

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA**

LARRY KLAYMAN

Plaintiff

v.

Case No:

HASAN DOĞAN PIKER
a/k/a "HASANABI,"

Defendant

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff LARRY KLAYMAN ("Plaintiff" or "Mr. Klayman") hereby files this Complaint against Defendant Hasan Doğan Piker a/k/a "HasanAbi" ("Defendant Piker") for reckless endangerment, assault, intentional infliction of emotional distress, and declaratory and injunctive relief. In support thereof, Plaintiff alleges as follows:

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. This is an action for damages in excess of \$50,000, exclusive of interest and costs and for injunctive and declaratory relief.

2. Venue for this action is properly in Palm Beach County, Florida, as Plaintiff is a citizen of Florida and a resident of Boca Raton in Palm Beach County. Thus, Mr. Klayman is at risk of serious bodily harm as a result of Defendant Piker's conduct in this judicial circuit, making Palm Beach an appropriate jurisdiction and venue for this matter. Defendant Piker broadcasts from Los Angeles County into this circuit. Plaintiff, a publicly identified Jewish Zionist who lives here, is in the class those broadcasts mark. Defendant Piker has been

supportive of and in league with terrorist and radical Islamic groups such as Hamas, the Muslim Brotherhood and the Counsel for American Islamic Relations (“CAIR”) and, on information and belief, these groups would carry out attacks as set forth herein. Not coincidentally, President Donald J. Trump—who Mr. Klayman has publicly supported—has his residence, Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach County is in this judicial circuit and he has been the target of at least two assassination attempts in Palm Beach County. Much of his family, who also have been threatened are Florida citizens reside in South Florida.

THE PARTIES

3. At all material times, Plaintiff Klayman has been an individual and citizen of Florida and a resident of Boca Raton, which is in Palm Beach County. He is a public-interest advocate and activist, the founder of Freedom Watch USA, Inc. and Judicial Watch, Inc and a Jewish American, Messianic Jew, and Zionist who has for decades supported Israel and litigated against antisemitism and terrorism. As a young lawyer he assisted in work related to Israel’s free-trade agreement with the United States. He has also brought actions against terrorist states who are bent on destroying Israel and killing all Jews, including Iran. These actions have been widely publicized in Florida, nationally and internationally. Mr. Klayman is widely known and a public figure. *See Exhibit 1* – Biography and Weekend Cover Story of The Washington Post. As set forth below, Defendant Piker has put a target on Plaintiff Klayman’s back particularly since Plaintiff Klayman has been more than highly critical of Defendant Piker in widely publicized podcasts and other media.

4. Defendant Piker is a resident of Los Angeles County, California, with a publicly listed mailing address of 8581 Santa Monica Blvd #71, West Hollywood, CA 90069. He broadcasts under the name “HasanAbi” from Los Angeles County, California, to a national

audience measured in the millions to haters of Jews and Christians, including into Palm Beach County.

STANDING

5. Plaintiff has standing to bring this action because he has been directly affected and victimized by the unlawful conduct complained of herein. His injuries are proximately related to the conduct of Defendant Piker.

6. Plaintiff's injury is not a generalized grievance shared equally by the public, but a concrete and particularized injury suffered in Plaintiff's capacity as a publicly identified high profile Messianic Jew, and Zionist activist. Defendant Piker's own words place American Jews who support Israel—and therefore especially Plaintiff—at likely risk of severe bodily injury or death. In practical effect, Defendant Piker has issued a fatwa against Jews who support Israel like Mr. Klayman. High profile pro-Israel Zionist activists like Plaintiff are at the very top of that list.

7. Plaintiff's reliance on his right to speak, litigate, and live as a messianic Jewish supporter of Israel without being marked as a target is reasonable.

8. Plaintiff also has standing to seek prospective injunctive relief because Defendant Piker's pattern continues and creates a real and immediate threat of recurring harm absent judicial intervention.

FACTS

9. Plaintiff is a Messianic, and Zionist activist who has spent decades supporting Israel and litigating against terrorism, including actions against terrorist states such as Iran which want to destroy Israel and kill all Jews.

10. Plaintiff has been very vocal on podcasts and television and radio about his pro-Israel stances and beliefs, most recently during the ongoing war with Iran.

11. Plaintiff has brought many cases against radical Islamic groups and individuals in his capacity as a pro-Israel public interest attorney and advocate and advocated many pro-Israel positions as well. This includes but is not limited to: (1) filing suit against the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Taliban, amongst others in *Strange v. Islamic Republic of Iran et al*, 1:14-cv-00435 (D.D.C.), (2) representing Laura Loomer in her lawsuit against the Council on American-Islamic Relations (“CAIR”) and others in *Illoominate Media Inc. et al v. CAIR Florida Inc. et al*, 9:19-cv-81179 (S.D. Fla.); (3) filing suit against Facebook and Mark Zuckerberg over their delay in removing a Facebook page for the “Third Palestinian Intifada” calling for Muslims to rise up and kill Jewish people in *Klayman v. Zuckerberg et al*, 1:11-cv-00874 (D.D.C.); (4) filing suit against so called Reverend Louis Farrakhan of the Nation of Islam and others after the 2016 mass shooting of Dallas police officers by Micah Johnson in *Pennie v. Farrakhan et al*, 3:16-cv-2010 (N.D. Tx.) and *Zamarripa v. Farrakhan et al*, 3:16-cv-3109 (N.D. Tx.); (5) suing the Islamic Council of North America over the construction of a mosque in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, (6) representing the Catholic Church regarding a mosque that was to be built in Bethlehem right across from Jesus’s manger and which was later built, and (7) meetings with the top advisor and later press secretary to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Mark Regev, to plan putting on a Hollywood tribute to Israel during the Obama administration; and (8) filing and suing to enjoin the construction of the so called “Ground Zero mosque” on behalf of a first responder, Vincent Forras who was seriously injured on September 11, 2001 and now takes 23 medications daily. *Forras v. Rauf*, 2012 NY Slip Op 32845 (Nov. 13, 2012). There are many more such cases that Mr. Klayman has filed. In short, Mr. Klayman is widely seen as a strong supporter of

Israel, an adversary of radical Islam and anti-Semitism and anti-Christianity, in addition to his legal and media activism. During his tenure at Judicial Watch, and due to his high profile notoriety, Mr. Klayman was featured as a semi-fictional character in NBC's drama series "West Wing." His thinly veiled character, Harry Klaypool, was played by Hollywood actor John Diehl.

12. Defendant Piker is a mass-audience political streamer who has repeatedly dehumanized Jews, praised Hamas over Israel, and told millions of viewers that American Jews who support Israel are "making antisemitism worse." Defendant Piker's statements have culminated in him calling for deadly violence against Jews such as Mr. Klayman during a recent streaming broadcast on August 20, 2026 received and heard in Palm Beach County, throughout Florida, nationally and internationally:

"If Jews in America keep putting this idea out there that they are singularly invested in Israel, eventually someone's going to come around and take action, not against the State of Israel, mind you, but against American Jews."

13. This case is not about abstract foreign-policy disagreement. It is about a sustained course of conduct that identifies American Jews who support Israel as the problem and calls for violence against them. Plaintiff is exactly that kind of Jew. He now reasonably fears for his life. He fears walking down the street. He fears sitting at an outdoor café, as just a few examples of the emotional distress that has been caused.

14. Specifically, recently and as late as August 20–21, 2026, during a multi-hour Twitch stream, Defendant Piker broadcast to his Jew and Christian hating audience:

"If Jews in America keep putting this idea out there that they are singularly invested in Israel, eventually someone's going to come around and take action, not against the State of Israel, mind you, but against American Jews."

15. This is more than a forecast. It is a call to violence against Jews, particularly high-profile Jews such as Mr. Klayman, to severely harm and/or kill them in the streets and elsewhere.

16. Defendant Piker's intent to incite deadly violence against Jews is shown through his long-standing pattern and practice of advocating radical Islam, anti-Semitism, anti-Christianity, anti-white race and violence. This was a call for his followers to carry out his deadly instructions.

17. Defendant Piker previously broadcast other deeply anti-Semitic and inciting violence during his widely publicized streams:

"I don't know how people don't recognize how dangerous this predicament is, how dangerous this is for Jews."

"You're running around basically tying your entire identity to a country that inevitably will be seen as Jewish ISIS and you're saying, as Jews, this is all we care about. You're making antisemitism worse."

18. Defendant Piker did not merely criticize a foreign government. He told a mass audience that American Jews who support Israel are inviting "action... against American Jews," called Israel "Jewish ISIS," and blamed those Jews for antisemitism.

19. Those words accused American Jews who support Israel of dual loyalty—of "tying [their] entire identity" to a foreign state—and declared that such Jews are "making antisemitism worse." Dual loyalty is an antisemitic trope: a recurring false narrative that Jews are secretly more loyal to a foreign people or state, in this case Israel, than to the country in which they live. Blood libel is the related antisemitic accusation that Jews are collectively guilty of hidden crimes against non-Jews and therefore deserve punishment. Defendant Piker used and

broadcast both. He portrayed Jews as disloyal, held them personally responsible for hostility directed at them, and thereby justified and called for violence against them. By labeling Israel a terrorist entity (“Jewish ISIS”) and placing personal blame on American Jews who support it, Defendant Piker shifted responsibility onto his Jewish targets.

20. In practical effect, this was a fatwa. Defendant Piker identified Jews who support Israel as the offending class and told a mass audience that “action” against American Jews would follow. Visible high profile Jewish Zionist advocates such as Plaintiff are at the top of that list.

21. This was not a stray remark. It was the latest statement in a years-long pattern of hate and call to action to harm Jews. Defendant Piker has repeatedly referred to Jews and supporters of Israel as “Zionist pigs” and “rabid ultra-Zionist pigs”; called ultra-Orthodox Jews “inbred”; labeled an anti-Hamas viewer a “bloodthirsty, violent pig-dog”; compared liberal Zionists to “liberal Nazis”; and described Zionism as a “racist ideology” and a “mental illness.”

22. As part of the same course of conduct, Defendant Piker has stated that “ Hamas is a thousand times better” than the Israeli state, stood by that comparison, and declared that he would “vote for Hamas over Israel every single time.”

23. He has minimized or dismissed the October 7 atrocities, including most egregiously in May of 2024 claiming that “it doesn’t matter if fucking rapes happened on October 9. Like that doesn’t change the dynamic for me....”

24. He has stated on his streams that Jews should “go back to Auschwitz.”

25. Defendant Piker has said on stream that, *“We’re gonna keep bringing in immigrants into this country on purpose just so they can fuck your sister and then maybe even your daughter. We’re gonna destroy the white race, bitch.”*

26. Defendant Piker has gone so far as to claim that “America deserved 9/11, dude. Fuck it, I’m saying it.”

27. Each prior dehumanizing statement made the August 2026 calls to violence more dangerous, not less. Defendant Piker did not warn Jews as a friend. He assigned them blame and called for violent action against them, which then occurred on his call to action.

28. Even the liberal Anti-Defamation League has documented Defendant Piker’s long record of rhetoric that sanitizes terrorism and spreads anti-Jewish tropes. ADL CEO Jonathan Greenblatt has stated that Defendant Piker has “a long track record of commending and excusing terrorism.” Representative Ritchie Torres has described Defendant Piker as a “poster child for the post October 7th outbreak of antisemitism in America.”

29. Defendant Piker delivers these statements to a large rabid Jew and Christian hating audience in real time. In the documented post-October 7 environment of rising antisemitic assaults, harassment, and threats in the United States, this pattern is directed toward producing a reality in this country in which violence against Jews who support Israel is treated as foreseeable or justified. That environment is not theoretical. On May 21, 2025, two Israeli Embassy staff members—Yaron Lischinsky and Sarah Milgrim—were shot and killed outside the Capital Jewish Museum in Washington, D.C. On June 1, 2025, Mohamed Sabry Soliman attacked a Run for Their Lives gathering in Boulder, Colorado, held to demand the release of hostages taken by Hamas. He threw Molotov cocktails and used a makeshift flamethrower, shouting “Free Palestine,” “End Zionist,” and “How many children killed.” Thirteen people were burned. Karen Diamond, eighty-two, a member of Congregation Bonai Shalom, died of those burns on June 25, 2025. Soliman later told police he targeted the group because he believed they were Zionists. On August 27, 2025, during all-school Mass at Annunciation Catholic Church in Minneapolis, a

gunman fired through the church windows into pews filled with children; Fletcher Merkel, eight, and Harper Moyski, ten, were killed. The FBI investigated the attack as a hate crime targeting Catholics. On March 12, 2026, Ayman Mohamad Ghazali rammed Temple Israel in West Bloomfield, Michigan—a synagogue with a preschool—and opened fire on security. One officer was injured. On July 23, 2026, Raul Morales was charged with two counts of attempted second-degree murder as a hate crime after stabbing a 57-year-old Asian man and a Jewish man in a kippah who had just left a New York synagogue. Prosecutors said he shouted “Allahu Akbar” and, near the synagogue, “Justice for Islam.” Defendant Piker’s August 20–21, 2026 stream was delivered after those attacks, after ADL CEO Jonathan Greenblatt had publicly condemned Defendant Piker’s record of commending and excusing terrorism, and after notice that the vocabulary Defendant Piker uses had already been identified as a call to violence. Plaintiff is a member of the same foreseeable victim class: Jews, synagogue-goers, and persons marked as Zionist or as standing with Israel.

30. Thus, given the long history of making statements inciting violence against Jews, Defendant Piker has now, in effect, issued a fatwa against Jewish persons, particularly with high profile Jewish individuals who have openly expressed their Zionist views – such as Mr. Klayman – as the targets in particular.

31. Defendant Piker is a supporter of and in league with individuals like Abdul El-Sayed, Mayor Zohran Mamdani, Congresswoman Ilhan Omar, and Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib and others who have espoused radical Islamic views and also foment violence against Jews and Christians. Defendant Piker was not a random celebrity who clicked “endorse.” He was a key surrogate who campaigned shoulder to shoulder with Abdul El-Sayed in the Michigan Democratic primary for United States Senate, supplying access to millions of young followers.

He interviewed Zohran Mamdani during the New York mayoral race, attended Mamdani's election-night party, and campaigned with El-Sayed. El-Sayed declined to disavow him. Those appearances place Defendant Piker inside the same political circuit as persons who raise money from, speak at, and take organizational support from channels connected to CAIR and Brotherhood-linked institutions, both designated terrorist organizations.

32. Defendant Piker is not acting alone in effect or purpose. He is acting in concert with anti-Jewish and anti-Christian terrorist groups. He supports Hamas, a designated foreign terrorist organization. His rhetoric tracks and advances the aims of Hamas, the Muslim Brotherhood, CAIR, ISIS, and like organizations that target Jews and Christians. There is no middle ground. Either one supports terrorist groups that murder Jews, or one does not. Defendant Piker has chosen his hate-filled side. That side is a network. Defendant Piker appears with and campaigns alongside persons who raise money from, speak for, and take organizational support from channels connected to CAIR and the Muslim Brotherhood. CAIR sits in documented proximity to Hamas. In 2008, a federal jury convicted the Holy Land Foundation of funneling approximately \$12.4 million to Hamas; a founding board member of CAIR's Texas chapter was sentenced to 65 years, and prosecutors listed CAIR as an unindicted co-conspirator. Direct payments from Defendant Piker to Hamas are not alleged. The pattern is enough: amplify the front, and the designated terrorist organization at the back of the web is the beneficiary. Hamas is also a proxy of Iran, which has threatened the President and his family—including Ivanka Trump, who converted to Judaism, and Jared Kushner—and has been linked to a reported plot against their Florida household. Defendant Piker broadcasts the same permission structure those enemies use: Hamas as moral peer, Jews who support Israel as the problem, and “action” against

American Jews as the result. Plaintiff, a publicly identified Jewish Zionist who has sued Iran and resides in this Circuit, is in that marked class.

33. As a direct result, Plaintiff, a publicly identified Jewish Zionist activist who has supported Israel and sued terrorist states, now reasonably fears imminent bodily injury or death. He fears walking down the street. He fears sitting at an outdoor café. He has suffered severe emotional distress.

34. This fear is supported by the numbers. 2025 was one of the most violent periods for American Jews, with physical assaults reaching record high levels and antisemitic attacks resulting in fatalities on American soil for the first time since 2022 and in Jewish fatalities for the first time since 2019, according to the Anti-Defamation League. In 2025 incidents against Jewish Americans involving a deadly weapon increased by an astounding 39%, evidencing the very real fear for their lives that Mr. Klayman and others have when simply stepping outside. Those statistics include the murders, burnings, synagogue ramming, and synagogue-area stabbings alleged in paragraph 29. Defendant Piker bears responsibility.

35. Defendant Piker has acted with knowledge of the reasonably foreseeable effects of this pattern and with reckless disregard for the safety and dignity of Jewish people who support Israel, and in particular Zionist Jewish activists such as Plaintiff.

First Cause of Action
Reckless Endangerment

36. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges each and every allegation in each of the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

37. Defendant Piker has engaged in the willful or wanton disregard for the safety of Mr. Klayman, who is a high-profile Jewish person and pro-Israel activist who has publicly supported Zionist principles and who is a proud Zionist.

38. Defendant Piker has engaged in the willful or wanton disregard for the safety of Mr. Klayman through inciting deadly violence against Jewish people during public streams or other public appearances.

39. Specifically, during an August 20, 2026 Twitch stream, Defendant Piker broadcast into this Circuit:

“If Jews in America keep putting this idea out there that they are singularly invested in Israel, eventually someone’s going to come around and take action, not against the State of Israel, mind you, but against American Jews.”

40. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant Piker’s conduct calling for action against American Jews who support Israel, Plaintiff now fears walking down the street and sitting at an outdoor café, among other causes for fear of his life.

41. As a direct and proximate result, Plaintiff has suffered damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

Second Cause of Action
Assault

42. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges each and every allegation in each of the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

43. Defendant Piker told a mass audience, including those in this Circuit, that someone would “take action... against American Jews.” Specifically, he stated:

“If Jews in America keep putting this idea out there that they are singularly invested in Israel, eventually someone’s going to come around and take action, not against the State of Israel, mind you, but against American Jews.”

44. By the pattern of speech alleged herein, including the August 2026 call that someone will “take action... against American Jews,” Defendant Piker intended to place Plaintiff in apprehension of imminent harmful or offensive contact.

45. As a direct and proximate result of the pattern of speech alleged herein, including the August 2026 call that someone will “take action... against American Jews,” Plaintiff was placed in immediate fear of bodily injury or death.

46. That fear is reasonable. Plaintiff is a high-profile Jewish Zionist advocate. Defendant Piker commands a mass audience. He called for action against American Jews who support Israel. Plaintiff now fears walking down the street and sitting at an outdoor café. As a direct and proximate result, Plaintiff has suffered damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

Third Cause of Action
Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress

47. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges each and every allegation in each of the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

48. The core of this count is the threat Defendant Piker communicated to a mass audience, including those in this Circuit, that someone would “take action... against American Jews.” Specifically, he stated:

“If Jews in America keep putting this idea out there that they are singularly invested in Israel, eventually someone’s going to come around and take action, not against the State of Israel, mind you, but against American Jews.”

49. That is a threat of violence against Plaintiff and Jews like him. The remainder of Defendant Piker's pattern—dehumanizing Jews, elevating Hamas, labeling Israel "Jewish ISIS," using the dual-loyalty trope and blood libel, and issuing in practical effect a fatwa—explains and intensifies that threat. The conduct is extreme and outrageous and exceeds all bounds of decency tolerated in a civilized community.

50. Defendant Piker intended to cause, or acted with reckless disregard of the probability of causing, severe emotional distress to Jewish Americans who publicly support Israel, including Plaintiff.

51. As a direct and proximate result, Plaintiff has suffered severe emotional distress, including a reasonable and continuing fear for his physical well-being and life, in an amount to be proven at trial.

Fourth Cause of Action **Declaratory and Injunctive Relief**

52. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges each and every allegation in each of the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

53. An actual controversy exists as to whether Defendant Piker's sustained pattern of speech constitutes unprotected incitement under *Brandenburg v. Ohio*, 395 U.S. 444 (1969). This is far worse than even yelling fire in a crowded theater, which is a crime.

54. The pattern is directed to inciting or producing imminent lawless action against Jews who support Israel and is likely to produce such action. It therefore falls outside First Amendment protection. Again, it is far worse and more dangerous than yelling fire in a crowded theater, which not coincidentally is a crime.

55. Plaintiff is entitled to a declaration that the statements and pattern alleged herein are unprotected, and to narrowly tailored injunctive relief prohibiting Defendant Piker from

continuing to publish statements that dehumanize Jewish supporters of Israel such as Mr. Klayman, praise or justify designated terrorist organizations that target them, or assert that such Jews invite violence against themselves, where such statements meet the *Brandenburg* standard.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment against Defendant as follows:

- a. Compensatory and actual damages to be determined at trial in an amount in excess of \$150,000,000 Dollars;
- b. At the appropriate time, according to Florida law, punitive damages sufficient to punish and deter;
- c. Declaratory relief declaring that Defendant Piker's pattern of speech alleged herein constitutes unprotected dangerous incitement;
- d. Prospective injunctive relief narrowly prohibiting Defendant Piker from publishing statements that dehumanize and threaten Jews such as Mr. Klayman who support Israel with obvious severe bodily injury or death while praising or justifying U.S.-designated foreign terrorist organizations that target them, or asserting that such Jews invite violence against themselves, where such statements are directed to inciting imminent lawless action and are likely to produce it and have produced it;
- e. Awarding Plaintiff his fees and costs;
- f. Referral to the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington, D.C., South Florida and Los Angeles, California; and
- g. Granting such further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

PLAINTIFF DEMANDS TRIAL BY JURY ON ALL CLAIMS SO TRIABLE.

Dated: September 10, 2026

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Larry Klayman
Larry Klayman, Esq.
Florida Bar. No. 246220
7050 W. Palmetto Park Rd
Boca Raton FL 33433
Telephone: 561-558-5336
Email: leklayman@gmail.com

PLAINTIFF PRO SE

EXHIBIT 1

ABOUT LARRY KLAYMAN

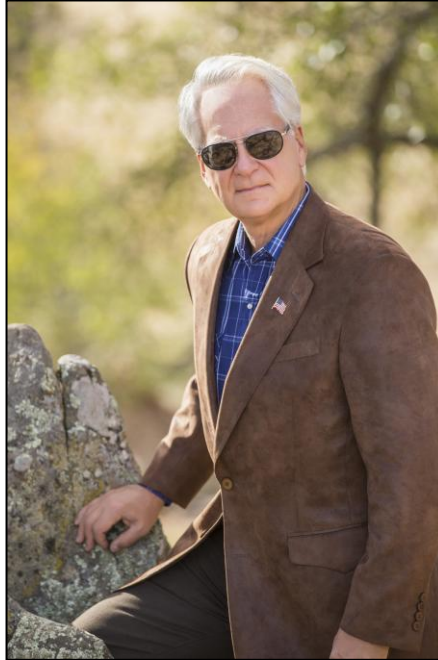
Larry Klayman, founder of Judicial Watch and Freedom Watch, is known for his strong public interest advocacy in furtherance of ethics in government and individual freedoms and liberties. During his tenure at Judicial Watch, he obtained a court ruling that Bill Clinton committed a crime, the first lawyer ever to have done so against an American president. Larry became so famous for fighting corruption in the government and the legal profession that the NBC hit drama series "West Wing" created a character after him: [Harry Klaypool of Freedom Watch](#). His character was played by actor John Diehl.

In 2004, Larry ran for the U.S. Senate as a Republican in Florida's primary. After the race ended, he founded Freedom Watch.

Larry graduated from Duke University with honors in political science and French literature. Later, he received a law degree from Emory University. During the administration of President Ronald Reagan, Larry was a Justice Department prosecutor and was on the trial team that succeeded in breaking up the telephone monopoly of AT&T, thereby creating competition in the telecommunications industry.

Between Duke and Emory, Larry worked for U.S. Senator Richard Schweiker (R-Pa.) during the Watergate era. He has also studied abroad and was a stagiaire for the Commission

of the European Union in its Competition Directorate in Brussels, Belgium. During law school, Larry also worked for the U.S. International Trade Commission in Washington, D.C.



Larry speaks four languages—English, French, Italian, and Spanish—and is an international lawyer, among his many areas of legal expertise and practice.

The author of two books, *Fatal Neglect* and *Whores: Why and How I Came to Fight the Establishment*, Larry has a third book in the works dealing with the breakdown of our political and legal systems. His current book, *Whores*, is on

now sale at WND.com, Amazon.com, BarnesandNoble.com, Borders.com, and all major stores and booksellers.

Larry is a frequent commentator on television and radio, as well as a weekly columnist, on Friday, for WND.com. He also writes a regular blog for Newsmax called "Klayman's Court."

Larry has been credited as being the inspiration for the Tea Party movement. (See "[Larry Klayman - The One Man TEA Party](#)," by Dr. Richard Swier, <http://fwusa.org/KFA>)



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Paul Bond

March 29, 2019



Courtesy of Subject

Larry Klayman has been called a right-wing activist by Wikipedia, a conspiracy theorist by *Politico* and a pathologically litigious attorney and professional gadfly by the Southern Poverty Law Center. They're meant as pejoratives, but the former U.S. Department of Justice prosecutor has no problem with the descriptors.

The 67-year-old attorney has filed countless lawsuits against politicians through Freedom Watch and, before that, Judicial Watch (a name Klayman copied from the *West Wing* character Harry Claypool, who's reportedly based on him) — and now he has the media in his crosshairs.

He's suing Sacha Baron Cohen, Showtime and CBS over an [interview](#) with former Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice Roy Moore on *Who Is America?*; he's trying to stop Blumhouse from portraying former Fox News executive Laurie Luhn as a "pimp" for Roger Ailes in *The Loudest Voice*; and he's suing multiple media outlets, including CNN and *Rolling Stone*, on behalf of Joe Arpaio for calling the former sheriff of Arizona's Maricopa County a "felon" when he was guilty only of misdemeanors.

Klayman aims to “help clean up the industry, since it clearly will not police itself,” and also has his sights set on big tech. Freedom Watch in August filed a \$1 billion class-action complaint against Google, Facebook, Twitter and Apple over their alleged “illegal suppression” of conservative media. Says Klayman, “This case is meant to break up the monopoly of the social media giants to further not just competition, but also to end the discrimination against those who their CEOs do not agree with, politically or otherwise.”

He self-identifies as a conservative libertarian but says he’s nonpartisan — noting that in the early aughts he sued President George W. Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney over illegal mass surveillance. He gained notoriety by filing more than a dozen lawsuits against the Clinton administration. A decade later, after a successful lawsuit against the NSA over its collection of private phone data, he petitioned the Department of Homeland Security in an effort to have President Barack Obama deported.

“Conspiracies do happen,” says Klayman. “It’s just two actors agreeing to act in concert to commit illegalities. I am a proud conspiracy theorist.”

A version of this story first appeared in the March 27 issue of The Hollywood Reporter magazine. To receive the magazine, [click here to subscribe](#).

