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A Winning Record

When a group of grade school children in the Yorkville section of New York City began circulating pornographic magazines among themselves in 1962, a young mother turned to her pastor for help, and got it from an interfaith group of clergymen led by Jesuit Father Morton Hill. They fixed the problem in what became Morality in Media's first victory.

Over the years since then, Morality in Media has participated and frequently played a pivotal role in a number of landmark victories that have made a difference for the better at the Federal, State and local levels. At the Federal level, these include:

- Enactment of the Child On-line Protection Act (1998)
- Extension of the broadcast indecency ban by two prime-time hours, to 10 p.m. (1996)
- Enactment of indecency controls on leased-access cable TV channels (1996)
- Establishment of the permanent Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section in the Justice Department (1987)
- Enactment of the Federal Child Pornography Law (1984)

- Enactment of the Federal law extending tough RICO penalties to obscenity crimes (1984)
- Most importantly, perhaps, Morality in Media thwarted an attempt to repeal all Federal obscenity laws in 1970.

Repeal of the Federal obscenity laws was recommended in the flawed majority report of the 1970 Presidential Commission on Obscenity and Pornography. As a Commission member, Fr. Hill co-authored a minority report that exposed the majority report as a "Magna Carta" for pornographers. The majority report was overwhelmingly rejected by a vote of the United States Senate. In 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court cited Fr. Hill's minority report four times in upholding obscenity laws. Had it not been for Fr. Hill's decisive action, the country might have done away entirely with the Federal laws banning obscenity.

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About Morality in Media

MORALITY IN MEDIA, INC is a national, not-for-profit organization established in 1962 to combat obscenity and uphold decency standards in the media. It maintains the National Obscenity Law Center, a clearinghouse of legal materials on obscenity law, and conducts public information programs to educate and involve concerned citizens.

Background, Mission, Program and Accomplishments

The production and distribution of hardcore pornography is a harmful multi-billion-dollar industry that operates with no valid claim to First Amendment protection, and would be sharply curtailed or eliminated if the federal and state obscenity laws were vigorously enforced. "Speech" that is indecent but not obscene has only limited constitutional protection, yet indecency has become a hallmark of our popular culture because the laws on indecency, like the obscenity laws, have gone largely un-enforced for years.

Hardcore pornography in the marketplace and indecency in the entertainment media are in many cases at least partly the cause of family breakup, unwed pregnancy, sexual violence, sexually transmitted diseases and other societal problems.

Morality in Media, a national non-profit [501(c)(3)] organization, has compiled a record of landmark successes against illegal hardcore pornography in the marketplace and indecency in the media since its founding in New York City in 1962, and has the resources and strategic

insights to build on that success. General operations may be summarized as follows:

- Morality in Media conducts public information and public affairs activities designed to help its members, other citizens and public officials deal effectively and constitutionally with the threat of illegal pornography in their communities and the erosion of decency standards in the media.
- Morality in Media's Legal Department consults with public officials and citizens on local pornography problems, prepares proposed legislation and regulations, testifies in legislative hearings, and submits amicus curiae briefs in Federal and State court cases.
- Morality in Media operates the National Obscenity Law Center, <http://www.moralityinmedia.org/nolc/index.htm>) a nationally recognized clearinghouse of information on obscenity law, with a library of cases going back to 1800.

Morality in Media's Mission

Morality in Media uses its knowledge of the law and the vigorous involvement of informed citizens to address these pressing moral and cultural evils:

- 1. The exploitation of obscenity in the marketplace, and**
- 2. The erosion of decency standards in the media.**

The United States Supreme Court has held repeatedly that pornography is illegal under the obscenity laws when, in broad terms, it is found by a jury or judge to (1) appeal to the prurient

interest, (2) depict hardcore sexual content in a patently offensive manner, and (3) lack serious literary, artistic, scientific and political value. Whether or not the material appeals to lust or is patently offensive are questions to be decided by a jury or judge using their perceptions of community standards as a measuring device. The test for indecency, which can be regulated in broadcasting and in commercial telephone transmission, is less rigorous: the material need only depict or describe sexual or excretory activity or organs in a patently offensive way.

Only a handful of lawyers rank as experts on the First Amendment as it relates to obscene and indecent "speech." Two of them are on the staff of Morality in Media. Morality in Media uses its legal talents and the resources of its National Obscenity Law Center to assist prosecutors and police, to help shape legislation, and to intervene as a friend of the court in cases involving challenges to obscenity and indecency laws.

Morality in Media also provides information about the pornography and indecency problems to the public and the news media through its Newsletter and other publications, its public inquiry services, public speaking activities, news releases, and interviews with print, broadcast, and on-line journalists.

Citizen involvement is vital because both obscenity and indecency laws require the application of community standards, and because prosecutors and police need to know that the people in their jurisdictions want these laws enforced.

General Operations

Morality in Media has its headquarters in New York City, where it was founded in 1962 by

clergymen of several faiths led by Father Morton Hill, S.J. It functions through its public affairs programs, its Legal Department, and the National Obscenity Law Center.

Morality in Media's Legal Department consults with public officials, law enforcement agencies and private citizens on specific obscenity and indecency problems in their communities. The Department also prepares proposed legislation and administrative regulations, testifies before legislative and administrative bodies, and submits amicus curiae briefs in key Federal and State cases.

Morality in Media is known to a large segment of the public through its publications, news releases, frequent media appearances, and public inquiry services. MIM's public information and public affairs activities intended to equip citizens and public officials around the country with the information they need to fight back, through constitutional means, against the distribution of illegal hardcore porn in their communities and the erosion of decency standards in the media that reach into their homes.

Public affairs activities include: Morality in Media's annual White Ribbon Against Pornography (WRAP) campaign and Turn Off TV Day.

Among Morality in Media's publications are the bi-monthly Morality in Media Newsletter for all members. Morality in Media also publishes booklets, pamphlets and reports on a variety of subjects related to obscenity and indecency.

In addition, it operates two World Wide Web sites:
<http://www.moralityinmedia.org> (Morality in