

TEACHING TOLERANCE



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March 17, 2014

Re: *The Trial of Henry Ford*

To whom it may concern:

The Teaching Tolerance program of the Southern Poverty Law Center would like to express its support for the documentary film in progress, *The Trial of Henry Ford*.

The Trial of Henry Ford will bring to life the riveting story of how Aaron Sapiro, a young San Francisco attorney, challenged the anti-Semitic actions of the United States' most famous tycoon — and scored a victory for social justice. When Ford attacked Sapiro in print as the head of a cabal of Jewish lawyers intent on controlling the food supply of the United States, Sapiro fearlessly turned the tables on Ford and sued him for libel — eventually forcing him to stop disseminating anti-Semitic literature.

This story is still relevant today because, sadly, anti-Semitism and other forms of hate and discrimination are still with us.

Aaron Sapiro's story is an inspiring example of what it takes to speak up against hate. He was an ordinary citizen who assumed enormous risks, sacrificing his career and the comforts of his family in order to do the right thing. It didn't matter to Sapiro that he was challenging arguably the most powerful man in the United States.

We all have a stake in challenging hate and bias. *The Trial of Henry Ford* will be a reminder to everyone who encounters hate in today's world — change only happens when individuals speak up.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maureen B. Costello". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Maureen B. Costello

Director, Teaching Tolerance