

# THE BRIEF

## FROM THE DESK OF GABE CONGER

Dear Friends,

C.S. Lewis coined the term “chronological snobbery” to describe the tendency of “experts” to dismiss long-held ideas that no longer suit them. With characteristic wit and wisdom, the creator of Narnia challenged the self-appointed authority who dismisses as “out of date” those ideas and practices that served society well for generations:

*You must find out why it went out of date. Was it ever refuted (and if so by whom, where, and how conclusively), or did it merely die away as fashions do? If the latter, this tells us nothing about its truth or falsehood.*

Humility, knowledge, and experience are the stuff of wisdom—both practical and theoretical. Taking the long view allows the wise person—always a student—to test new and old ideas alike, to defend unfashionable truths, and to guide today’s bold and often impatient creators.

Each of the 2024 Bradley Prize recipients—William Barclay Allen, Jay Bhattacharya, and Samuel Gregg—have earned our esteem for their long-view thinking and boldness in standing up to nonsense that happens to be in vogue—whether it be anti-American historical revisionism, government medical misinformation and censorship, or the authoritarian economic policy that now finds champions even among conservatives. These honorees have taken arrows for standing for the truth and opening up room, especially in an election year, for wider debate and saner policy.

It can be easy in the cacophony of national election season to forget the long view exemplified in their work and in the Impact Fund’s mission. Thank you for supporting our shared mission and our partners who, alongside these heroes, are restoring, strengthening, and protecting America’s founding principles and institutions.

Onward.



Gabe Conger  
President, Bradley Impact Fund



### DID YOU KNOW?

**The Great Barrington Declaration**—published by Impact Fund partner AIER and written by Dr. Jay Bhattacharya, Stanford; Dr. Sunetra Gupta, Oxford; and Dr. Martin Kulldorff, Harvard—has garnered **940,427 total signatures** as of September 16, 2024, including **47,748 medical practitioners** and **16,140 medical and public health scientists**.

“This proposal [Great Barrington Declaration] from the three fringe epidemiologists... seems to be getting a lot of attention... There needs to be a quick and devastating published take down of its premises. Is it underway?”  
- Francis Collins, Director of the NIH, on October 8, 2020 to Anthony Fauci, Director of NIAID.



## BRADLEY PRIZES

*“The Bradley Foundation is proud to honor distinguished individuals whose extraordinary talents have influenced American scholarship and debate. The Prizes recognize the achievements of recipients and celebrates the belief that freedom leads to greater opportunity, prosperity, and quality of life.”*

— RICHARD GRABER  
President and CEO  
The Bradley Foundation



Stanford University Professor Dr. Jay Bhattacharya may not be a household name. But he should be. His increasingly vindicated work on the epidemiology of COVID and policy responses to the epidemic made him a target for personal and professional attack by elites who did not want their policy advice called into question. As a co-author of the Great Barrington Declaration, Dr. Bhattacharya and two eminent colleagues called early on for authorities to rethink lockdown strategies that were already doing more harm than good. The declaration would eventually be signed by tens of thousands of medical professionals and scientists and would be censored on social media.

Having survived a wave of public attack and censorship orchestrated by the highest public health authorities, Dr. Bhattacharya now has a platform, and he is using it. “Jay is a visionary who stands for the integrity of scientific debate and the promotion of sound public policy,” said Bradley Foundation president Rick Graber. “During the most challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic, he defended Americans’ abilities to make informed choices in the face of immense pressure. He did not conform to the prevailing orthodoxies about aspects of the pandemic that we now know were often fostered without full access to or analysis of data. Jay’s relentless pursuit of scientific freedom has benefitted millions.”



For his part, Dr. Bhattacharya dedicated his award to “many brilliant scientists, politicians, public servants, teachers, lawyers, firefighters, small business owners, CEOs, and people from every walk of life who risked their jobs, their reputations, or their family bliss to oppose COVID tyranny.”

Tyranny may seem like too strong a word for some, especially since our elites have decided that it’s time to put the excesses of the pandemic behind us. A few of those most responsible for the censoring of opposing views and extended lockdowns have released “mistakes were made”-type statements, hoping that we can all just move on. But Dr. Bhattacharya is better qualified than most to level the charge and continue fighting for accountability from our public health leaders and institutions.

Once the Great Barrington Declaration started gaining traction in the media in October 2020, National Institutes of Health director Francis Collins labeled Dr. Bhattacharya and his co-authors “fringe epidemiologists” in *The Washington Post*. Our friends at AIER, who published the Declaration and helped lead the charge against lockdowns, summarized what happened next:

*The Director of the National Institutes of Health [Francis Collins] all but ordered the Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases [Anthony Fauci] to put together a smear campaign aimed at [the GBD authors], each from an elite institution (Harvard, Stanford, and Oxford if you are keeping track at home), who were simply going where the science took them.*

Among the consequences of the campaign against inconvenient science and scientists were the further extension of destructive lockdowns, widespread censorship of Dr. Bhattacharya and other critics

of the pandemic strategy, and a collapse in confidence in “science” itself according to some polls. This newly-recognized champion of free expression is committed to the fight for freedom and accountability, since, as he concluded in his Bradley Prize address:

*The whole scientific community and the public need to understand the stakes, because I do not believe the suppression of scientific ideas and debate will die with the pandemic.*

An old friend of the Bradley Impact Fund community, Dr. Samuel Gregg has written seventeen books and more than 700 essays, articles, reviews, and opinion pieces on politics, Western civilization, classical liberalism, and natural law theory.

Speaking for many in the Bradley Foundation community, Mr. Graber credited Dr. Gregg with contributing “immensely to the defense of free enterprise, particularly at a time when it is being significantly challenged. Sam’s work reflects the values of the Foundation’s namesakes, who were unquestionably committed to ensuring that future generations have the ability to innovate and grow a business, just as they did.”

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In his remarks, Dr. Gregg traced his own intellectual mission back to Adam Smith, F.A. Hayek, and Michael Novak, reminding those present at the awards ceremony that:

*[K]ey Founders believed that America's future was to be one in which dynamic trade, entrepreneurial spiritedness, and commercial audacity would define society—not aristocratic priorities. The 'republic' side of the equation was that these market freedoms would be grounded upon institutions and virtues derived from those same classical, religious, and Enlightenment sources: virtues that don't just grease the wheels of commerce, but which, as Adam Smith wrote, are nothing less than 'excellence, something uncommonly great and beautiful.'*

Noting how far today's America has drifted from the great ideas upon which America is founded, Dr. Gregg surveyed the territory.

*Our fiscal house is a shambles. Our economy is riddled with regulation, welfarism, bureaucracy, and cronyism. And those who Adam Smith called "men of system" have emerged across the political spectrum to demand even more power to direct that economy from the top-down. From left to right, interventionist hubris is in, and economic humility is out.*

Demonstrating the sober optimism that characterizes the Bradley Foundation community, Dr. Gregg counseled against despair: "Bad ideas are powerful, but good ideas are difficult to keep down. Good ideas, however, need good people with the courage to articulate them. . ." Indeed, he believes that the age of America's (as inscribed on our Great Seal) *Novus ordo seclorum* "remains within our grasp, if only we have the imagination

and the courage to embrace the right ideas that will make it so."

Eminent scholar, historian, and author William Barclay Allen's commitment to liberal education and public service began with a college job of selling the Great Books; continued with his many national appointments, including serving on the National Council for the Humanities and the United States Commission on Civil Rights; and endured through his decades of leadership and service in academia. His scholarly career is one of astounding breadth and impact, as Mr. Graber noted in his introduction:

*William has contributed deeply to scholarship on the American founders and the revered constitutional republic they created. His life's work has helped sustain and advance our understanding of the cherished ideals that underscore our freedom. At a time when the need to pass on those ideals to future generations has taken on greater urgency, William continues to influence and shape young minds.*





True to form, Dr. Allen challenged those in attendance to give credit where it's due when it comes to forming America's national character:

*While our nation boasts a long succession of heroes, it remains the curious fact that it does not receive its dynamic thrust from its heroes. The dynamic thrust of the United States derives from those ordinary souls whose extraordinary patience and self-confidence constitute the foundation of such longevity as we have enjoyed. This was manifested most dramatically in the great struggle to end the scourge of slavery, but it has been a recurrent theme from the origins of American civilization.*

Such social and historical humility is vital. But a

nation needs heroes, too. This is no less true today than it was at the founding. Honoring the likes of the 2024 Bradley Prize winners is an occasion to remember that such courage may be rare, but over the long run no nation can long survive without its heroes.

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## Adam Norris Andrzejewski

1969 – 2024

*Adam was devoted to bringing transparency to government. He walked away from business fifteen years ago with a singular idea: hold government accountable to the taxpayers it serves.*

## In Memoriam

It was a shock to hear that a collaborator and dear friend of the Bradley Impact Fund community, Adam Andrzejewski, died in late August at the age of fifty-five. A brilliant entrepreneur, patriot, and friend, some years ago, Adam noticed problems with his local school district and brought his financial acumen to bear to hold them accountable for their spending.

Turns out he had a thing for it. A few years later, he found himself fighting for transparency at the national level, even starting “a revolution in fiscal transparency” (Roger Kimball) by making the organization he founded, Open The Books, the publisher of the largest private database of US government spending in the world.

Grounded in his faith, friendships, and his famous work ethic, Adam stayed humble and focused even as he became a national media figure for breaking major stories on Anthony Fauci’s remarkable taxpayer-funded windfall, Kamala Harris’s sky-high staff turnover rate, and the Biden Administration’s squandering of more than a half-trillion of taxpayers’ dollars in the last three-plus years.



It takes a very special man to build such a powerful and effective organization—one that Impact Fund members have been quick to support. Indeed, it takes a man with an exceptional mind and a huge heart, both of which drove him to excel, for love of family, friends, his Open The Books colleagues, and his country. We're all better off for his bold leadership and his unwillingness to accept the status quo.

It's an understatement to say he'll be missed. Rest in peace, Adam.

A statement in memoriam from the Open The Books Board of Directors, Bruno Behrend, Jameson Campaigne, Chuck Chokel, Lisa Markham, Thomas W. Smith, and Dick Weiss:

*It is with tremendous sorrow we announce the passing of Adam Andrzejewski. We extend our deepest sympathies to his wife, Kerry, and his daughters.*

*Adam was devoted to bringing transparency to government. He walked away from business fifteen years ago with a singular idea: hold government accountable to the taxpayers it serves. He founded Open The Books to accomplish that task. He was a happy warrior. Under his leadership, Open The Books has become a highly respected well-known brand. His death is a loss not only to his family and his organization but the nation.*

*Adam's belief in the power of transparency to transform government and hold it accountable at every level is the driving force behind our work. His relentless pursuit of open records and forensic auditing has set new standards in the fight for government transparency.*

*Adam's dream was to spark a transparency revolution. The result of his leadership is a well-oiled machine that operates at enormous scale and efficiency, dedicated to posting 'every dime online,' in as close to real time as possible. The organization now generates tens of thousands of media mentions, and our work is cited in dozens of Congressional hearings, oversight letters, and bill introductions each year.*

*Guided by the dedicated team he built, Adam's vision will guide us forward and inform our work in the years to come. We are more dedicated than ever to helping taxpayers hold government officials to account for their spending in a way that honors both Adam and our honorary chairman, the late Senator Tom Coburn.*

#### LEARN MORE

Use the QR code to learn more about Open The Books' continuing work.

[OpenTheBooks.com](https://OpenTheBooks.com)



## TACKLING THE ADMINISTRATIVE STATE

**B**radley Impact Fund members know that America's gargantuan federal regulation regime hampers our national economy. But how bad is it, really?

Because of the Competitive Enterprise Institute, we know exactly how bad it is—and what can be done about it. According to CEI's 2024 Ten Thousand Commandments report, regulations cost every American household more than \$15,000 per year on average—more than food, clothing, education, or any other household expense except for housing. The total annual cost is \$2.1 trillion, almost as much as the \$2.3 trillion we pay in income tax.

Founded in 1984, CEI is America's leading advocate of regulatory reform on a wide range of policy issues. Fighting for less regulation, more freedom, and fairness for all, CEI's comprehensive approach turns policy proposals into concrete reforms through three strategic initiatives. And with the possibility of a new administration in November, now is the time to prepare to unleash America's economic power.



COMPETITIVE  
ENTERPRISE  
INSTITUTE

Enter CEI, whose research and analysis are cited thousands of times every year in major media outlets, relied upon by scholars and advocates, and used by members of Congress, executive branch officials, and other federal and state policymakers as the basis for reform actions and proposals. Leveraging its research to craft advocacy campaigns to persuade policymakers and transform public policy, CEI's experts meet regularly with federal and state legislators and staff, agency leaders, and administration officials, in addition to testifying at congressional and agency hearings and meetings and filing comments on proposed rules, guidance documents, and other agency proposals.

Finally, CEI goes directly after dubious statutes and onerous regulations through strategic litigation, winning precedent-setting rulings from the US Supreme Court and lower federal courts. As America's preeminent federal regulatory state watchdog, CEI has earned the support of many Bradley Impact Fund members who share their vision for an America freed to thrive without unnecessary government burdens, where property rights are secure and Americans are free to prosper.

### LEARN MORE

Use the QR code to learn more about CEI.

[cei.org](https://cei.org)







## INSTITUTE FOR THE AMERICAN WORKER

There was a time when being pro-worker meant being pro-union. No longer. For decades, a handful of special interests have dominated labor policy in Washington, DC and made public sector unions into major funders of far-left policies and candidates. Unfortunately, many of these unions now work harder to preserve their own power than they do fighting for their members.

This longstanding failure of unions to serve their members and foster economic growth is why Institute for the American Worker exists. With I4AW, US business and government leaders have a one-stop shop for the best resources on the most important labor policy debates facing our country. Launched in 2018 to educate key policy leaders and stakeholders in our nation's capital about critical issues in labor policy and advance free market principles, I4AW has very quickly established a reputation for impact:

“I4AW is a valuable and effective bridge between policy think tanks, grassroots activists, and stakeholders in Washington, DC. They bring these groups together to amplify our collective efforts and provide policymakers with the information they need to defend American workers and entrepreneurs.” - Drew Schneider, Director of Labor and Employment Policy, NAM

In just six years, Institute for the American Worker has reframed the narrative on labor policy in the

United States. As the only policy group dedicated entirely to labor law reform, they produce timely research for lawmakers while bringing together leading voices that have been in this fight for years to multiply their impact.

Bradley Impact Fund members who support US workers and are tired of seeing unions abuse their members' trust are helping I4AW scale its work. For example, pro-worker and pro-free-market members of Congress frequently turn to I4AW's Nomination Watch and Regulation Watch, two outlets that shed light on the shady backgrounds of both controversial nominees and rapidly-expanding labor regulations. Regularly consulted by congressional staff and media, both efforts have been instrumental in advancing pro-market labor reforms.

With today's relatively constitution-focused legal environment, carving out the greatest amount of freedom for workers and job creators alike could not be more urgent. For both the national economy and those who make it work, I4AW's leadership in labor reform has become essential.

### LEARN MORE

Use the QR code to learn more about I4AW.

[i4aw.org](http://i4aw.org)



GRANT  
RECIPIENT SPOTLIGHT:

## American Reformer



The American cultural revolution has forced leaders of Christian institutions to confront the fact that the ground has already shifted under their feet. Desperate calls to unity have become for many a signal that biblical principles must bow to political fashions. Strategies that worked in the past are ill-equipped for an environment in which every corner of American life is politicized. This mismatch creates strain and division within Christian institutions and makes them less effective in executing their Kingdom missions.

With three strategic initiatives, American Reformer is promoting a vigorous Christian response to the cultural challenges of our day, rooted in the rich tradition of Protestant social and political thought. By fostering a conversation with perspectives now dismissed by mainstream publications, *American Reformer Journal* equips evangelical Christians to confidently and forthrightly defend Scriptural truths and natural law in the face of widespread cultural capitulation.

Through its Reform Initiative, AR partners with leaders within Christian institutions who seek to reform and revitalize their institutions for the challenges of today. And through its Cotton Mather Fellowship, AR is preparing a network of young American Protestants with both the intellectual firepower and practical wisdom to bring biblically-

centered reform to existing institutions and those that need to be built for a moment such as this. With a formation in subjects such as Political Theology, Moral Order, Christian Civic Engagement, and American History, fellows hear directly from leading scholars and produce articles and research that are creating models for faithful, biblical leadership today.

Sadly, for many churches and once-vibrant Christian institutions, it's too late. Untold numbers of pastors, school presidents, and seminary professors were blindsided by the wave of anti-biblical, "social gospel" activism of the last several years, splitting congregations and ministry donor communities. Those left standing are awake but need intellectual and communal support. By equipping these leaders with the intellectual, strategic, and networking resources they need, American Reformer and its partners in the Bradley Impact Fund community are helping create more resilient, missional institutions built to flourish, whatever comes their way.

### LEARN MORE

Use the QR code to learn more about American Reformer.

[americanreformer.org](http://americanreformer.org)





GRANT  
RECIPIENT SPOTLIGHT:

# Moving Picture Institute



**Y**ou've heard the complaints.

*I wish Hollywood wasn't so woke! I'm tired of anti-American, anti-capitalist films made by people who benefit mightily from America's capitalist system. But the worst is when they wrap woke garbage in the franchises and stories we loved... or we used to love.*

As a member of the Bradley Impact Fund community, you probably sympathize with those whose favorite stories are being destroyed by the cultural iconoclasts who run Hollywood. But you're also impatient with mere complaining. *What can we do about it?*

The Moving Picture Institute (MPI) is answering that question in a powerful way. Through its core programs, MPI Original Films and the Rising Filmmaker Program, MPI is creating high-impact films designed to entertain, inspire, and educate audiences with captivating stories about human freedom. In 2023, MPI's *Pinball* and *Project Home* went from earning awards at film festivals to going live on dozens of streaming platforms in the US and abroad. And in a co-production partnership with Paramount's BET, MPI launched the award-winning feature *Kemba*, which the *New Yorker* said was "better than all ten of the 2023 nominees for best picture."

In other words, MPI is building the sane alternative to woke Hollywood right now, and for the long term. That's why Impact Fund members have shown particular interest in the MPI's Rising Filmmaker

*MPI is building the sane alternative to woke Hollywood right now, and for the long term.*

Program, a growing network of accomplished writers, directors, and creatives who have come together to recruit talent and provide career development and networking opportunities for promising talent.

All in all, 930 fellowships and 285 internships have gone to young film professionals through Rising Filmmaker, which is supported by Impact Fund donors. With nine films in production through the Rising Filmmaker Program, MPI Original Films continues to scale to meet the demand for more honest, hopeful, and challenging American stories with the highest, elite-award-winning production levels.

The response to Hollywood's embarrassingly bad, woke movies shouldn't be equally bad conservative movies: it should be great movies. With the backing of the Impact Fund, this Hollywood alternative is becoming more real every day.

**LEARN MORE**

Use the QR code to learn more about MPI.

[thempi.org](http://thempi.org)





# It is time to start thinking about your Year-End Contributions



Please follow the timing and instructions for contributions found at [www.bradleyimpactfund.org/give](http://www.bradleyimpactfund.org/give) to make contributions before year-end, especially if you intend to make any grants before then!

The deadline is 5:00 p.m. Central Time on Friday, December 20 for grant recommendations to be processed by year-end.

## Bradley Impact Fund's Core Principles

Constitutional Order | Free Markets | Civil Society | Informed Citizens | Donor Intent

## Bradley Impact Fund | Board of Directors and Officers

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