



Steve Wagner

Executive Director, Justice For All

Author, *Common Ground Without Compromise*



Vitae

Positions and Experience

- Executive Director, Justice For All (2014-present)
- Director of Training, Justice For All (2009-2014)
- Bioethics Associate, Stand to Reason (2001-2008)
- Over 1000 hours of conversation with average Americans about abortion and worldview.

Publications

- *Common Ground Without Compromise: 25 Questions to Create Dialogue on Abortion* (published January 2008). Out of print. Free eBook version: www.commongroundbook.com
- "Abortion and Common Ground," in *Apologetics for a New Generation*, ed. Sean McDowell (Harvest House, 2009)
- *Apologetics Study Bible for Students* – 2017 (contributor)
- *Youth Apologetics Study Bible* – 2010 (contributor)
- Editor and principle author of *Abortion: From Debate to Dialogue - The Interactive Guide*, which in its various versions has been used to train thousands of pro-life advocates through JFA's seminar-and-outreach training program since 2005.

Debates, Film Appearances, and Presentation Highlights

- "Is Elective Abortion Wrong?" vs. Wayne L. Sumner, University of Toronto
- "Is Elective Abortion Wrong?" vs. Sara Waller, California State University Dominguez Hills
- Appeared in [Unborn in the USA](#)
- Spoke to 25,000 at the Cotton Bowl (Dallas, TX)
- Trainer pro-life students and participated in large-scale debate on over 60 college campuses

Praise from Academia

- Jon Shields (Professor of Government at Claremont McKenna College) gave Steve's work a positive review in two publications: a book entitled, *The Democratic Virtues of the Christian Right* (Princeton, 2009), and a peer-reviewed journal, *Society* (March 2006)

Education

- University of Southern California (*summa cum laude*)
- Studied philosophy at Talbot School of Theology, Biola University (La Mirada, CA)

Personal

- Steve resides with his wife Rebeccah (married in 2007) and five children in the Washington, D.C. area.
- A California native, Steve is the second of seven kids.
- In his spare time, Steve enjoys good coffee and conversation, marveling at the improvisations of his kids, writing songs, living in community, and thinking of ways to surprise people.

More Info: www.jfaweb.org | www.hbmm.net | @steve.wagner (FB) | @stephenmwagner (IG/T)
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Sample Introduction 1

Our speaker today is the Executive Director of Justice For All (JFA). In full-time pro-life work since 2002, he has spent over 1000 hours interacting with abortion-choice advocates on 60 university campuses in the United States and Canada.

Our speaker's passion is helping people learn to love the woman, the child, and the abortion-choice advocate equally at every moment of every conversation.

He is the author of *Common Ground Without Compromise: 25 Questions to Create Dialogue on Abortion*, and he has also contributed articles to other books. (See www.jfaweb.org to download his book for free.). Prior to his work at JFA, he served as a speaker at Stand to Reason (www.str.org). A native Californian, our speaker now resides with his wife, Rebeccah, and their five children in the Washington, D.C. area. In his spare time, our speaker enjoys good coffee, good conversation, the antics of his kids, writing songs, and thinking of ways to surprise people.

Please help me welcome Steve Wagner.

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Sample Introduction 2

Our speaker today is the Executive Director at Justice For All, an organization that trains thousands to make abortion unthinkable for millions, one person at a time. He has spent over 1000 hours interacting with supporters of legal abortion on more than 60 university campuses in the United States and Canada including UCLA, the University of Colorado at Boulder, the University of Missouri at Columbia, the University of Texas at Austin, Arizona State University, Texas A & M University, Metropolitan State University of Denver, and Yale University. Frustrated by shallow stereotypes and disrespectful activism, he passionately works to build common ground in the seemingly endless abortion debate and make a reasonable and clear case for the pro-life position. He has debated professors at the University of Toronto and California State University and regularly trained students at the Focus Leadership Institute at Focus on the Family for seven years. He's the author of *Common Ground Without Compromise: 25 Questions to Create Dialogue on Abortion* (2008) and he's contributed to *Apologetics for a New Generation* (2009) and the *Apologetics Study Bible for Students* (2017). A native Californian, our speaker now resides with his wife, Rebecca, and their five children in the Washington, D.C. area. Please join me in welcoming, Steve Wagner

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List of College Communities in which Steve Has Spoken, Debated, or Conducted Outreach

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. AL – Auburn Univ. (Auburn) | 32. KS – Sterling College (Sterling)** |
| 2. AZ – Arizona State University (Tempe) | 33. KS – Kansas State University |
| 3. AZ – Univ. of Arizona (Tucson) | 34. KS – University of Kansas (Lawrence) |
| 4. CA – UCLA | 35. KS – Pittsburg State University (Pittsburg) |
| 5. CA – UC Santa Barbara | 36. KY – Univ. of Louisville |
| 6. CA – UC San Diego | 37. KY – Univ. of Kentucky (Lexington, KY) |
| 7. CA – Cal. Polytechnic Univ., San Luis Obispo | 38. LA – Louisiana State Univ. (Baton Rouge)* |
| 8. CA – Pasadena City College | 39. MD – Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore) |
| 9. CA – Cal State Northridge* | 40. MN – Univ. of Minnesota (Minneapolis, MN) |
| 10. CA – Chapman Univ. (Orange)** | 41. MO – Univ. of Missouri (Columbia) |
| 11. CA – Cal. State Univ. Los Angeles** | 42. MO – UMKC Medical School (Kansas City)* |
| 12. CA – Cal. State Univ. Dominguez Hills** | 43. NC – North Carolina State Univ. (Raleigh)* |
| 13. CA – Cal. State Univ. Long Beach** | 44. NC – Univ. of North Carolina at Chapel Hill |
| 14. CA – Cal. State Univ. Fresno* | 45. NE – University of Nebraska (Lincoln) |
| 15. CA – Fresno City College* | 46. NM – Univ. of New Mexico (Albuquerque) |
| 16. CO – Colorado State Univ. (Fort Collins) | 47. NM – New Mexico State Univ. (Las Cruces) |
| 17. CO – Focus on the Family Institute / Focus Leadership Institute (Colorado Springs, CO)** | 48. NV – Univ. of Nevada at Las Vegas |
| 18. CO – Colorado Christian Univ. (Denver)** | 49. OK – Univ. of Central Oklahoma (Edmond) |
| 19. CO – Fort Lewis College (Durango)* | 50. OK – Oklahoma State Univ. (Stillwater) |
| 20. CO – Univ. of Northern Colorado (Greeley) | 51. OK – University of Oklahoma (Norman)* |
| 21. CO – Univ. of Colorado at Colorado Springs | 52. OR – Oregon State University (Corvallis) |
| 22. CO – Metropolitan State Univ. of Denver | 53. PA – Grove City College (Grove City)** |
| 23. CO – Univ. of Colorado at Boulder | 54. TX – Univ. of Texas at Austin |
| 24. CT – Yale University | 55. TX – Univ. of Texas at San Antonio |
| 25. GA – Univ. of Georgia (Athens) | 56. TX – Univ. of Texas at Dallas* |
| 26. GA – Georgia State University* | 57. TX – Texas A and M |
| 27. GA – Kennesaw State University (Kennesaw) | 58. TX – Univ. of North Texas (Denton) |
| 28. IL – Wheaton College (Wheaton)** | 59. TX – University of Dallas** |
| 29. IN – Purdue University | 60. TX – Univ. of Texas, El Paso** |
| 30. KS – Benedictine College | 61. VA – George Mason University (Fairfax)* |
| 31. KS – Wichita State University | 62. WA – Gonzaga Univ. (Spokane)** |
| | 63. Ontario, Canada – Univ. of Toronto** |

* denotes conducted free speech outreach only

**denotes public presentations or public debates only

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Standard Short Bio for Marketing Materials

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Comments on Steve's Work (Selected)

"Steve [regularly lectures at Focus on the Family Institute and]...has not only taught, but demonstrated how to engage others in the abortion debate with a great mix of using the mind and heart in conjunction with one another...Steve understands what it takes to speak Truth to a hurting culture."

– Chris Leland, Focus on the Family Institute

"The guy is making perfect sense...He's an articulate, intelligent, calm presence. Suddenly, a chill creeps up your spine: I hope there are people on the pro-choice side who are equally perceptive and balanced."

– Nerve Magazine (an online adult magazine that's no friend to pro-life advocates), referring to Steve's work featured in *Unborn in the USA*, a 2007 documentary

"If I were to get more involved in the pro-life cause I'd tend to use Mr. Wagner's approach as training wheels... Steve Wagner said that he would teach us strictly secular arguments. I think this approach is crucial. When many pro-choice people hear any trace of religious beliefs, it effectively undermines the pro-life case. I am actually an atheist, which puts me in the minority of this country's pro-life population. I like Steve Wagner's approach because, even though he said he believes Christianity, he can demonstrate that one should agree with pro-lifers even without religious assumptions. There are ethical assumptions needed, but they are minimal and not widely rejected."

- Chris, Atheist, College Student

"I am writing in connection to Stephen Wagner's visit to my Introduction to Ethics class. I asked Steve to present the strongest case he could in favor of the "pro-life" position in the abortion debate, and he did just that. He gave an intelligent and lively talk; I would be glad to have him back again. I was especially impressed that Steve addressed – with the seriousness they deserve – Peter Singer's arguments about abortion. Instead of retreating into the mindless platitudes that are all too familiar in the abortion debate, Steve argued that Singer's arguments fail on their own terms and have unsavory consequences. This is the kind of sophistication appropriate for philosophy classes. I think all my students benefited from seeing a person who is so clearly committed to the truth of some ethical point of view – even those who, like myself, ultimately disagree with his position. Too often, ethics is an abstract pursuit. Steve's talk brought home to all of us just how real and how important these issues are."

- Jeffrey Moriarty, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Philosophy, California State University, Long Beach

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Comments on Steve's Book

"Steve Wagner has made a great contribution to breaking the logjam in the discussion of abortion. These discussions often end up as posturing or shouting matches because there is no common place to begin. Steve has identified places of common ground from which to proceed—this has the chance to actually make some headway in these difficult and emotional discussions. I commend this book for those who want to engage the discussion seriously."

- Scott B. Rae, Ph.D., Professor and Chair, Department of Philosophy, Talbot School of Theology, Biola University

"Both sides of the abortion debate claim to be defending the dignity of persons. Unfortunately, while quarrelling with each other they sometimes neglect to consider the dignity of the person with whom they are disagreeing. Steve Wagner's book, *Common Ground Without Compromise*, is an antidote to this. He offers to his readers a template on how one may go about discussing the abortion issue with firm conviction while at the same time exhibiting charity. This is a fine piece of work."

- Francis J. Beckwith, Associate Professor of Philosophy & Church-State Studies, Baylor University

"Steve Wagner has mastered the art of pro-life communication and I can't think of anyone better suited to winsomely engage hostile critics. He's a tough-minded thinker with a gracious attitude, one who charms rather than repels. I commend Steve to you without reservation. Indeed, to the extent you trust my pro-life work trust his. And please, don't just read this book. Consume it. Lives will be saved because you did."

- Scott Klusendorf, President, Life Training Institute (www.prolifetraining.com)
and author of *The Case for Life* (Crossway, 2009), which features Steve's training material

"Some books are well-timed. Stephen Wagner's *Common Ground Without Compromise: 25 Questions to Create Dialogue on Abortion* (Stand to Reason, 2008) should help many pro-lifers achieve the progress possible in a tough political environment: Transformations of heart and mind can save many lives now and create opportunities for when the political pendulum swings back."

- Marvin Olasky, "Abortion Treadmill," *World Magazine*, January 17, 2009

"Simply put, this book is brilliant. I've seen it work in person. It definitely makes for a more 'Christian' discussion, as opposed to screaming at people or waving bibles in their faces. Anyone who doubts the approach should consider the results of those that use it. This book has helped me go to the next level in establishing common ground with even the most extreme pro-choice advocate."

- Josh Brahm, President, Equal Rights Institute (www.equalrightsinstitute.com)

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