

Will FTC Nominee Mark Meador Push The Commission To File Bogus Anti-Trust Lawsuits To Benefit Companies With Ties To The Trump Administration?

SUMMARY: In February 2025, it was [reported](#) that lawyers representing **Elon Musk's X** (FKA Twitter) had seemingly threatened advertisers with lawsuits and potential political disruptions from the Trump Administration should they fail to increase spending on the platform. In the wake of these revelations and of [several antitrust lawsuits](#) filed by Musk and his companies, **President Donald Trump's nomination** of **Mark Meador** to fill a seat on the **Federal Trade Commission (FTC)** is particularly concerning given that **Meador represented** conservative platform **Rumble** when it joined **X** in filing antitrust claims against boycotting advertisers in August 2024.

Meador, who [filed](#) a number of antitrust claims on behalf of **Peter Thiel** and **J.D. Vance**-backed **Rumble** between 2021-2024, **would be positioned to push similarly "absurd" lawsuits—this time filed by the federal government—to advance the interests of conservative companies with ties to the Trump Administration under the guise of protecting the public from monopolies.**

Meador [has ties](#) to the **Heritage Foundation**, which orchestrated **Project 2025**, and to the **Federalist Society**, which has served as a [rallying point](#) for conservatives in the legal profession to oppose judicial reform efforts intended to prevent corruption and manipulations of the courts. Both **X's** and **Rumble's** lawsuits against advertisers [were judge shopped](#) before North Texas judge **Reed O'Connor**, a staunch conservative who heard cases involving Elon Musk while trading Tesla stock.

Following Trump's Election, Lawyers For Elon Musk's Platform X Reportedly Threatened Advertisers To Spend More On Its Platform Or Face Political Or Legal Consequences

Following Trump's Election, Lawyers For Elon Musk's X Reportedly Threatened Advertisers With Lawsuits And Political Repercussions From The Trump Administration If They Do Not Increase Spending On The Platform

The Wall Street Journal Reported That In December 2024, Lawyers Representing X Seemingly Threatened Advertisers With Demands To Spend More On The Platform Or Face Political Or Legal Attacks. "A lawyer at advertising conglomerate Interpublic Group fielded a phone call in December from a lawyer at X. The message was clear, according to several people with knowledge of the conversation: Get your clients to spend more on Elon Musk's social-media platform, or else. X CEO Linda Yaccarino has made comments that seemed like similar warnings in conversations with Interpublic executives, according to people with knowledge of those talks. Interpublic leaders interpreted the communications from X as reminders that the recently announced \$13 billion deal to merge Interpublic with rival Omnicom Group could be torpedoed, or at least slowed down, by the Trump administration, given Musk's powerful role in the federal government, some of the people said. They also had a front-row seat to Musk's continued criticism of advertisers that ditched X since he bought it in 2022, when it was known as Twitter." [The Wall Street Journal, [2/19/25](#)]

- **Lawyers For X Reportedly Made The Demand Of Interpublic Group, An Advertising Conglomerate Whose Planned Merger With Competitor Omnicom Group Could Be Jeopardized By The Trump Administration.** "A lawyer at advertising conglomerate Interpublic Group fielded a phone call in December from a lawyer at X. The message was clear, according to several people with knowledge of the conversation: Get your clients to spend more on Elon Musk's social-media platform, or else... Interpublic leaders interpreted the communications from X as reminders that the recently announced \$13 billion deal to merge Interpublic with rival Omnicom Group could be torpedoed, or at

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least slowed down, by the Trump administration, given Musk's powerful role in the federal government, some of the people said." [The Wall Street Journal, [2/19/25](#)]

- **The Republican-Led House Judiciary Committee Has Launched Multiple Antitrust Probes Into Advertisers In The Wake Of The X Advertising Boycott In 2022, Including One In Summer 2024 Following The Announcement Of The Interpublic-Omnicom Merger.** "Days after the Interpublic-Omnicom merger was unveiled, Rep. Jim Jordan (R., Ohio), chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, launched a probe and said the tie-up raised anticompetitive concerns. Interpublic and Omnicom work with an ad trade group that the committee investigated last summer, and which the committee determined in a July report might have violated antitrust laws by withholding ad spending from social-media platforms and conservative media outlets." [The Wall Street Journal, [2/19/25](#)]

The Wall Street Journal Reported That According To Professionals In The Advertising Industry, Some Advertisers "Feel There Is An Implied Threat From X That They Could Be [Sued] If They Don't Return To X." "Some of the advertisers we work with have expressed that they feel there is an implied threat from X that they could be added to the lawsuit if they don't return to X," said Ruben Schreurs, chief executive officer of Ebiquity, a consulting firm that works with advertisers." [The Wall Street Journal, [2/19/25](#)]

Elon Musk And His Companies Have Seemingly Used Antitrust Lawsuits As Bludgeons Against His Perceived Opponents, Filing Claims Against AI Competitor OpenAI In November 2024 And Against Advertisers Who Had Boycotted X Following His Takeover In August 2024 And February 2025

August 2024: Elon Musk's X (FKA Twitter) Filed An Anti-Trust Lawsuit Against Advertisers Who Had Boycotted The Platform Following Musk's Takeover, Forcing A Social Responsibility Nonprofit To Shut Down

August 2024: Elon Musk's X Filed An Anti-Trust Lawsuit Against Advertisers, Including The Global Alliance For Responsible Media, A Nonprofit Linked To The Advertising Industry, In Apparent Retaliation For Boycotting The Platform Following Musk's Takeover. "An influential advertising industry group said it would shut down after being sued this week by X, Elon Musk's social media company, according to an email sent to its members and obtained by The New York Times. The Global Alliance for Responsible Media, a nonprofit coalition of major advertisers led by the World Federation of Advertisers, told its members it would cease operations two days after Mr. Musk accused the group of orchestrating a boycott against X. The lawsuit claimed that the group, known as GARM, had violated antitrust laws by coordinating with brands to dissuade them from spending money on the social media platform." [The New York Times, [8/8/24](#)]

- **The Global Alliance For Responsible Media Is A Nonprofit Led By The World Federation Of Advertisers, An Industry Association.** "The Global Alliance for Responsible Media, a nonprofit coalition of major advertisers led by the World Federation of Advertisers, told its members it would cease operations two days after Mr. Musk accused the group of orchestrating a boycott against X." [The New York Times, [8/8/24](#)]
- **Advertisers Boycotted X Following Musk's Takeover Of The Platform Out Of Worry That Their Brands Would Appear Alongside Hate Speech And Misinformation On The Platform.** "Mr. Musk promised a new era of unrestricted speech and annulled many of the platform's rules against hateful content and misinformation. In response, many brands pulled their ads from X, fearing that they would damage their brands by appearing alongside unsavory posts." [The New York Times, [8/8/24](#)]
- **Musk's X Sued The World Federation Of Advertisers Along With Several Affiliated Companies.** "X, formerly Twitter, sued the World Federation of Advertisers and member companies Unilever, Mars, CVS Health and Orsted on Tuesday." [The Associated Press, [8/9/24](#)]

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- **Musk's Lawsuit Was An Act Of "War" In Retaliation For The Boycott.** "Elon Musk's social media platform X has sued a group of advertisers, alleging that a 'massive advertiser boycott' deprived the company of billions of dollars in revenue and violated antitrust laws... It accused the advertising group's brand safety initiative, called the Global Alliance for Responsible Media, of helping to coordinate a pause in advertising after Musk bought Twitter for \$44 billion in late 2022 and overhauled its staff and policies. Musk posted about the lawsuit on X on Tuesday, saying 'now it is war' after two years of being nice and 'getting nothing but empty words.'" [The Associated Press, [8/6/24](#)]

The Global Alliance For Responsible Media Shut Down Days After Elon Musk's X Filed Its Lawsuit Against The Group And Other Advertisers, Claiming That The Court Battle Had "Drained Its Resources And Finances." "A small brand safety initiative is ceasing operations — days after being targeted by social media platform X in a lawsuit alleging the group helped coordinate a "massive advertiser boycott" after billionaire Elon Musk bought the company in 2022. The World Federation of Advertisers has confirmed that it's discontinuing its Global Alliance for Responsible Media initiative. In a Friday statement, the advertising group said that recent allegations 'unfortunately misconstrue (GARM's) purpose and activities' — adding that this 'caused a distraction and significantly drained its resources and finances.'" [The Associated Press, [8/9/24](#)]

February 2025: Elon Musk's X Added Seven More Companies To Its Antitrust Lawsuit Against Boycotting Advertisers

February 2025: Elon Musk's X Amended Its August 2024 Antitrust Lawsuit Against Advertisers To Include Seven Additional Companies. "Elon Musk's X is suing more big advertisers as part of a lawsuit that alleges they collectively conspired to boycott advertising on the platform following his takeover of the company. In an amended complaint filed in a Texas court on Saturday, X added Nestlé, Abbott Laboratories, Colgate, Lego, Pinterest, Tyson Foods, and Shell as defendants to its lawsuit, which was originally filed in August." [Business Insider, [2/1/25](#)]

November 2024: Just Days After The Presidential Election, Elon Musk Filed Antitrust Claims In An Existing Lawsuit Against Artificial Intelligence Competitor OpenAI, Which He Later Attempted To Buy

February 2024: Elon Musk Sued OpenAI And Its CEO Sam Altman. "Billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk has sued ChatGPT-maker OpenAI and its CEO, Sam Altman, saying they abandoned the startup's original mission to develop artificial intelligence for the benefit of humanity and not for profit. The lawsuit filed late on Thursday in California Superior Court in San Francisco is a culmination of Musk's long-simmering opposition to the startup he co-founded. OpenAI has since become the face of generative AI, partly due to billions of dollars in funding from Microsoft (MSFT.O), opens new tab." [Reuters, [3/1/24](#)]

- **Musk's Lawsuit Claimed That OpenAI And Altman Had Broken A "Founding Agreement" By Seeking To "Maximize Profits" Rather Than Work "For The Benefit Of Humanity."** "These events of 2023 constitute flagrant breaches of the Founding Agreement, which Defendants have essentially turned on its head. To this day, OpenAI, Inc.'s website continues to profess that its charter is to ensure that AGI "benefits all of humanity." In reality, however, OpenAI, Inc. has been transformed into a closed-source de facto subsidiary of the largest technology company in the world: Microsoft.¹ Under its new Board, it is not just developing but is actually refining an AGI to maximize profits for Microsoft, rather than for the benefit of humanity." [Courthouse News, complaint in *Musk v. Altman*, [2/29/24](#)]
- **Musk Co-Founded OpenAI And Was Reportedly Involved From 2015-2018.** "Billionaire Elon Musk revived a lawsuit against ChatGPT maker OpenAI and its CEO Sam Altman on Monday, saying that the firm put profits and commercial interests ahead of the public good. The lawsuit marks Musk's latest attempt to oppose the startup he co-founded in 2015 and left three years later." [Reuters, [3/1/24](#)]
- **Musk's Lawsuit Came After He Had Launched His Own AI Startup In July 2023.** "Musk went on to found his own artificial intelligence startup, xAI, launched last July." [Reuters, [3/1/24](#)]

June 2024: Elon Musk Withdrew His Lawsuit Against OpenAI. “Billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk on Tuesday moved to dismiss his lawsuit accusing ChatGPT maker OpenAI and its CEO Sam Altman of abandoning the startup's original mission of developing artificial intelligence for the benefit of humanity and not for profit. Attorneys for Musk asked the California state court to dismiss the lawsuit, originally filed in February, without giving a reason for the move, according to a filing in San Francisco Superior Court.” [Reuters, [6/12/24](#)]

August 2024: Elon Musk Revived His Lawsuit Against OpenAI And Its CEO Sam Altman, Again Claiming That His Competitors Had Put Profits Over The Public Good. “Billionaire Elon Musk revived a lawsuit against ChatGPT maker OpenAI and its CEO Sam Altman on Monday, saying that the firm put profits and commercial interests ahead of the public good.” [Reuters, [6/12/24](#)]

November 2024: Elon Musk Filed New Claims In His Lawsuit Against OpenAI And Its CEO Sam Altman, Adding Microsoft As A Defendant And Accusing All Parties Of Violating Federal Antitrust Law. “Elon Musk has expanded his lawsuit against the ChatGPT maker OpenAI, adding federal antitrust and other claims and adding OpenAI's largest financial backer, Microsoft, as a defendant. Musk's amended lawsuit, filed on Thursday night in federal court in Oakland, California, said Microsoft and OpenAI illegally sought to monopolize the market for generative artificial intelligence and sideline competitors.” [The Guardian, [11/15/24](#)]

February 2025: Elon Musk Made A Quickly-Rejected Bid To Buy OpenAI. “The ‘special government employee’ put forth a \$97 billion dollar bid for OpenAI on Feb. 10. However, it was soundly rejected by the artificial intelligence startup on Friday.” [CNBC, [2/17/25](#)]

Trump's FTC Nominee Mark Meador, A Conservative Activist And Antitrust Attorney, Was Counsel For Conservative Platform Rumble When It Joined X In Filing Antitrust Claims Against Boycotting Advertisers, And If Confirmed To The FTC, Could Be In Position To Push Similarly “Absurd” Lawsuits To Benefit Conservative Companies With Ties To The Administration

President Donald Trump Nominated Conservative Antitrust Attorney Mark Meador As FTC Commissioner

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Is A Federal Agency Established In 1914 To Protect The Public From Monopolies, Whose Mandate Has Since Broadened To Address Any Unfair Or Deceptive Business Practices. “Our Mission [...] Protecting the public from deceptive or unfair business practices and from unfair methods of competition through law enforcement, advocacy, research, and education... When the FTC was created in 1914, its purpose was to prevent unfair methods of competition in commerce as part of the battle to ‘bust the trusts.’ Over the years, Congress passed additional laws giving the agency greater authority to police anticompetitive practices.” [Federal Trade Commission, accessed [2/19/25](#)]

The FTC Is Led By Five Commissioners Serving Terms Of Seven Years. “The Commission is headed by five Commissioners, nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate, each serving a seven-year term. No more than three Commissioners can be of the same political party. The President chooses one Commissioner to act as Chair.” [Federal Trade Commission, accessed [2/19/25](#)]

December 2024: Then-President Elect Donald Trump Nominated Mark Meador To Be FTC Commissioner. “Kressin Meador Powers (KMP) proudly announces that Mark Meador, a founding partner of the firm, has been nominated by President-elect Trump to serve as a Commissioner on the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).” [Kressin Meador Powers LLC, [12/10/24](#)]

- **Mark Meador Is A Conservative Anti-Trust Lawyer Who Was Partner At D.C. Law Firm Kressin Meador Powers As Of February 2025.** “MARK MEADOR [...] Partner [...] Mark Meador represents clients in high-profile and complex antitrust matters, drawing on his wide-ranging experience working

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for federal antitrust enforcers and the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee. His expertise spans antitrust compliance, merger reviews, strategic communications, coalition management, regulatory advocacy, and competition policy counseling... Mark served a total of four years as the senior Republican antitrust attorney for the Senate Judiciary Committee, both as a detailee from FTC and DOJ and as Deputy Chief Counsel for Antitrust & Competition Policy to Sen. Mike Lee.” [Kressin Meador Powers LLC via the Wayback Machine, accessed [2/19/25](#)]

February 2025: The Senate Committee On Commerce, Science, And Transportation Announced That A Hearing On Meador’s Nomination Would Be Held On February 25, 2025. “U.S. Senator Ted Cruz (R-Texas), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, will convene a nominations hearing for Michael Kratsios, nominee to be Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, and Mark Meador, nominee to be a Federal Trade Commissioner, at 10:00 AM EST on Tuesday, February 25, 2025.” [Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, [2/18/25](#)]

Mark Meador Is A Affiliated With The Federalist Society And Heritage Foundation

Mark Meador Worked At The FTC From 2011-2016 And At The DOJ’s Antitrust Division From 2019-2021. “Federal Trade Commission, Bureau of Competition, Attorney, 2011-2016 [...] Department of Justice Antitrust Division, Trial Attorney, 2019-2021.” [Kressin Meador Powers LLC via the Wayback Machine, accessed [2/19/25](#)]

Mark Meador Was Deputy Chief Counsel For Antitrust & Competition Policy To Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT) On The Senate Judiciary Committee From 2021-2023. “Mark served a total of four years as the senior Republican antitrust attorney for the Senate Judiciary Committee, both as a detailee from FTC and DOJ and as Deputy Chief Counsel for Antitrust & Competition Policy to Sen. Mike Lee... United States Senate, Judiciary Committee, Antitrust Subcommittee, Deputy Chief Counsel for Antitrust and Competition Policy, 2020-2023.” [Kressin Meador Powers LLC via the Wayback Machine, accessed [2/19/25](#)]

Mark Meador Was A Visiting Fellow At The Heritage Foundation From 2023-2025.

The Heritage Foundation	Washington, District of Columbia	Non-Profit	Visiting Fellow	10/2023	Present
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[Office of Government Ethics, Form 278 via DocumentCloud, [1/21/25](#)]

Mark Meador Is A Federalist Society Contributor.

Home > Contributors > Mark Ross Meador



Mark Ross Meador

Partner, Kressin Meador LLC

in

X

[The Federalist Society, accessed [2/19/25](#)]

- **The Federalist Society Is A Network Of Right-Wing And Libertarian Lawyers, Judges, And Law Students That Leonard Leo Built Into The Primary Hub For The Conservative Legal Movement.** “Kyle Duncan and Cory Wilson, both on the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, both fiercely anti-abortion, were members of the Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies, the network of conservative and libertarian lawyers that Leo had built into a political juggernaut.” [ProPublica, [10/11/23](#)]
- **Mark Meador Was Vice President Of His Law School’s Federalist Society Chapter.** “University of Houston Law Center - JD (2008-2011) [...] Activities and notes: Houston Business and Tax Law Journal,

Mark Meador Represented Conservative Media Platform Rumble In At Least Five Lawsuits Against Google And Advertisers Between 2021-2024

Rumble Is A Video Platform That Has Been Called “The Right-Wing Alternative To YouTube.” “As soon as President-elect Donald J. Trump won the presidential race, influencers on Rumble, the right-wing alternative to YouTube, flooded the platform with a simple catchphrase: ‘We are the media now.’” [The New York Times, 12/13/24]

Mark Meador Represented Rumble In Several Cases Against Google And Advertising Companies Filed Between 2021 And 2024.

Party Name	Case Number	Case Title	Court	Date Filed	Date Closed
Meador, Mark R (aty)	☆ 7:2024cv00115	Rumble Inc et al v. World Federation of Advertisers et al	Texas Northern District Court	08/06/2024	
Meador, Mark R. (aty)	☆ 1:2024cv01545	Team Cam, LLC v. Reliable Contracting Company, Inc. et al	Maryland District Court	05/28/2024	
MEADOR, MARK R. (aty)	☆ 5:2024cv02715	READING HOSPITAL v. HILL-ROM COMPANY, INC. et al	Pennsylvania Eastern District Court	06/20/2024	
Meador, Mark Ross (aty)	☆ 5:2024cv02880	Rumble Canada, Inc. v. Google LLC et al	California Northern District Court	05/13/2024	12/19/2024
Meador, Mark Ross (aty)	☆ 5:2024cv02880	Rumble Canada, Inc. v. Google LLC et al	Judicial Panel On Multidistrict Litigati	05/13/2024	
Meador, Mark Ross (aty)	☆ 1:2021md03010	In re: Google Digital Advertising Antitrust Litigation	New York Southern District Court	08/12/2021	
Meador, Mark Ross (aty)	☆ 1:2024cv09904	Rumble Canada, Inc. v. Google LLC et al	New York Southern District Court	12/23/2024	

[PACER, search results via DocumentCloud, 2/19/25]

- Mark Meador Represented Rumble In “In Re: Google Digital Advertising Antitrust Litigation.”

In re: Google Digital Advertising Antitrust Litigation (1:21-md-03010)

District Court, S.D. New York

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Last Updated: Feb. 14, 2025, 10:06 p.m.

Assigned To: P. Kevin Castel

Citation: In re: Google Digital Advertising Antitrust Litigation, 1:21-md-03010, (S.D.N.Y.)

Date Filed: Aug. 12, 2021

[...]

Rumble Canada Inc.	REPRESENTED BY	Mark Ross Meador (815) 353-3767 Kressin Meador Powers LLC 300 New Jersey Ave. NW Suite 900 Washington, DC 20001 ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED LEAD ATTORNEY
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[Court Listener, 2/14/25]

- Rumble Inc Et Al v. World Federation Of Advertisers Et Al Is An Antitrust Case. “This is an antitrust action relating to a cartel of competing advertisers and advertising agencies.” [CourtListener, complaint in Rumble Inc. v. World Federation of Advertisers, 8/6/24]
- Rumble Canada, Inc. v. Google LLC Et Al (5:2024cv02880) Is An Antitrust Case. “Nature of Suit: Anti-Trust.” [Justia, accessed 2/20/25]
- Rumble Canada, Inc. v. Google LLC Et Al (1:2024cv09904) Is An Antitrust Case. “Nature of Suit: Anti-Trust.” [Justia, accessed 2/20/25]

Trump Ally Peter Thiel And Vice President J.D. Vance Invested In Rumble In 2021

Silicon Valley Billionaire Peter Thiel Reportedly Introduced Donald Trump To Running Mate J.D. Vance In 2021 And Has Since Ingratiated Himself With The Second Trump Administration. “It was PayPal cofounder and venture capitalist Peter Thiel who introduced his mentee, JD Vance, to President-elect Donald Trump at Mar-a-Lago in 2021. Three years later—with Trump and Vance just weeks from the White House—it’s Thiel who is sitting pretty as many people within his network head for official or advisory positions in the next administration.” [Fortune, [12/7/24](#)]

May 2021: Billionaire Peter Thiel And Now-Vice President J.D. Vance Were Among A Group Of Prominent Conservative Venture Capitalists To Invest In Rumble. “Video platform Rumble said it is receiving an investment from a group of prominent conservative venture capitalists including Peter Thiel and “Hillbilly Elegy” author J.D. Vance, financial backing that comes as the YouTube alternative’s popularity has surged among right-leaning users.” [The Wall Street Journal, [5/19/21](#)]

In August 2024, Rumble Joined Elon Musk’s X In Suing Advertisers Who Had Boycotted Both Platforms—With Mark Meador As Counsel

August 2024: Conservative Media Platform Rumble Joined Elon Musk’s X In Filing An Antitrust Lawsuit Against Advertisers Who Had Boycotted The Platforms. “Rumble (NASDAQ:RUM), the video-sharing platform and cloud services provider, announced that it has joined the social media platform X to file antitrust lawsuits alleging a conspiracy to withhold advertising revenue from Rumble and other digital media platforms. In its filing in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas, Rumble named as defendants the World Federation of Advertisers (WFA), as well as the advertising agency WPP and its subsidiary GroupM Worldwide.” [Global News Wire, [8/6/24](#)]

Mark Meador Represented Rumble In *Rumble Inc. v. World Federation Of Advertisers*.

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**pro hac vice motion forthcoming*

*Attorneys for Plaintiffs Rumble Inc.,
Rumble USA Inc., and Rumble Canada Inc.*

[CourtListener, complaint in *Rumble Inc. v. World Federation of Advertisers*, [1/30/25](#)]

A Legal Expert Called X’s Argument That An Advertising Boycott Equates To A RICO-Monopoly A “Patently Absurd Claim” Shopped Out To “A Judge Who Appreciates Patently Absurd Claims”

Legal Writer Joe Patrice: “Arguing That Private Advertisers Choosing Not To Give [Elon Musk] Their Money Was Basically A RICO-Monopoly May Seem Like A Patently Absurd Claim But That’s Only Because It Is. So He Sought Out A Judge Who Appreciates Patently Absurd Claims...” “Arguing that private advertisers choosing to not give him their money was basically a RICO-monopoly may seem like a patently absurd claim but that’s only because it is. So he sought out a judge who appreciates patently absurd

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claims, shoehorning an obscure Danish renewable energy company into the suit alongside big box advertisers in order to square-peg-round-hole a justification to drop the claim in front of Judge Reed O'Connor.” [Above the Law, [2/11/25](#)]

Elon Musk’s X And Rumble Judge Shopped Their Respective Lawsuits In Northern Texas, Where Neither Company Is Based, Intentionally Placing Them Before An Ideologically Aligned Judge Who Has Ruled On Cases Involving Musk While Actively Trading Tesla Stock

Elon Musk’s X And Rumble Judge Shopped Their Antitrust Lawsuits Against Advertisers By Filing Them In Northern Texas, Where Neither Company Is Located.

X Corp. v. World Federation Of Advertisers Was Filed In The Northern District Of Texas, Wichita Falls Division.

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS WICHITA FALLS DIVISION	
X CORP.,)
)
Plaintiff,)
v.) Case No. _____
)
WORLD FEDERATION OF ADVERTISERS; UNILEVER PLC; UNILEVER UNITED STATES, INC.; MARS, INCORPORATED; CVS HEALTH CORPORATION; and ØRSTED A/S,) JURY TRIAL DEMANDED
Defendants.)
_____)

[CourtListener, complaint in *X Corp. v. World Federation of Advertisers*, [8/6/24](#)]

As Of August 2024, X Was Legally Located In Bastrop, Texas. “X has quietly relocated its official headquarters to a rural community just outside of Austin, Texas, according to new court filings. On Monday, lawyers for Elon Musk asked a California judge to change the location of his ongoing lawsuit with former CNN anchor Don Lemon, who sued the billionaire in August over a canceled partnership with X (formerly known as Twitter). A declaration from X real estate director Nicole Hollander claims the company’s HQ is now located in Bastrop, a small town that’s also home to SpaceX and The Boring Company.” [Forbes, [9/18/24](#)]

- **Bastrop, Texas Falls Within The Texas Western District Court’s Jurisdiction.**

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[Texas Western District Court - Austin, TX](#)

📍 27.99 mi

United States Courthouse
501 West 5th Street
Austin, TX 78701

[United States Courts, Federal Court Finder search, accessed [2/20/25](#)]

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS WICHITA FALLS DIVISION	
RUMBLE INC.;)
RUMBLE USA INC.; and)
RUMBLE CANADA INC.,)
Plaintiffs,) Case No. _____
v.)
) JURY TRIAL DEMANDED
WORLD FEDERATION OF)
ADVERTISERS; WPP PLC; and)
GROUPM WORLDWIDE INC.,)
Defendants.)

[CourtListener, complaint in *Rumble Inc. v. World Federation of Advertisers*, [8/6/24](#)]

As Of August 2024, Rumble’s U.S. Branch Was Headquartered In Longboat Key, Florida. “Rumble, the popular video-sharing platform (NASDAQ: RUM), is excited to announce the opening of its new office in Longboat Key, Florida, which will serve as the company’s U.S. headquarters.” Rumble, [\[3/2/23\]](#)

Right-Wing Judge Shopping Has Proliferated In Northern Texas In Recent Years As Conservative Groups Have Increasingly Sought Partisan Rulings From Ideologically Aligned Judges.

Judge Shopping Is A Legal Tactic That Entails Filing A Lawsuit Before A Judge Likely To Favor The Plaintiff. “A litigation tactic that has helped fuel a series of conservative victories in cases ranging from abortion to immigration to gun rights suffered a setback Tuesday after the federal judiciary’s policymaking body said it will require federal courts to take steps to combat so-called judge-shopping. The move is aimed at reining in a growing practice of lawyers and interest groups — and even states — trying to guarantee that the lawsuits they file wind up in front of a judge they expect to be friendly to their arguments.” [Politico, [3/12/24](#)]

- **Some Federal Court Divisions—Especially Rural Ones—Have A Single Federal Judge, Which Essentially Allows Plaintiffs To Pick The Judge Who Will Hear Their Case When They File There.** “In divisions with only one judge, often in rural areas, that means private or state attorneys can essentially pick which judge will hear it.” [Associated Press, [3/12/24](#)]
- **In Recent Years, Conservatives Have Used Judge Shopped Lawsuits To Mount Major Offensives Against Established Federal Policies And Regulations.** “Liberal critics have howled with outrage in recent years as cases seeking to knock a key abortion drug off the market, to challenge Biden administration immigration policies and to nullify gun-safety regulations have all been filed in federal judicial divisions where conservatives knew the case was certain or highly likely to be assigned to particular staunchly conservative judges.” [Politico, [3/12/24](#)]

The Northern (Judicial) District Of Texas Is Home To Multiple Single-Judge Or Small Districts Stacked With Conservative Appointees, Making It A Favored Location For Right-Wing Judge Shopping. “Federal judges within the US District Court for the Northern District of Texas have been targeted by conservative litigants hoping for favorable rulings...It’s among 18 lawsuits that show how conservative groups have tactically ensured that their legal challenges to Biden administration policies get in front of Kacsmaryk, or Mark Pittman or Reed O’Connor, Republican appointees who between them hear 90% of civil cases in Fort Worth... Each federal district court sets its own rules for assigning cases, and many randomly distribute them among a pool of judges. But that’s not always the case in the US District Court for the Northern District of Texas. Small or single-judge divisions are more common in rural areas of the vast state, where there aren’t enough cases to justify having more judges all assigned to the same courthouse.” [Bloomberg Law, [5/9/24](#)]

- **In 2024, The Northern District Of Texas Came Under Fire For Frequent Judge Shopping.** “The Northern District of Texas, which includes Dallas, has come under scrutiny for litigants judge shopping

there, as the court's case assignment rules state that civil lawsuits filed in certain divisions are heard by specific judges." [Bloomberg Law, [4/9/24](#)]

- **March 2024: The Judicial Conference Of The United States, The Policymaking Body For Federal Courts, Released A Nonbinding Policy Recommendation Meant To Curtail Judge Shopping.** "Federal judiciary leaders on Tuesday announced a policy that requires assigning judges at random in civil cases that have statewide or national implications, an effort to address widespread concerns about 'judge shopping' in single-judge divisions. The Judicial Conference of the United States, the policymaking body for the federal courts, said district courts may continue to assign cases to a single-judge division if those cases don't seek to bar or mandate state or federal actions through declaratory judgment or injunctive relief. When random assignments are required, the case will be assigned to a judge within the same judicial district." [The Washington Post, [3/12/24](#)]
- **The Northern District Of Texas Declined To Adopt The Judicial Conference's Anti-Judge Shopping Policy.** "The US District Court of the Northern District of Texas has decided not to adopt a proposal that would change how cases with statewide or nationwide implications are assigned, Chief Judge David Godbey told Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, a New York Democrat, in a recent letter." [CNN, [4/2/24](#)]

Judge Shopping Is "Almost Exclusively A Conservative Racket." "It might SEEM to a non-lawyer audience like this is a situation where 'both sides do it,' but as it turns out it's almost exclusively a conservative racket." [Above the Law, [2/11/25](#)]

Judge-Shopping In North Texas Is Particularly Rampant In The Fort Worth Division, Where Judges Reed O'Connor—Who Also Hears 85 Percent Of Civil Cases In The Wichita Falls Division, Where X And Rumble Filed Their Lawsuits—And Mark Pittman Have Ruled In Favor Of Numerous Conservative Judge Shopping Plaintiffs.

Judges Mark Pittman And Reed O'Connor Hear Roughly 90 Percent Of All Civil Cases In The Fort Worth Division. "US District Judges Reed O'Connor and Mark Pittman are each assigned 45% of civil cases filed in the Fort Worth Division. US Senior District Judge Terry Means is assigned 10% of civil cases in the division." [Bloomberg Law, [5/9/24](#)]

- **Judge Mark Pittman Was Appointed By President Donald Trump On The Recommendation Of Senators John Cornyn And Ted Cruz.** "President Donald Trump announced plans to nominate three judges to the Federal District Courts in Texas, including Wes Hendrix for the Northern District of Texas in Lubbock... Hendrix will be nominated along with Mark Pittman for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas in Fort Worth, and Sean Jordan for the Eastern District of Texas in Plano, all at the recommendation of U.S. Senators John Cornyn and Ted Cruz." [Lubbock Avalanche-Journal, [1/17/19](#)]
- **Judge Reed O'Connor Was Appointed By President George W. Bush.** "O'Connor, 53, was nominated to the bench by then-President George W. Bush in 2007 after serving nine years as a federal prosecutor in the Northern District of Texas." [Dallas Morning News, [12/18/18](#)]

Conservative Groups Have Judge Shopped At Least 18 Cases Before North Texas Judges Matthew Kacsmayk, Mark Pittman, And Reed O'Connor In Recent Years. "It's among 18 lawsuits that show how conservative groups have tactically ensured that their legal challenges to Biden administration policies get in front of Kacsmayk, or Mark Pittman or Reed O'Connor, Republican appointees who between them hear 90% of civil cases in Fort Worth. Bloomberg Law verified and supplemented research on potential instances of judge shopping done by the left-leaning watchdog Accountable.US. Those judge-shopping strategies include claiming an address in Fort Worth or Amarillo, recruiting plaintiffs who live or work in those judicial districts, and collaborating with the state of Texas on lawsuits." [Bloomberg Law, [5/9/24](#)]

Accountable^{.US}

Since 2016, Judge Reed O'Connor Has Heard Roughly 85 Percent Of All Civil Cases In The Wichita Falls Division Of The Northern District Of Texas.

Effective December 1, 2016, civil cases filed in the Wichita Falls Division will be assigned by random draw as follows:	
Chief Judge Barbara M.G. Lynn	15%
Judge Reed O'Connor	85%

[U.S. District Court of the Northern District of Texas, Special Order No. 3-310, [11/29/16](#)]

2024: Elon Musk's X Relocated To Western Texas And, In A Blatant Judge Shopping Effort, Updated Its Terms To Demand That Legal Proceedings Be Brought "Exclusively" In The Northern District Of Texas, Where It Is Not Located.

2024: X "Quietly" Relocated Its Headquarters To Bastrop, Texas. "X has quietly relocated its official headquarters to a rural community just outside of Austin, Texas, according to new court filings. On Monday, lawyers for Elon Musk asked a California judge to change the location of his ongoing lawsuit with former CNN anchor Don Lemon, who sued the billionaire in August over a canceled partnership with X (formerly known as Twitter). A declaration from X real estate director Nicole Hollander claims the company's HQ is now located in Bastrop, a small town that's also home to SpaceX and The Boring Company." [Forbes, [9/18/24](#)]

- **Bastrop, Texas Falls Within The Texas Western District Court's Jurisdiction.**

Find a federal court by location or court name.

Location ✓ Court name

Bastrop, TX 78602, USA

Search by address, city, state, or ZIP code

[...]

Texas Western District Court - Austin, TX

📍 27.99 mi

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501 West 5th Street
Austin, TX 78701

[United States Courts, Federal Court Finder search, accessed [2/20/25](#)]

Effective November 15, 2024, X's New Terms Of Service Required Disputes To Be Brought "Exclusively In The U.S. District Court For The Northern District Of Texas."

The laws of the State of Texas, excluding its choice of law provisions, will govern these Terms and any dispute that arises between you and us, notwithstanding any other agreement between you and us to the contrary. All disputes related to these Terms or the Services, including without limitation disputes related to or arising from other users' and third parties' use of the Services and any Content made available by other users and third parties on the Services, will be brought exclusively in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas or state courts located in Tarrant County, Texas, United States, and you consent to personal jurisdiction in those forums and waive any objection as to inconvenient forum. Without prejudice to the foregoing, you agree that, in its sole discretion, X may bring any claim,

[X, Terms of Service, effective 11/25/24, accessed [2/20/25](#)]

- **X's Terms Of Service Are A "Legally Binding Contract Governing Your Use Of X."** "These Terms of Service ('Terms') are part of the User Agreement – a legally binding contract governing your use of

X. You should read these Terms of Service ('Terms') in full, but here are a few key things you should take away." [X, Terms of Service, accessed [2/20/25](#)]

Elon Musk's X Has Judge Shopped Several Lawsuits Before Reed O'Connor, A North Texas Judge Who "Delivered Stunningly Pro-Musk Decisions" While Actively Trading Tesla Stock And Who Refused To Recuse From One Such Case Even After The Conflict Of Interest Was Exposed.

As Of August 2024, Elon Musk's X Had Judge Shopped At Least Two Lawsuits Against Groups He Sees As Antagonists. "Musk's social media company X has filed two major lawsuits against groups he sees as antagonists, and O'Connor is presiding over both of them, even though none of the parties is based in Texas. So far, O'Connor has delivered stunningly pro-Musk decisions, which have gained widespread attention. What has garnered less attention: O'Connor's investment in Tesla, between '\$15,001 and \$50,000' of Tesla stock, according to his most recent publicly available financial disclosure filing." [NPR, [8/9/24](#)]

Elon Musk's X Judge Shopped Its Lawsuits Before Reed O'Connor, A North Texas Judge Who "Delivered Stunningly Pro-Musk Decisions" While Owning Between \$15,001 And \$50,000 Of Tesla Stock. "Musk's social media company X has filed two major lawsuits against groups he sees as antagonists, and O'Connor is presiding over both of them, even though none of the parties is based in Texas. So far, O'Connor has delivered stunningly pro-Musk decisions, which have gained widespread attention. What has garnered less attention: O'Connor's investment in Tesla, between '\$15,001 and \$50,000' of Tesla stock, according to his most recent publicly available financial disclosure filing." [NPR, [8/9/24](#)]

- **Reed O'Connor Presides Over The Northern District Of Texas, Fort Worth Division.** "Billionaire Elon Musk seems to have found a new favorite federal judge: Reed O'Connor in Fort Worth, Texas." [NPR, [8/9/24](#)]
- **After O'Connor's Conflict Of Interest Was Exposed, He Recused From An Additional Musk Lawsuit.** "A U.S. District Judge in Texas has recused himself from a lawsuit filed by Elon Musk's X days after NPR drew scrutiny to the judge's investment in Tesla and questions about Musk using the court to engage in "forum-shopping." [NPR, [8/13/24](#)]
- **O'Connor Refused To Recuse From A Second Musk Lawsuit Against Liberal Group Media Matters.** "In August, O'Connor did recuse himself on a separate Musk case against the World Federation of Advertisers. The judge is an investor in Unilever, one of the defendants in the case. But he did not step aside from the Media Matters lawsuit." [NPR, [10/17/24](#)]

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