

WAIT, WHY IS
THE SATANIC TEMPLE
(STILL) SUING YOU?





Q: Wait, why is The Satanic Temple (still) suing you?

A: Because The Satanic Temple is an abusive religious organization owned by two thin-skinned men who use their organization's collective wealth and resources to intimidate and punish critics.

Okay. But why are they suing *you* specifically?

Because one of the four co-defendants — David Johnson — criticized the two men — Doug Misicko and Cevin Soling — by name and in public on a Facebook page using the men's own past statements, news articles written about them, and former member testimony about years of such behavior.

This included things like Misicko illustrating a *grotesquely* racist book published by his longtime

friend (himself an early TST collaborator) or Soling trying to be a cargo cult messiah in the South Pacific. The Temple's owners then sued the three other people because they are malicious but also incompetent.

Four people had more resources to pool than an individual does, so we've all been able to keep defending ourselves instead of capitulating like TST got other individuals to do in the past.

I thought you “literally stole” a Facebook page?

Oh, very much not, friend. We can say that categorically even with litigation ongoing. Facebook (now Meta) owns Facebook pages, and it could not be more clear about that in its terms of service.

Nor could existing U.S. federal case law, which is a big part of why The Satanic Temple’s lawsuit against us was dismissed in February 2021 and again in January 2023. TST is still appealing that loss and then filed a second case in state court in April 2023.

(It’s a Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation, or SLAPP, so this and the expenses associated

with our defense is all the point.)

But for Meta and its property, when you make someone the admin of a Facebook page, that person will have the ultimate administrative rights to that page as a user. If you have a problem with that, you’re supposed to submit a ticket to Meta/Facebook to have them settle the issue for you.

The Temple’s owners didn’t like the answer it got from Facebook in March 2020, so in April 2020, they decided to spend tens of thousands of their supporters’ dollars losing multiple lawsuits over that page.

I could have sworn TST claimed you guys straight up *admitted* you stole it though?

The Satanic Temple’s entire business model is predicated on claiming a lot of things that can’t (and don’t) hold up to any extended legal scrutiny.

In this case, what TST submitted as evidence was a co-defendant making a post a few days prior to chapter page changeover. It was about how he’d been kicked out without any warning or communication because he’d been CC’d on an email about sexual harassment and abuses of local leadership. The context was him losing overnight his community of five years that he co-founded with no process owed him when he had done nothing except be on leave to try to recuperate from burnout and a car wreck, then received an email...



Evergreen Memes for Queer Satanic Fiends

1 message

Tarkus Claypool <tarkus.claypool@gmail.com>
To: Lenore Calavera <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sat, Mar 14, 2020 at 9:09 PM

Hi Lenore,

I saw that you made some changes to the TST WA State Allies FB group. I just wanted to let you know that it's yours free and clear and we've no desire to claim it. You and ADJ built it and have done a great job doing so. I'm confident you'll both continue doing awesome work.

Sorry the way things panned out, and I do mean all of it. I wish you and your family well, and respect your need to fight the fight your way.

Rock on,

-Tarkus Claypool
Media Liaison, The Satanic Temple of Washington
(he/him)

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...In a comment on his own FB profile status, this defendant Nathan Sullivan says, “we stole” in reference to a Memes page that the local leaders had by then already said in writing and in public was free and clear for another defendant, Joshua Powell (known at that time as “Lenore Calavera”), to keep and keep posting meme-style content from.

So not only was it not stolen because of how Facebook pages work, that page had already been officially disclaimed by TST’s local representatives, and the person saying it had been involved in nothing more than being copied on an email.

All of this is to say that not only was the Memes page never TST’s property to have stolen from them in the first place, there is also written and audio evidence that TST voluntarily relinquished claims to it before the lawsuit ever began.

And TST has been chasing that page through federal, appeals, and now state court pretending that an ultimately unrelated person saying that “we stole a page” is all the evidence they need to show that they were actually harmed.

All the other allegations are ultimately just garnish at this point...

...If the national Satanic Temple didn't know about all this in March 2020 because their local people didn't tell them, or because their lawyer decided to pretend that evidence didn't exist, that's not our fault.

That said, it's also doubtful it would have mattered in the first place, because we directly showed TST's lawyers evidence of TST's relinquishment of the Meme page in July 2022, and yet they have continued to repeat what they know to be a lie in the courts and the press unabated. Their lawyer even outright admitted on Reddit that he was just making up allegations to drive up costs and damages and to gain the audience of a court that would otherwise have no constitutional authority to hear TST's grievances.

How honest do you really think they're being?

At the end of the day, these are the same people who fabricated an entire federal copyright violation complaint around the idea that a nonexistent group was using their trademark, with no stronger evidence than a throwaway joke made by a person who is not a defendant and has never been involved in TST to begin with, suggesting his friend create an organization called "The Satanic Temple 2: Electric Boogaloo."

You're definitely making that last part up.

Friend, we never have any need to do such a thing.

But the question is, will you found an actual organization

The Satanic Temple 2: Electric Boogaloo?

The Satanic Temple 2: The Second One?

S2: The Mighty Satanists?

Like · Reply · 1y



Nathan Von Sullivan
Satanism Reloaded actually

Like · Reply · 1y



111. Defendants' competitor organization, which was provisionally entitled "The Satanic Temple 2: Electric Boogaloo" and "Satanic Washington – Archived Temple Chapter" had a likelihood of impairing the distinctiveness of TST as a famous mark. To-wit:

- (1) "The Satanic Temple 2: Electric Boogaloo" directly copies "The Satanic Temple;" and "Satanic Washington – **Archived Temple Chapter**" (emphasis added) directly suggests that the Washington Chapter has been replaced by Defendants' competitor organization.
- (2) TST has an inherently distinctive mark because there is only one "The Satanic Temple," Plaintiff, which has acquired distinctiveness as a mark through years of effort.
- (3) There is only one "The Satanic Temple" because TST jealously guards its intellectual property rights.

Wow. That's fucking ridiculous.

It sure is. But it's also a part of the U.S. federal court record for you to see for yourself, and more importantly, it is perfectly in keeping with TST's longstanding business model of shitting out bad legal arguments and forcing someone else to bear the cost and risk of refuting it.

This is just what the Temple does, is made to do, and will continue to do, until the court treats them like the vexatious litigants they are.

The Satanic Temple has had the chapter page, the page they originally claimed to be suing us over, since May 2020. Yet, after the case was dismissed the first time in February 2021, TST's owners and legal team have continued to spend *tens of thousands of dollars of their donors' money* to refile and appeal their losses multiple times for completely unrelated things and against unrelated people and orgs.

In February 2022, The Satanic Temple sued *Newsweek* magazine and its reporter for writing an article about TST's SLAPP suit against us.

In November 2022, the Temple threatened to sue a Texas woman and forced her to record a verbatim apology for two TikTok videos that were, if anything, overly generous to them. She recorded the retraction/apology – then TST sued her anyway.

Maybe total capitulation on our part would have averted all this. But maybe not...

...If you don't trust a zine, it's part of our sworn depositions. If you don't trust us, try the dozen others linked in the online version of this who shared their stories, most before we were even sued.

This isn't "drama," as some people uninterested in moving away from the status quo like to characterize conflict.

Are you sure you don't mean the Church of Satan? I thought The Satanic Temple was the good one.

The Church of Satan has plenty of its own issues; we don't have space to get into that here, but *they* aren't the ones actively preying on some of the nation's most vulnerable people, profiteering off the smug and ahistorical pretense that "exposing hypocrisy" is, or has ever been, a coherent strategy in the face of fascism.

The closest thing The Satanic Temple has got to a legal win so far is a favorable settlement from a nuisance suit against Netflix for the Baphomet statue in the *Sabrina* show.

All TST's abortion cases — all the public monument and invocation lawsuits TST has taken credit for — have been failures at every level or even outright nonexistent; see [The.Satanic.Wiki](#) for more on that.

We're just four people and *we've* published our invoices to show supporters where money is going.

But nobody supporting TST's stated mission to use "religious freedom" loopholes can say their money isn't really being used to retaliate against speech that even TST explicitly understands to be constitutionally protected.

How can we help you?

Money for our ongoing legal defense.

- **GoFundMe:** "Legal Fund for Victims of Satanic Temple"
- **Patreon:** [QueerSatanic](#)
- **PayPal** – queersatanic@gmail.com
- **CashApp** – \$QueerSatanic

But also tell other people about this, especially if you have a story to tell about your time in The Satanic Temple.



queersatanic.com/zines

Unabridged article



Article as video



queersatanic.com/wait-why-is-the-satanic-temple-still-suing-you/

youtu.be/Rplc8fZaXlc