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Webcast: Follow-up of Today's Key First Amendment Battles: Who Gets to Say It and Who Gets to Stop It?

Webcasts | September 25, 2024

Amer Ahmed, Anne Champion, Connor Sullivan, and Apratim Vidyarthi cover significant developments in newly-issued Supreme Court decisions in the 2023–24 term involving the First Amendment, following up on a previous webinar covering current First Amendment issues.

PANELISTS:

Amer S. Ahmed is a partner in the New York office of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher. He is a member of Gibson Dunn's Litigation; Trials Practice; Appellate and Constitutional Law; and Media, Entertainment and Technology Practice Groups. Amer's practice focuses on representing institutional and individual clients in a variety of high-profile litigation matters at the investigatory, trial, and appellate levels, ranging from witness preparation to product-liability actions, white-collar criminal defense, and commercial disputes. Amer has played a lead role in many First Amendment and defamation disputes. Among other matters, he has successfully defended *The Washington Post* against a libel lawsuit in federal court, won a complete dismissal of defamation claims against a leading social media company, advised technology companies on compliance issues under Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act, prosecuted defamation claims on behalf of a high-profile businessman based on a worldwide smear campaign, and is representing the online publication *Media Matters for America* in its defense of a defamation case lodged by X Corp. Amer authored the practice guide on *Defamation and Reputation Management in the USA* on Lexology. Amer graduated from Columbia Law School where he was named a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar and served as an articles editor of the *Columbia Law Review*. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Human Biology, with distinction, from Stanford University, where he was a President's Scholar and was elected to the Phi Beta Kappa Society.

Amer is admitted to practice in the State of New York and the District of Columbia, as well as in the Supreme Court of the United States; the United States Courts of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, Second Circuit, and Fourth Circuit; the United States District Court for the District of Columbia; and the United States District Courts for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York.

Anne M. Champion is a partner in the New York office of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher. She is a member of the Transnational Litigation, Media Law, and International Arbitration practice groups. Anne has played a lead role in a wide range of high stakes litigation matters, including several high profile First Amendment disputes. She represented CNN's Jim Acosta and White House Correspondent Brian Karem in successful suits to reinstate their White House press passes, and Mary Trump in her defeat of an attempt to block publication of her best-selling book about the former President, Too Much and Never Enough: How My Family Created the World's Most Dangerous Man, for which *The*

Related People

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American Lawyer recognized her along with Ted Boutrous and Matthew McGill as Litigators of the Week. She was previously recognized as Litigator of the Week for the successful defeat of a petition to confirm an $18 billion sham Egyptian arbitration award against Chevron Corporation and Chevron USA, Inc. She has been recognized by *Lawdragon* as among the "500 Leading Litigators in America," by *Chambers USA* 2023 for General Commercial Litigation, and *Benchmark Litigation*, which named her to its 2022 list of the "Top 250 Women in Litigation."

Anne is admitted to practice in the courts of the State of New York, the United States District Courts for the Southern, Eastern, and Northern Districts of New York, the Eastern District of Texas, and the United States Courts of Appeals for the Second Circuit, the D.C. Circuit, and the Federal Circuit.

Connor Sullivan is a partner in the New York office of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher. He is a member of the Firm's Media, Entertainment, and Technology; Appellate and Constitutional Law; Privacy, Cybersecurity and Data Innovation; and Intellectual Property Practice Groups.

Connor has significant experience in First Amendment matters representing news media organizations and reporters, as well as litigating attempts to restrain speech prior to publication. He has been involved in some of the Firm's major recent First Amendment victories, including successfully representing members of the White House press corps suing to secure the return of suspended press credentials and representing Mary Trump, the niece of President Donald Trump, in successfully opposing the Trump family's attempt to enjoin the publication of her bestselling family memoir. Before joining the firm, he served as a member of the trial team in one of the largest defamation suits ever tried. He is a co-author of "Defamation and Reputation Management in the United States" for the global research platform Lexology. Connor has also worked on behalf of pro bono clients in connection with immigration and First Amendment rights.

Connor is admitted to practice in New York and the District of Columbia, and before the United States Courts of Appeals for the Second, Third, Fourth, Sixth, Ninth, and District of Columbia Circuits and the United States District Courts for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York and the District of Columbia.

Apratim Vidyarthi is a litigation associate in the New York office of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher. His practice focuses on white collar, law firm defense, technology, and appellate and constitutional law, with a focus on First Amendment law.

Apratim is involved in several First Amendment matters, including representing *Media Matters for America* in its defense against Twitter/X Corp's defamation litigation(s), defending a former White House official's public speech calling out social media platforms' hosting of misinformation about COVID vaccines, defending a social media company against state investigations, and defending a large technology company against a mandatory data-sharing bill. Apratim also maintains an active First Amendment pro bono docket, having recently filed amicus briefs in *Free Speech Coalition v. Paxton*, *Villarreal v. Alaniz*, and *Gonzalez v. Trevino* at the Supreme Court and in *Pernell v. Lamb* in the Eleventh Circuit, and defending a Jewish divorcee's First Amendment rights to protest their ex-husbands' refusals to grant permissions to divorce.

Apratim graduated *cum laude* from the University of Pennsylvania Law School, where he served as Philanthropy Editor on the board of the *University of Pennsylvania Law Review*. He received a Master's in Engineering from Carnegie Mellon and Bachelors degrees in Nuclear Engineering and Applied Mathematics from the University of California, Berkeley. Prior to law school, Apratim worked at Deloitte Consulting in their technology consulting group. He is admitted to practice in the State of New York, and before the Eleventh Circuit, and the United States District Courts for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York.

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