

# Speaker Biographies

## **Sarah Viets** **Southern Investigative Researcher, ADL**

Sarah Viets is the Southern Investigative Researcher for the Anti-Defamation League (ADL). She researches and monitors extremist groups and individuals in the southern region of the United States, including Tennessee, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, North and South Carolina, Georgia and Louisiana.

Viets works on exposing the activities of far right groups such as neo-Nazi skinheads, antigovernment extremism, sovereign citizens, militias, Klan groups and Christian Identity organizations. She has trained over 300 law enforcement officers on domestic extremism issues. The ADL has co-sponsored law enforcement trainings with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Federal Bureau of Investigation, police departments and sheriff offices throughout the southern region.

She holds a degree in American History from the University of Illinois at Chicago, and is based in the Atlanta, Georgia, ADL office.

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## **Cheryl R. Drazin** **Jean and Jerry Moore Southwest Civil Rights Counsel, ADL**

Cheryl Drazin is the Jean and Jerry Moore Southwest Civil Rights Counsel for the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), a non-profit organization that has been a leader in combating bigotry, prejudice and anti-Semitism for over a century.

Cheryl is responsible for overseeing the civil rights agenda for the nation's seven (7) southern and southwestern states. In this role, she works closely with six (6) of ADL's regional offices to handle complaints relating to discrimination in employment, housing and educational settings. Cheryl monitors state and local legislation throughout her region as well as advocates and testifies on behalf of specific bills that further ADL's mission of securing justice and fair treatment for all.

Cheryl provides legal guidance and oversees the civil rights agenda for her region including the areas of anti-Semitism, bullying, discrimination complaints, education equity, freedom of speech, hate crimes, immigration, separation of church and state and voting rights.

Prior to joining ADL, Cheryl was a shareholder at Gillespie, Rozen & Watsky where her practice focused on plaintiff's labor and employment litigation. Cheryl received her B.A. from Washington University in St. Louis in political science and is a graduate of the The University of Texas School of Law.

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## **Oren Segal**

### **Co-Director of the Center on Extremism, ADL**

Oren Segal, Co-Director of the Anti-Defamation League's Center on Extremism, oversees the Islamic Affairs and Left Wing Research Departments. He has been with ADL for over 11 years.

Mr. Segal, ADL's expert on Muslim extremism in the U.S., edits *Terrorism Update*, ADL's Web site and newsletter dedicated to breaking news and in-depth features on domestic and international terrorist activity. He is also an expert on left wing extremist organizations and movements.

In his presentation entitled, "Muslim Extremism: A Growing Domestic Terror Threat," Mr. Segal provides an overview of the radicalization process and criminal activity associated with those motivated by radical interpretations of Islam in the U.S. The program, which focuses on the rise of homegrown Muslim extremism since 9/11, also examines the role of the internet in the radicalization process and how it is used to disseminate propaganda.

Much of his time with ADL has been devoted to the evaluation of the activity and tactics of extremist groups and movements, training law enforcement officers and publishing reports and articles on a wide range of extremist topics.

He has been interviewed by national and international media outlets, including *ABC World News Tonight*, *FOX News*, *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Newsweek*, and *the National Geographic Channel*.

A graduate of Wheaton College in Massachusetts, Mr. Segal, a native New Yorker, has previously worked for *The New York Times* and for the Jewish Community Federation in San Francisco.