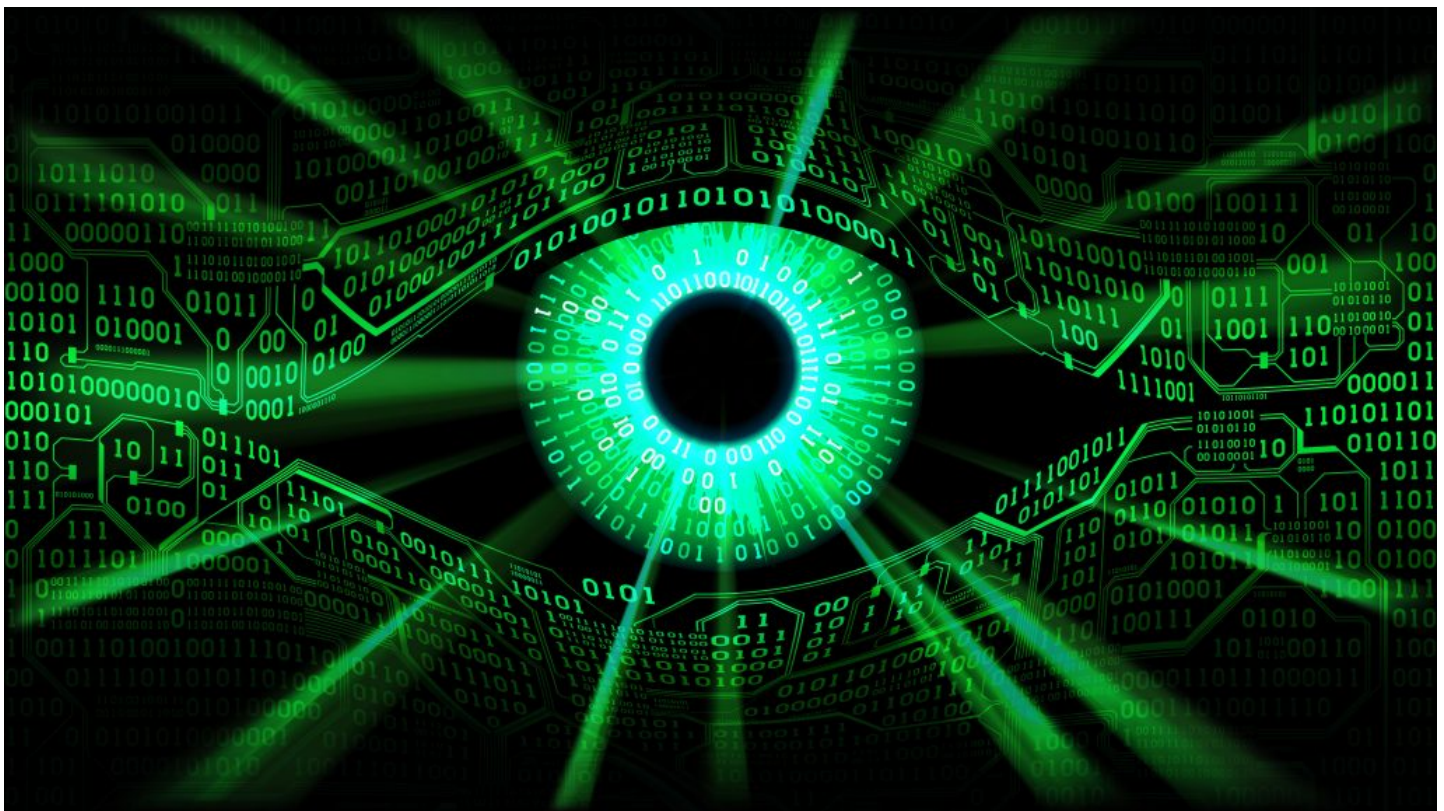




America First Legal Files Landmark Federal Class-Action Lawsuit Against Private Entities that Conspired With the Federal Government to Censor Speech

May 2, 2023



The “Election Integrity Partnership” and the “Virality Project” Surveilled 859 Million and Tracked 22 Million Posts as “Misinformation” on Twitter Alone



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Partnership” and the “Virality Project,” on behalf of Jill Hines, the co-Director of Health Freedom Louisiana, and Jim Hoft, the founder the popular news website *The Gateway Pundit*. Defendants include the Stanford Internet Observatory and its Director and Research Manager, Alex Stamos and Renée DiResta, Dr. Kate Starbird of the University of Washington, Graphika, and the Atlantic Research Council’s Digital Forensic Lab.

This historic lawsuit alleges that these parties conspired with the federal government to conduct a mass surveillance and censorship operation targeting the political speech of millions of Americans on social media platforms like Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter (under its prior ownership). This operation was specifically designed to target conservative political speech on questions of great public interest like election integrity, COVID-19 vaccines, and vaccine mandates.

The scope of the surveillance and censorship **cannot be overstated**. The Defendants **admitted** that during 2020, they surveilled a staggering 859 million posts on Twitter alone and that they tracked for possible censorship almost 22 million Tweets. Again, during seven months in 2021, they tracked posts about COVID-19 with about 200 million engagements for possible censorship. Americans who dared to speak out against the woke liberal orthodoxy that has infiltrated every sector of corporate America would face the threat of censorship and de-platforming by Big Tech giants and these elusive surveillance organizations acting together with the federal government.

AFL’s lawsuit alleges that this massive operation was concocted in collusion with government officials – including federal national security officials – to evade the First Amendment, all while shielding the government bureaucracy. *If proven, this is an overt, intentional, and explosive violation of the Constitution at the hands of the government.*

America First Legal has long led a fierce legal battle against the censorship and disinformation regime, **filing multiple lawsuits** and **dozens of oversight investigations** to hold bad actors and the **government** accountable for violating the First Amendment.

The crusade we see against free speech in America, seemingly every day, is fundamentally antithetical to the country that our Founders intended and rooted in a deep animosity toward the Constitution. The concept of a government “by the people, for the people” has been inverted – the federal bureaucracy is not operating for the



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Statement from America First Legal President Stephen Miller:

“Today, America First Legal is striking at the heart of the censorship-industrial complex for our clients. We are filing a landmark class action lawsuit against the organizers and architects of an elaborate conspiracy to surveil and censor Americans to stop them from exercising their fundamental right to free speech. To silence, banish, and deprive them of the means to earn a living.

These nonprofit “disinformation” organizations and the other defendants allegedly conspired with the government to deny Americans their inalienable rights, flagging content and creators for government entities so that those entities, in turn, would pressure platforms to remove that content or those creators. They created a regime of surveillance, censorship, and control fit for communist China.

Under the Orwellian guise of policing ‘mis’ and ‘disinformation,’ the organizations and entities we are suing today are responsible for radically eroding the rights and liberties upon which the survival of free society depends. We will fight to hold them liable in a court of law and seek full and complete justice for their victims. America First Legal will continue to lead the charge to rescue America from tyranny.” said Stephen Miller.

Read the lawsuit [here](#).

Follow us on social media for the latest updates on America First Legal’s fight to protect your constitutional rights!

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