https://www.adminpolicies.ucla.edu/pdf/860.pdf.

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not allow any more such events "for the remainder of the academic year." UCLA Interim Policy 862 ¶ III.F.³⁴

- Of course, since anti-Israel and progressive points of view 149. represent the overwhelming orthodoxy on campus, and since there is no history of conservative and pro-Israel activists seeking to "cancel" or "shout down" approved campus events featuring anti-Israel and leftwing speakers, almost all approved events featuring speakers with anti-Israel and left-wing points of view will escape the "Major Event" designation under UCLA's policies.
- For the same reasons, UCLA does not incur "security costs . . 150. . to respond to Public Expression Activities" against approved anti-Israel and left-wing speech.
- Accordingly, left-wing student organizations like SJP will be able to stage as many official anti-Israel speaking events as they like

³⁴ The policy divides the annual spending cap into three categories, depending on whether the events are hosted by RCO's, University Units or Non-Affiliates. *Id.* The policies also state that once a cap on Major Events has been triggered, no more will be scheduled for the academic year, "except that any Major Event that is already scheduled and approved . . . will be permitted to proceed." *Id*.

without any realistic possibility that they will be shut down because UCLA has reached its arbitrary cap on security spending.

- 152. In contrast, conservative and pro-Israel events, such as the ones to be staged by Plaintiffs in the 2024-25 school year, will be deemed Major Events every time. Anti-Israel and left-wing activists have pledged to "shut down" and "cancel" pro-Israel and conservative speakers. And, given UCLA's cap on security spending to prevent left-wing and anti-Israel hecklers from disrupting pro-Israel speech, the Major Events policy will act as a de facto ceiling on the number of conservative and pro-Israel events on campus.
- 153. Moreover, given the security spending cap, UCLA's policies generate a perverse incentive for left-wing and anti-Israel hecklers to create as much mayhem as possible in response to conservative and pro-Israel speakers. Those activists will know that once they cause enough damage and disruption to raise UCLA's security spending above the monetary threshold, no more conservative and pro-Israel speakers will be allowed for the remainder of the year. The incentive for left-wing and anti-Israel activists to bring violence and mayhem to campus is obvious.

- 154. Plaintiffs have already planned their first event for the 2024-25 school year. On October 21, 2024, YAF at UCLA will host Ben Shapiro, a well-known conservative and pro-Israel speaker.
- 155. Plaintiff YAF has already expended resources planning and promoting the upcoming event and will continue to do so.
- 156. Once UCLA approves the event, Plaintiffs Broll and Roepke will engage in publicity and advertising activities on the UCLA campus.
- 157. Plaintiffs Broll and Roepke also intend to attend the presentation as audience members and to exercise their right to listen to Mr. Shapiro's views.
- 158. Plaintiff Broll and Roepke also intend to participate in a public dialog with both pro- and anti-Israel students during the post-talk Q&A session.
- 159. Anti-Israel and left-wing groups will almost certainly threaten counter-protests and will seek to "cancel" the event.
- 160. Given Defendants' past conduct, there is a substantial and imminent threat that they will again cave in to the demands of the anti-Israel activists and allow the event to be defeated at the last minute.

- 161. Accordingly, Plaintiffs are entitled to preliminary and permanent injunctive relief prohibiting Defendants from engaging in viewpoint discrimination, and from failing to enforce neutral campus rules and California state laws to prevent counter protestors from disrupting Plaintiffs' events.
- 162. Plaintiffs are also entitled to an injunction prohibiting
 UCLA from enforcing the facially overbroad provisions of Interim Rule
 862 that allow UCLA to impose security measures, such as last minute
 venue relocations and other restrictions, without sufficient guidance.

CAUSES OF ACTION

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF 42 U.S.C. § 1983 – First Amendment Violation Viewpoint Discrimination

- 163. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference the allegations set forth above as if fully set forth herein.
- 164. Plaintiffs' speech activities were protected under the First Amendment.
- 165. Among other things, the First Amendment required

 Defendants to refrain from discriminating against Plaintiffs' speech
 because of the viewpoint expressed.

- discrimination by applying vastly different standards to anti-Israel activities (treated with extreme deference, even to the point of tolerating clearly unlawful and criminal behavior) and pro-Israel expression (treated to extreme vetting, exacting review, and last minute cancellation).
- 167. Defendants subjected Plaintiffs' speech to these double standards because they disagree with Plaintiffs' point of view.
- 168. Indeed, UCLA's new policies on campus events, adopted on September 4, 2024, effectively cap the number of pro-Israel and conservative events that Plaintiffs can host on campus for the 2024-25 school year, while allowing an unlimited number of anti-Israel and left-wing events to occur.
- 169. In discriminating against Plaintiffs' point of view,

 Defendants acted pursuant to an unwritten, but firmly entrenched,
 policy and practice to discriminate against conservative and pro-Israel
 points of view. Absent injunctive relief from the Court, that policy and
 practice will continue into the future.

170. Defendants violated, and are continuing to violate, clearly established First Amendment law.

SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF 42 U.S.C. § 1983 – First Amendment Violation Heckler's Veto

- 171. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference the allegations set forth above as if fully set forth herein.
- 172. Even if Defendants could reasonably be viewed as neutral or indifferent with respect to the topic of Israel, they nevertheless violated the First Amendment prohibition on viewpoint discrimination by caving in to the demands of anti-Israel protestors who set out to cancel and "shout down" Plaintiffs' expression.
- veto" against a speaker, it is "simply choosing sides in the debate."

 Meinecke v. City of Seattle, 99 F.4th 514, 524 (9th Cir. 2024). This is yet another form of viewpoint discrimination, unlawful under the First Amendment. Id.
- 174. Under clearly established law, Defendants' conduct in caving in to the wishes of the anti-Israel objectors violated the First Amendment.

activists, Defendants acted pursuant to an unwritten, but firmly entrenched, policy and practice to discriminate against conservative and pro-Israel points of view. Absent injunctive relief from the Court, that policy and practice will continue into the future.

THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF 42 U.S.C. § 1983 – First Amendment Violation Vagueness and Overbreadth – Interim Policy 862

- 176. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference the allegations set forth above as if fully set forth herein.
- 177. The First Amendment demands that policies and ordinances "give the person of ordinary intelligence a reasonable opportunity to know what is prohibited[.]" *Grayned v. City of Rockford*, 408 U.S. 104, 108 (1972).
- 178. Vague policies raise due process concerns because they force individuals to guess at their meaning. *Id.* at 108–09. As a result of this vagueness, individuals "steer far wider of the unlawful zone . . . than if the boundaries of the forbidden areas were clearly marked." *Id.* at 109 (internal quotation marks and citations omitted).

- 179. And when policies by their reach "prohibit[] constitutionally protected conduct" and chill speech as a result, they are unconstitutionally overbroad on their face. *Id.* at 114; *accord Forsyth Cnty.*, *Ga. v. Nationalist Movement*, 505 U.S. 123, 129-30 (1992).
- 180. Vague and overbroad policies are also unconstitutional because they give officials unfettered discretion to approve or censor speech based on its viewpoint or content. *Forsyth Cnty.*, 505 U.S. at 130–33.
- overbroad on its face because it provides a non-exhaustive list of factors to consider when determining whether and what kind of "security measures" to impose for an event. The policy does not explain how each factor impacts the need for a particular "security measure." And the policy does not include precise guidelines for administrators to follow when weighing the factors, but instead leaves it to an individual administrator's discretion whether an event should be subject to security measures.

- Defendants' enforcement of the policy vests unbridled discretion in a government official to decide what speech is controversial enough to require security measures.
- 183. As a result of the policy, Plaintiffs are deterred from facilitating future speaking events on campus because they cannot predict whether their events will be subjected to last minute modifications to such things as the event venue, number of attendees, time and other factors.
- In these ways, because Interim Policy 862 gives unbridled discretion to university officials to determine whether and what kind of "security measures" should be imposed, the policy opens the door to unconstitutional content and viewpoint discrimination.

RELIEF REQUESTED

Plaintiffs respectfully request that this Court:

- Α. Enter a declaratory judgment that Defendants violated Plaintiffs' First Amendment rights by engaging in viewpoint discrimination;
- В. Enter a declaratory judgment that Defendants violated Plaintiffs' First Amendment rights by sanctioning a "heckler's veto"

- C. Enter a declaratory judgment that Interim Policy 862 is overbroad and facially unconstitutional;
- D. Enter preliminary and permanent injunctions prohibiting
 Defendants from engaging in viewpoint discrimination against
 conservative and pro-Israel speech;
- E. Enter preliminary and permanent injunctions prohibiting

 Defendants from giving effect to unconstitutional "heckler's vetoes" by

 limiting conservative or pro-Israel speech in deference to objectors;
- F. Enter preliminary and permanent injunctions prohibiting

 Defendants from failing to deploy law enforcement to ensure that

 events presenting conservative or pro-Israel views are not disrupted by

 objectors;
- G. Enter preliminary and permanent injunctions prohibiting

 Defendants from failing to deter objectors from disrupting conservative

 or pro-Israel speech by failing to enforce neutral campus rules against

 disruptive and illegal conduct deployed to "cancel" or "deplatform"

 disfavored speakers;

- Enter preliminary and permanent injunctions prohibiting Η. Defendants from enforcing their new caps on so-called Major Events set forth in UCLA Interim Policy 862 ¶ III.F;
- Enter preliminary and permanent injunctions prohibiting I. Defendants from enforcing the facially overbroad and unconstitutional "security measure" rules set forth in Interim Policy 862;
- J. Retain jurisdiction of this matter for the purpose of enforcing the Court's orders;
- K. Enter an award of actual and special damages in an amount to be proven at trial;
 - Enter an award of nominal damages; L.
 - M. Enter an award of punitive damages;
- N. Enter an award of attorney fees and costs of suit pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1988 and Fed. R. Civ. P. 54; and
- Order such other and further relief as the Court may deem Ο. just, proper, and appropriate under the circumstances.

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiffs request a trial by jury on all issues and claims so triable.

DATED this 3rd day of October 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ James Kerwin

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VERIFIED COMPLAINT

VERIFICATION

I, BROOKE BROLL, declare as follows:

- 1. I am a student at the University of California, Los Angeles ("UCLA").
- 2. I am a member of UCLA registered student organization, YAF at UCLA, a chapter affiliate of Young America's Foundation's Young Americans for Freedom program.
- 3. I have reviewed this Complaint.
- 4. For the allegations within my personal knowledge, I believe them all to be true.
- 5. For the allegations not within my personal knowledge, I believe them all to be true based on my review of the cited policies and documents.
- 6. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Executed this 3rd day of October, 2024.

Brooke Broll

VERIFIED COMPLAINT

VERIFICATION

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I, MACY ROEPKE, declare as follows:

- 1. I am a student at the University of California, Los Angeles ("UCLA").
- 2. I am a member of UCLA registered student organization, YAF at UCLA, a chapter affiliate of Young America's Foundation's Young Americans for Freedom program.
- 3. I have reviewed this Complaint.
- 4. For the allegations within my personal knowledge, I believe them all to be true.
- 5. For the allegations not within my personal knowledge, I believe them all to be true based on my review of the cited policies and documents.
- 6. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Executed this <u>2</u> day of October, 2024.

Macy Roepke

VERIFIED COMPLAINT