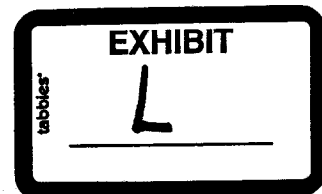


**EXHIBIT**  
to

**AFFIDAVIT OF EDGAR J. STEELE**  
**Dated August 8, 2011**

Southern Poverty Law Center Literature  
and  
Relevant Media Articles





## Southern Poverty Law Center Intelligence Files

Intelligence Report, Fall 2003, Issue Number: 111

### 40 to Watch: Leaders of the Radical Right

**What does the radical right look like after a year of reverses? The future may lie in the personalities still peopling the fringe**

By Heidi Beirich and Mark Potok  
Yusuf Shabazz, 41 | *SAVANNAH, Ga.*

Edgar J. Steele, 58 | *SAGLE, Idaho*



Edgar Steele was a little-known lawyer with some unconventional ideas in the northern reaches of Idaho until he took the case that would make him something of a celebrity on the radical right — defending the neo-Nazi Aryan Nations and its leader against a 2000 lawsuit brought by the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC).

After he lost the case — which he described as an attack on free speech — Steele abandoned any effort to appear mainstream, now publicly singling out "the Jews" as being behind all that ails America.

Steele graduated from college in 1967 and then served four years in the Coast Guard, rising to command a radio-navigation station in the East China Sea. Shortly afterward, he earned a master's degree in business at the University of California at Berkeley, and worked at several corporations. But Steele soon decided to change professions and graduated from UCLA with a law degree in 1982, going to work for two years at a San Francisco firm but then setting up shop as a sole

practitioner.

Today, Edgar Steele describes a Jewish lawyer who once worked for him and supposedly tried to steal his clients as a principal "trigger" for his realization that Jews are "predatory." But that attitude was not public when he took the Aryan Nations case, which the SPLC had filed on behalf of a woman and her son terrorized by Aryan security guards.

At around that time, Steele began writing essays suggesting, among other things, that the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing involved a government conspiracy.

In a late 2000 interview published in *Resistance*, a neo-Nazi magazine, Steele suggested that the FBI stacked the deck against the Aryan Nations by purposely failing to find an important witness. In an essay entitled "The Conspiracy Grows Ever Larger" published two years later, Steele accused the judge in the Aryan Nations case of unfairly refusing to allow him to present evidence, suggesting that it was an example of how "[j]udges and lawyers actively use existing rules and laws, or simply make it up as they go along, in furthering the leftist agenda, particularly when it comes to keeping the spotlight off things they don't want you to know."

Still, as late as September 2001, he was writing on his conspiracypenpal.com Web site that "the vast majority of American Jews are fine people," some of whom were his "friends." But an Oct. 7, 2002, essay, "It's the Jews, Stupid!!!" put an end to any question about his virulent anti-Semitism.

In 2002, Steele filed an amicus brief for the anti-black hate group Council of Conservative Citizens in a case that sought to invalidate a Virginia law outlawing cross burning. More recently, he gave a June 2003 speech to a conference of the Holocaust-denying magazine *The Barnes Review*.

And on July 12, taking on one more enemy, he posted the latest of scores of essays on his Web site — the first of a multi-part series, "In Defense of Racism," that attacks blacks for their alleged intellectual inferiority.

# Southern Poverty Law Center



## Intelligence Files

### Edgar Steele

Date of Birth:  
1945  
Ideology:  
White Nationalist

Attorney and author Edgar Steele was a little-known Idaho lawyer until 2000, when he represented the neo-Nazi Aryan Nations after the group, its leader and several followers were sued by the Southern Poverty Law Center. Since losing that case (and penning a 2002 coming-out essay entitled, "It's the Jews, Stupid!!!"), Steele has become a regular on the anti-Semitic and racist circuit. Steele envisions a future race war in the U.S., with white Americans forced to retreat to the Northwest.

### In His Own Words

"To the Arabs, America and Israel are the same. In a very real sense, they are absolutely correct, of course. America is Jewish controlled now, at all levels. America IS the Jews. ... [The 9/11 attacks] happened because we have been taken over from within by people that see that the only way to remain in power is to conquer the rest of the world."

— From a 2001 essay on ConspiracyPenPal.com

"Without a pressure release valve, as open racism once provided, an explosion of epic proportions at some time in the future is guaranteed. There will be a race war, the initial skirmishes of which already are being fought in America's streets, that will bring an altogether new meaning to the concepts of race war and genocide, courtesy of those who claim to abhor racism."

— From Steele's 2004 book *Defensive Racism*

"We should not honor such a misbegotten individual as Michael [sic] King, Jr. Nor should we honor the nonexistent ideals that King supposedly has come to represent: equal opportunity, brotherhood and overcoming prejudice. ... If this must be MLK Day, then let those initials stand for what far too many American Negroes truly have become in an increasingly racially-divided and tense America: Marchin' Lootin' and Killin machines. Yep. Marchin' Lootin' Killin' Day."

— From a 2007 essay on ConspiracyPenPal.com

### Background

Attorney and author Edgar J. Steele was practicing law in the hinterlands of northern Idaho until 2000, when he was hired to defend the Aryan Nations against a lawsuit filed by the Southern Poverty Law Center on behalf of a woman and her son who were terrorized by the group's security guards. During the trial, Steele portrayed himself publicly as a champion of free speech who was not necessarily a racist or anti-Semite. And, in fact, he had no public association with right-wing extremism until the trial and its aftermath.

Steele graduated in 1967 from the University of Washington, going on to serve four years in the U.S. Coast Guard and commanding a radio-navigation station in the East China Sea during the Vietnam War. Steele then obtained a master's degree in business at the University of California at Berkeley. After working as a corporate accountant for several years, he switched career paths to law, graduating from UCLA law school in 1982. Steele then worked for a small law firm in San Francisco until relocating in the mid-1980s to Idaho, where he went into private practice. He would later contend that a Jewish lawyer who once worked for him and tried to steal his clients was the principal "trigger" for his realization that Jews are "predatory."

Although he lost the Aryan Nations case, Steele's spirited defense of the group made him a minor celebrity on the radical right. In a late 2000 interview published in *Resistance*, a neo-Nazi magazine published by the National Alliance, Steele suggested that the FBI had stacked the deck against the Aryan Nations by purposely failing to find an important witness. In an essay entitled "The Conspiracy Grows Ever Larger" published two years later, Steele accused the judge in the case of unfairly refusing to allow him to present evidence, suggesting that it was an example of how "[j]udges and lawyers actively use existing rules and laws, or simply make it up as they go along, in furthering the leftist agenda, particularly when it comes to keeping the spotlight off things they don't want you to know."

In 2001, Steele represented fellow Sagle, Idaho, resident JoAnn McGuckin in her child-custody battle with local officials following a five-day armed standoff at McGuckin's rural home that was quickly dramatized by the dwindling militia movement as a battle against oppressive government. (The standoff, which ended peacefully, began when her children sicced dogs on police officers attempting to take them into protective custody due to their squalid living conditions).

Subsequently dubbing himself "The Attorney for the Damned," Steele became ever more virulent in his writings. Still, as late as September 2001, Steele was writing on his website that "the vast majority of American Jews are fine people," some of whom were his "friends." But his Oct. 7, 2002, essay, "It's the Jews, Stupid!!!" put an end to any question about his anti-Semitism. Around this time, Steele also began publishing essays on extremist websites that suggested that the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing was the result of a government conspiracy.

In 2002, Steele filed an amicus brief on behalf of the Council of Conservative Citizens in the hate group's lawsuit challenging a Virginia law that banned public cross burnings. The next year, he spoke at the annual conference of the Holocaust-denial magazine *The Barnes Review* as well as to the 10-year anniversary celebration of *Media Bypass*, a publication then owned by adherents of the anti-Semitic Christian Identity theology. Steele also spoke at former Klan leader David Duke's 2004 European-American Unity and Rights Organization conference and at Aryanfest 2005, where he verbally attacked blacks in South Africa.

In 2003, Steele launched a new website, DefensiveRacism.com, to publish a series of essays collectively titled "In Defense of Racism." Those essays formed the basis for Steele's 2004 book *Defensive Racism: An Unapologetic Examination of Racial Differences*, which details Steele's vision of a coming race war and ultimate destruction of American society. According to his apocalyptic fears, the race war will begin with the takeover of the southwestern United States by Latinos. "Aztlan's border will stretch from the Pacific coastline across northern California, bisecting Nevada and Utah," Steele writes. "The southwestern portion of Colorado will be included, along with much of Oklahoma and Western Texas. Arizona and New Mexico will go entirely, of course." And in the South, "[b]lacks simply will up the already-simmering race war to a full boil" and eventually create a "New Africa."

According to his website, Steele lives with his wife of some two decades and their three children on a working horse ranch. In 2006, he began to offer his website's readers financial advice in view of what he says is the coming meltdown of the American economy.

In 2009, Steele predicted more domestic terrorism in the wake of the shooting at the Holocaust Memorial Museum of a security guard by neo-Nazi James von Brunn. "Why did Von Brunn choose to unload at the National Holocaust Museum?" Steele asked. "Because it is an edifice to one of the most stupendous lies of modern times, paid for and maintained with taxpayer dollars, that's why." He added: "Make no mistake. Today's was no isolated incident. You will see more and more shootouts like what took place in Washington, D.C., this morning, until America begins to listen to all her citizens and accords all her children an equal voice in her affairs."

# Southern Poverty Law Center



## Intelligence Files

### Edgar Steele

Date of Birth:  
1945  
Ideology:  
White Nationalist

Update: after June 11, 2010, the following new section was added to the pre-arrest article:

#### **Criminal History**

On June 11, 2010, Steele was arrested and charged with trying to pay someone to murder his wife of 25 years and her mother. A witness said Steele offered to pay as much as \$125,000 for the job.

Update: also added to the article under the section marked **Background** the following appears:

On June 11, 2010, Steel was arrested and charged with trying to pay a confidential witness to murder his wife of a quarter century and her mother. Steele tried to pay the witness to carry out the killings on that day, when he had an alibi, according to a probable cause affidavit. The women were allegedly to be killed in a car crash the witness would arrange. The witness, after informing authorities a few days before the arrest that the plan was about to be put in motion, was sent to a meeting with Steele wearing a recording device. Authorities said they had recordings of Steele discussing details of the planned murders. "Edgar Steele told [the witness] that he has no second thoughts and he wants the plan carried out," the affidavit said. "This statement was made multiple times during the meet."

Steele had allegedly been talking to the witness about the murders for six months, and paid the witness \$500 travel money in advance. He also allegedly mentioned other people he wanted dead.

The witness told the FBI that Steele had promised up to \$25,000 to carry out the murders, adding that the attorney said he would furnish another \$100,000 if an insurance policy on his wife paid out. Steele also allegedly said that if the witness were caught, Steele would take care of the witness' family in return for silence. No motive for the alleged plot was made public.



## Southern Poverty Law Center Intelligence Files

### ***Idaho 'Attorney for the Damned' Arrested in Plot to Murder Wife***

Posted in Anti-Semitic, Extremist Crime by Mark Potok on June 14, 2010

Many people thought Edgar Steele went off the deep end in 2002, when, after unsuccessfully defending the neo-Nazi Aryan Nations and its late leader in a lawsuit, he wrote the coming-out essay, "It's the Jews, Stupid!" After all, the man had spent most of his life up to that point as an obscure corporate accountant and, later, a small-time lawyer in California and then Idaho. Now, he began to describe himself as the "attorney for the damned," rail on about "predatory" Jews, accuse the government of a 9/11 conspiracy, and predict a bloody race war.

But that may not have been the half of it. Today, Steele is expected to appear at a preliminary hearing in Idaho after being arrested Friday and charged with trying to pay a confidential witness to murder his wife of a quarter century — the mother of his three children — and her mother. Steele, 64, tried to pay the witness to carry out the killings on Friday, when he had an alibi, according to a probable cause affidavit. The *Idaho Statesman* also reports that Steele had allegedly been talking to the witness — and paid \$500 travel money in advance — about the murders for six months. He also allegedly mentioned other people he wanted dead.

The witness told the FBI that Steele had promised up to \$25,000 to carry out the murders, adding that the attorney said he would furnish another \$100,000 if an insurance policy on his wife paid out. Steele also allegedly said that if the witness were caught, Steele would take care of the witness' family in return for silence.

No motive for the plot was revealed. A prosecutor said she believed the couple were still married and not separated. There seems to have been no public indication of anger on Steele's part toward his wife. "My wife and my kids — *they are my rock*," he wrote in an otherwise bloody-minded, July 29, 2006, essay. (In the same essay, he bemoans the fact that his own father "believ[es] that I am a nut case.")

According to the affidavit, the women were to be killed in a car crash the witness would arrange. The witness, after informing authorities last week that the plan was to be put in motion Friday, was sent to a meeting with Steele wearing a recording device. Authorities said they had recordings of Steele discussing details of the planned murders. "Edgar Steele told [the witness] that he has no second thoughts and he wants the plan carried out," the affidavit said. "This statement was made multiple times during the meet."

Steele served in the Coast Guard, got a master's degree in business and was an accountant in San Francisco before changing careers and getting a law degree from the University of California, Los Angeles, law school in 1982. He moved in the mid-1980s to Idaho, where he worked in obscurity as a lawyer until taking the Aryan Nations case in 2000. The group was being sued by the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) on behalf of a woman and her son who were attacked by Aryan security guards, but Steele portrayed it as an attempt to crush free speech. A jury did not agree, however, and imposed a \$6.3 million judgment on the Aryan Nations and its leader, Richard Butler, who died four years later. The group subsequently dissolved into small, squabbling factions, becoming a shadow of its former self.

“We always thought that Edgar had a few screws loose,” said Richard Cohen, the president of SPLC and a lawyer who was part of the SPLC’s legal team in the case and came to know Steele. “But we never would have pegged him as a killer.”

Steele, who wrote the 2004 book *Defensive Racism*, seemed to grow more radical, and more conspiracy-oriented, as the years passed. But there was little to suggest that he was prepared to murder his own family members. He, did, however, have this to say in an April 1, 2008, essay: “Welcome to my mind. This is the way it works. As I told my wife before we got married: *I’ll make you two promises. First, I’ll never hit you. Second, it will never be boring.*”

<http://www.splcenter.org/blog/2010/06/14/idaho-attorney-edgar-steele-arrested/>  
URL: <http://www.splcenter.org/get-informed/intelligence-files/profiles/edgar-steele>



June 20, 2010 in Idaho

## Arrest puts Edgar Steele back in public eye

In years since Aryan Nations trial, attorney's influence felt mostly online

Meghann M. Cuniff The Spokesman-Review

He called himself "the attorney for the damned," has gained national attention for his work with high-profile clients and was a coveted speaker in the national racist movement for years.

Now in custody at the Spokane County Jail in a North Idaho murder-for-hire plot, Edgar J. Steele's emergence into the Federal Bureau of Investigation's cross hairs comes after a somewhat quiet few years spent mostly espousing his views on his website, ConspiracyPenPal.com.

"There hasn't been much going with Mr. Steele," said Christine Holbert, president of the Bonner County Human Rights Task Force, which monitors hate groups in the area. "He has not made many public statements lately."

Tags: **Aryan Nations** **Edgar Steele** **murder for hire**



Jesse Tinsley photo

**Attorney Edgar Steele, left, listens to Richard Masker after Steele testified on his behalf in a tax hearing in the Kootenai County Administration Building Tuesday, May 14, 2002. Masker, who with his wife Deon (right) live on disability, is facing the loss of his house for not paying taxes for more than three years. He is a white supremacist who has told friends he will shoot it out and commit suicide before being evicted.**

The 64-year-old's arrest is the latest twist in a life that came into the public eye little more than a decade ago. That's when Aryan Nations founder Richard Butler hired the Sandpoint attorney to defend the supremacist group from a lawsuit filed by the Southern Poverty Law Center on behalf of a woman and her son who were shot at outside Butler's Hayden Lake compound. Although Steele lost the court battle and the \$6.3 million jury award bankrupted the group and shut down the compound, he quickly rose to prominence in the extremist movement.

"The trial gave him a lot of clout in extremist circles because the Aryan Nations was such a revered group," said Marilyn Mayo, director of right-wing research at the Anti-Defamation League, a civil rights group that monitors anti-Semitism. "For a while, he rode on that wave."

Steele, who is licensed to practice law in Idaho and Washington, became a featured speaker at extremist events, including a gathering of Holocaust deniers in 2004, and wrote a self-published book that same year called "Defensive Racism," which he sells on the Internet. But his work has been largely focused on his website; the federal raid at his home June 11 came more than a year after his last major publicized speaking event.

The purpose of the raid – to gather evidence regarding an allegation that Steele paid a man to murder his wife and mother-in-law – shocked groups that have tracked him for years.

"He's been ranting, especially about the Jews, for some time ... but to see him accused of trying to blow up his wife and mother-in-law?" said Heidi Berich, director of the Southern Poverty Law Center, a nonprofit organization that tracks extremist groups and filed the 2000 lawsuit against the Aryans. She said while Steele didn't bring his wife to speaking events, he often wrote about her as his best friend. "We were in shock here," Berich said.

## Divorce petition dismissed

Edgar Steele served in the Coast Guard, got a master's degree in business and was an accountant in San Francisco before graduating from UCLA's law school in 1982. He married Cyndi Kunzman in San Mateo, Calif., in 1985.

The Steeles have owned a home on Talache Road, just east of Shepherd Lake, since 1996. It's currently valued at about \$364,000. They have two children, ages 22 and 20, and Edgar Steele adopted his wife's 28-year-old daughter from a previous marriage. Decade-old court documents show their marriage struggled.

Cyndi Steele, who operates a horse farm on the couple's property, filed for divorce in June 2000, alleging her husband "misrepresented his marital status and eligibility" in online dating profiles "with the sole intention of meeting women" in San Mateo, where he maintained a law office.

But the case was dismissed two months later and the couple remained married. In July of that same year, Steele took over defense in a civil lawsuit filed against the Aryan Nations by the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Though he lost the historic trial, Steele "stuck his neck out for Butler. In white supremacist circles, he's seen as a hero," Berich said.

Butler founded the Aryan Nations and was one of the country's most influential racists until his death in 2004.

When Steele took over the group's defense, he said it wasn't because he shared Butler's beliefs, but because he believed the case was about free speech. He sued The Spokesman-Review over an article he said implied otherwise.

The Idaho Supreme Court dismissed the lawsuit in 2003. By then, Steele had made his views clear. "It was after the Aryan Nations trial that Steele really became very open with his own anti-Semitic views," said Mayo, of the Anti-Defamation League.

## 'I'm not ashamed'

In 2004, Steele spoke at a Holocaust denial conference in Sacramento, Calif., saying the claim that 6 million Jews died in World War II at the hands of Adolf Hitler is based on "a pattern of lies." The conference was sponsored by the National Institute for Historical Review, an anti-Semitic group.

"I don't want to pull my punches anymore," Steele told the audience. "I'm not ashamed."

On his website, Steele says he devotes his "colorful and lively ranting" to "politically incorrect issues" and that he devotes his law practice to "cases that test the limits of constitutional law on behalf of politically incorrect clients."

Before the Aryan Nations trial, Steele worked on a controversial tabloid targeting some incumbents just before the 1998 elections in Bonner County. He was involved with several high-profile cases after the trial, including the case of a North Idaho family, the McGuckins, who used guns and dogs to guard themselves from authorities trying to take five children from the home in 2001. He also represented an Oregon couple accused of kidnapping three of their children from social workers at gunpoint and taking them to Montana.

"I have defended and provide legal advice to probably more of the politically incorrect than has any other attorney in America today," Steele said in a May 2009 essay available on his website. "Always, I have required that they be fundamentally decent people ... and always they must be innocent, regardless of how things might eventually turn out in court."

Steele's last major publicity came in 2005, when he appeared on national news talk shows defending two young girls in a music group called Prussian Blue, which promoted white supremacy.

His last speaking engagement was at a militia and Constitution convention in Georgia called the Jekyll Island Project in May 2009, but he “was a bit of an oddball in the sense that he was the only serious racist and anti-Semite,” said Berich, of the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Steele’s online writings say he planned to run for governor of Idaho in 2010 but was angry with the Constitution Party for rejecting him.

“He sort of progressively got angrier and more anti-Semitic over time,” Berich said. “I don’t know if he was starting to go off the rails with all this hatred. It seems like he was on a slippery, downhill slope after losing the trial.”

## **Murder plot investigation unfolds**

Steele’s law licenses in Oregon and California have expired, according to state bar records.

His last essay appeared on his website May 21; in it, he said he’d decided against running for Idaho governor.

At that same time, federal agents allege, he was plotting with a man to kill Cyndi Steele, 53, and her mother in a staged car accident he hoped would give him a hefty insurance payout. Employees at a Coeur d’Alene auto shop found a pipe bomb under Cyndi Steele’s SUV during an oil change on Tuesday.

According to court documents, Larry A. Fairfax, 49, told police he’d rigged the pipe bomb in such a way that it would malfunction; he said he was to put another pipe bomb on Edgar Steele’s car that wouldn’t detonate; then Steele would claim both he and his wife were targeted.

It’s been reported that Fairfax apparently tipped authorities to Steele’s alleged plot but didn’t tell them of the explosive he’d already planted. Fairfax, of Sagle, is due in U.S. District Court in Coeur d’Alene on Monday for a hearing to decide if he should remain in federal custody pending trial.

Steele’s motive for the alleged murder plot is unclear. His mother-in-law, reached at her home in Oregon City, Ore., declined to comment other than to say, “Please keep an open mind.”

Steele, who described himself as “frail” and “elderly” and said he’s had four surgeries in the past six months, including open heart surgery, vehemently denied the charge in his first court appearance Tuesday. He served as his own attorney and said he was worried he couldn’t afford private counsel because “the United States government seized our life savings” during the raid June 10.

Court documents allege Steele was to pay \$25,000 for the murders, then \$100,000 if an insurance claim paid out. FBI agents believe he already paid \$400 to cover travel expenses to Oregon City. Fairfax told police he’d already staked out the area.

Steele told an informant “to make sure that they were dead after the accident because Edgar Steele did not want to take care of a paraplegic” and promised to compensate the informant’s family if he got caught, according to an affidavit prepared by the FBI.

He’s been assigned a public defender and is due in court again on Tuesday to decide if he should remain in custody before trial, which is scheduled for August.

Steele unsuccessfully argued last week for his release, saying he’s not a flight risk and disputing an apparent claim in sealed bail review recommendations that his writings show he would flee prosecution.

He said his writings show just the opposite, that he will stand for what he believes in and respects “the American way.”

He called the case “a very emotional situation for me.”