

NEWSGUARD: BACKGROUND, TIMELINE, AND CONTROVERSIES

An analysis has found that there is an “extraordinary left-wing bias” with NewsGuard’s ratings. According to MRC Free Speech America, there is a 27-point disparity between its ratings of liberal news outlets compared to conservative outlets.

Did you know...?

A December 2021 analysis of NewsGuard’s ratings have found an “extraordinary left-wing bias of website ratings.” The average rating for “Right” And “Lean Right” was 66/100 – **a 27 point disparity**.

[Read more at MRCNewsbusters →](#)

In January 2022, The American Federation of Teachers announced a national partnership with NewsGuard. The deal allowed the union to license NewsGuard web browser extensions to **1.7 million members**.

[Read more at Washington Free Beacon →](#)

Numerous reviews of NewsGuard employees and company actions have found that the company is **dominated by employees who have previously worked in Democrat circles**, and its leadership has “predominately” contributed to the Democratic party.

[Read more at The Daily Caller →](#)

The 1619 Project



One of NewsGuard's biggest funders is the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, a philanthropy that backs numerous left-wing causes, including a journalism department at Howard University headed by Nikole Hannah-Jones. Hannah-Jones is the **author of the ‘1619 Project,’ which pushes a distorted view of America’s founding**. Another NewsGuard backer is Jules Kroll, the founder of the intelligence firm that **helped Harvey Weinstein compile dossiers on women who accused him of sexual assault.**

[Learn more on page 3](#)

NewsGuard: Background, Timeline, and Controversies

Overview

NewsGuard is an internet news rating agency founded in 2018 with the aim of combating fake news by providing credibility ratings about news websites. Their service is free to readers through a browser extension and it makes money through software licensing agreements. Elon Musk has branded NewsGuard as a “scam” and a “propaganda shop.”

An analysis has found that there is an “extraordinary left-wing bias” with NewsGuard’s ratings. According to MRC Free Speech America, there is a 27-point disparity between its ratings of liberal news outlets compared to conservative outlets.

Numerous reviews of NewsGuard employees and company actions have found that the company is dominated by employees who have previously worked in Democrat circles, and its leadership has “predominately” contributed to the Democratic party. In January 2022, NewsGuard partnered with the American Federation of Teachers union.

Early funders of NewsGuard have backed “numerous left-wing causes.” Including the John S. & James L. Knight Foundation, which has supported the Howard University journalism department headed by Nikole Hannah-Jones, the author of the “1619 Project” that advocates for an alternative view of America’s founding.

Conservatives aren’t the only political persuasion to take issue with NewsGuard’s practices. In October 2023, the left-leaning Consortium for Independent Journalists filed suit in federal court alleging the company of “defamation” and “First Amendment violations” for defaming news organizations that question American foreign policy. The Consortium alleges these media organizations are labeled as “Anti-U.S.” and purveyors of Russian “misinformation.”

As a purveyor of Democratic news narratives, Americans can’t trust NewsGuard to offer a fair-and-balanced review of the news and should be disbanded.

BACKGROUND

NewsGuard Was Created To Combat Misinformation And Is Led By Two Executives, Steven Brill, The Founder Of The American Lawyer Magazine And Gordon Crovitz, A Former Publisher Of The Wall Street Journal. “On the internet, conspiracy theories, propaganda and plain old inaccuracies can stump even the most thoughtful readers, spreading faster than you can say ‘fake news.’ A small start-up, NewsGuard, says it may have a solution. The effort is led by a pair of veteran news executives — Steven Brill, an author and the founder of the magazine The American Lawyer, and Gordon Crovitz, a former publisher of The Wall Street Journal. On Wednesday the company announced that it had signed Microsoft as its first major client.” (Edmund Lee, “Veterans Of The News Business Are Now Fighting Fakes,” [The New York Times](#), 1/16/19)

- **“NewsGuard Has Created The Equivalent Of Nutrition Labels For News Organizations, Rating More Than 2,000 News And Information Sites With Tags: Red For Unreliable, Green For Trustworthy.”** (Edmund Lee, “Veterans Of The News Business Are Now Fighting Fakes,” [The New York Times](#), 1/16/19)
- **“A Team Of Roughly 50 Journalists And Analysts Is Making The Evaluations.”** (Edmund Lee, “Veterans Of The News Business Are Now Fighting Fakes,” [The New York Times](#), 1/16/19)
- **The Analysts Will Let Users Know Which News Websites Are Reliable And Which Have False Stories.** “The founder of Court TV and the Brill's Content magazine about journalism is behind a new effort to sniff out fake news. Steve Brill and partner Gordon Crovitz said Monday they've secured funding for NewsGuard, a company that will use journalists to analyze news and information websites. Reviews of some 7,500 sites will let consumers know

which are reliable and which have planted false stories. Crovitz is a former publisher of the Wall Street Journal. Brill said NewsGuard is expected to be available this fall. Each description of a web site will tell its history, the owners and editors and whether the veracity of its articles have been questioned. Crovitz said NewsGuard is necessary in a world where news brands don't stand out on social media or through search results.” (“Journalists To Review News Sites In Brill’s New Venture,” *The Associated Press*, 3/5/18)

The Idea Behind NewsGuard Isn’t “Entirely Original” As Media Bias/Fact Check Was Launched In 2015 And Posts Bias And Accuracy Rankings For Roughly 2,000 News Sites. “It’s a smart approach, though not entirely original. In 2015, the independent media critic Dave Van Zandt launched Media Bias/Fact Check, which posts bias and accuracy rankings for roughly 2,000 news sites. Visitors can find out if a site offers reliable information and whether to expect a left- or a right-wing slant.” (Hiawatha Bray, “Standing Guard Against Fake News,” *The Boston Globe*, 11/1/18)

NewsGuard Is Free To Readers Through A Browser Extension And Makes Money By Pitching Tech Companies To License Its Software. “The service, free to readers, offers a browser extension that shows a news operation’s rating when a reader lands on its site. The NewsGuard tag also appears in search results next to article links for those who have the extension. ... To make money, the company has pitched major technology companies to license its software and incorporate its ratings into their services. The first major tech player to sign on is Microsoft, which has agreed to install the system onto its mobile browser, NewsGuard said.” (Edmund Lee, “Veterans Of The News Business Are Now Fighting Fakes,” *The New York Times*, 1/16/19)

Timeline Of Notable Events

March 2018: Official announcement that NewsGuard would be launched in the fall by Steve Brill and Gordon Crovitz after raising \$6 million in funding. The funding came from the Publicis Group and the John S. & James L. Knight Foundation. (“Journalists To Review News Sites In Brill’s New Venture,” *The Associated Press*, 3/5/18; Hiawatha Bray, “Standing Guard Against Fake News,” *The Boston Globe*, 11/1/18)

August 2018: Launched a free browser plugin with support from Microsoft. (NewsGuard, “NewsGuard Announces Launch Of Free Browser Plugin With Support From Microsoft,” [Press Release](#), 8/23/18)

April 2019: Announced a UK launch. (NewsGuard, “NewsGuard Announces UK Launch To Tackle Misinformation Online,” [Press Release](#), 4/24/19)

February 2020: Launched its Coronavirus Misinformation Tracking Center. (NewsGuard, “NewsGuard Launches Coronavirus Misinformation Tracking Center,” [Press Release](#), 2/25/20)

May 2020: Microsoft expands its adoption of NewsGuard. (NewsGuard, “Microsoft Expands NewsGuard Adoption,” [Press Release](#), 5/14/20)

June 2020: Launched apps for Android and Apple iOS apps for mobile devices. (NewsGuard, “NewsGuard Launches Android App, Bringing Its Nutrition Labels For News Sites To Users’ Mobile Devices,” [Press Release](#), 6/1/20; NewsGuard, “NewsGuard Launches iOS App, Bringing Its Nutrition Labels For News Sites To iPhones And iPads,” [Press Release](#), 6/9/20)

August 2020: Partnered with the World Health Organization. (NewsGuard, “NewsGuard Statement: WHO Partnership,” [Press Release](#), 8/24/20)

November 2020: Trend Micro becomes first cybersecurity company to license NewsGuard ratings. (NewsGuard, “Trend Micro Becomes First Cybersecurity Company To License NewsGuard Ratings, Protecting Its Customers From Misinformation,” [Press Release](#), 11/18/20)

May 2021: Partnered with GumGum to stop advertising dollars from funding misinformation. (NewsGuard, “NewsGuard & GumGum Partner To Stop Advertising Dollars From Funding Misinformation,” [Press Release](#), 5/12/21)

January 2022: Announced Canada launch. (NewsGuard, “NewsGuard Announces Canada Launch To Tackle Misinformation Online,” [Press Release](#), 1/19/22)

January 2022: Announced partnership with the American Federation of Teachers (AFT). (NewsGuard, “AFT Partners With NewsGuard To Combat Misinformation Online,” [Press Release](#), 1/25/22)

March 2022: Announced the launch of the Russia-Ukraine Disinformation Tracking Center. (NewsGuard, “NewsGuard Launches Russia-Ukraine Disinformation Tracking Center,” [Press Release](#), 3/3/22)

August 2022: Launched in Austria. (NewsGuard, “NewsGuard Announces Launch In Austria To Counter Misinformation,” [Press Release](#), 8/25/22)

February 2023: Launched “NewsGuard for AI: Training Machines with Trust Data.” (NewsGuard, “Launch Of ‘NewsGuard For AI: Training Machines With Trust Data,’” [Press Release](#), 2/15/23)

March 2023: Expanded to Australia and New Zealand. (NewsGuard, “NewsGuard Expands Service to Australia and New Zealand, Rating News Sources and Tracking False Narratives; Finds Climate Change Misinformation to be Major Subject of Unreliable Websites,” [Press Release](#), 3/15/23)

May 2023: Launched its podcast credibility ratings. (NewsGuard, “NewsGuard Launches World’s First Journalist-Vetted Podcast Credibility Ratings to Help Advertisers and Streaming Platforms Identify and Support Trustworthy, Brand-Safe News Podcasts,” [Press Release](#), 5/8/23)

June 2023: Launched an AI-generated news tracking center. (NewsGuard, “NewsGuard Launches Tracking Center for AI-Generated News,” [Press Release](#), 6/8/23)

October 2023: Launched a tracking center for Israel-Hamas War misinformation. (NewsGuard, “NewsGuard Launches Israel-Hamas War Misinformation Tracking Center,” [NewsGuard](#), 10/11/23)

LEFT-WING BIAS

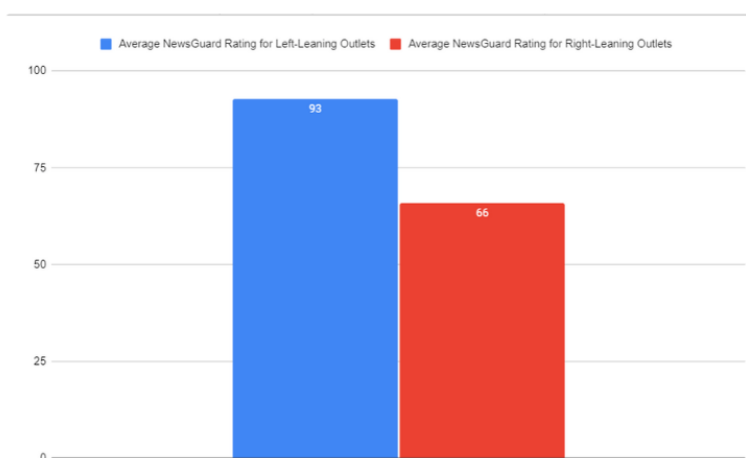
NewsGuard Overwhelmingly Favors Left-Wing Media Outlets Over The Right

A December 2021 Analysis Of NewsGuard’s Ratings Have Found An “Extraordinary Left-Wing Bias Of Website Ratings.” “A new analysis reveals the extraordinary left-wing bias of website ratings firm NewsGuard, which should concern every American given that it is expanding its reach into cable and broadcast TV news. Liberal outlets were rated 27 points higher on average than news organizations on the right.” (Joseph Vazquez, “STUDY: NewsGuard Ratings System Heavily Skews In Favor Of Left-Wing Outlets,” [MRC](#), 12/13/21)

“MRC Free Speech America Analyzed The Newsguard Ratings Of Media Outlets Based On A List Compiled By Allsides Classified By Their ‘Bias’ On A Left-To-Right Scale.” (Joseph Vazquez, “STUDY: NewsGuard Ratings System Heavily Skews In Favor Of Left-Wing Outlets,” [MRC](#), 12/13/21)

“The Average Newsguard Score For The ‘Left’ And ‘Lean Left’ Outlets — Which Included Leftist Outlets Like Jacobin And The Nation — Was 93/100.” (Joseph Vazquez, “STUDY: NewsGuard Ratings System Heavily Skews In Favor Of Left-Wing Outlets,” [MRC](#), 12/13/21)

The Average Rating For “Right” And “Lean Right” Was 66/100 – A 27 Point Disparity. “While the average rating for ‘right’ and ‘lean right’ outlets — which included Fox News, Washington Times and New York Post — was a low 66/100. That’s a 27 point disparity.” (Joseph Vazquez, “STUDY: NewsGuard Ratings System Heavily Skews In Favor Of Left-Wing Outlets,” [MRC](#), 12/13/21)



DOMINATED BY DEMOCRATS

NewsGuard Employees Have Worked In Democratic Politics

NewsGuard “Employs A Number Of Staffers Who Once Worked In Democratic Politics.” “A media literacy group, which the nation's largest teachers' union tapped to help millions of school children identify online misinformation, employs a number of staffers who once worked in Democratic politics.” (Chuck Ross, “Democrats Dominate ‘Misinformation’ Firm Working With Teachers’ Union,” [The Washington Free Beacon](#), 4/14/22)

An April 2022 Review Of NewsGuard Employees By The Washington Free Beacon Review Found A “Leftward Tilt Among Staff Members” And “None Of The NewsGuard Staffers Listed Online Have Worked For Republicans.” “But a review of NewsGuard's employee roster shows a leftward tilt among staff members. ... None of the NewsGuard staffers listed online have worked for Republicans.” (Chuck Ross, “Democrats Dominate ‘Misinformation’ Firm Working With Teachers’ Union,” [The Washington Free Beacon](#), 4/14/22)

- **“The Group's Deputy General Manager Volunteered For Hillary Clinton's 2016 Presidential Campaign And Served As A Delegate To The Democratic National Convention, According To The NewsGuard Website.”** (Chuck Ross, “Democrats Dominate ‘Misinformation’ Firm Working With Teachers’ Union,” [The Washington Free Beacon](#), 4/14/22)
- **“One Staff Analyst Volunteered For Obama's 2012 Campaign, And Another Served On A Democratic Political Committee In Connecticut.”** (Chuck Ross, “Democrats Dominate ‘Misinformation’ Firm Working With Teachers’ Union,” [The Washington Free Beacon](#), 4/14/22)
- **NewsGuard’s General Counsel Has Served On The Board Of The League Of Conservation Voters And Has Contributed Thousands Of Dollars To Democrats.** “NewsGuard's general counsel has served on the board of the League of Conservation Voters, a Democrat-aligned environmental group. The lawyer, Cynthia Brill, has also contributed thousands of dollars to Democratic candidates.” (Chuck Ross, “Democrats Dominate ‘Misinformation’ Firm Working With Teachers’ Union,” [The Washington Free Beacon](#), 4/14/22)

NewsGuard Employees “Predominately” Donated To The Democratic Party

NewsGuard Leadership Have “Predominately” Donated To The Democratic Party. “Members of the leadership of NewsGuard, an organization that aims to fight disinformation and promote news literacy, donate predominately to the Democratic Party, according to a Daily Caller News Foundation review of election records. ... Members of NewsGuard’s leadership team have donated overwhelmingly to Democratic candidates, according to a Daily Caller News Foundation review of Federal Election Commission (FEC) filings.” (Ailan Evans, “Leadership Of Anti-‘Misinformation’ Group Partnered With Teachers’ Union Donates Predominantly To Democrats,” [Daily Caller](#), 3/7/22)

“Twenty NewsGuard Executives And Advisers Have Contributed To Democratic Candidates Since 2015, With Only Six Giving To Republicans, According To Federal Election Commission Records.” (Chuck Ross, “Democrats Dominate ‘Misinformation’ Firm Working With Teachers’ Union,” [The Washington Free Beacon](#), 4/14/22)

- **“Nine Gave More Than \$10,000 To Democratic Candidates, While Just Three Republicans Surpassed That Threshold.”** (Chuck Ross, “Democrats Dominate ‘Misinformation’ Firm Working With Teachers’ Union,” [The Washington Free Beacon](#), 4/14/22)

As NewsGuard General Counsel, Cynthia Brill Contributed \$1,250 To Democrat Rep. Antonio Delgado And Has Donated Several Thousand Dollars To Democrats Prior To Working At The Company. “Cynthia Brill, general counsel at NewsGuard, has been an active donor to Democratic politicians, contributing \$1,250 to the campaign of New York Democratic Rep. Antonio Delgado since she began working at NewsGuard. She also donated several thousand dollars to New York Democratic Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney’s campaign prior to her time at NewsGuard.” (Ailan Evans, “Leadership Of Anti-‘Misinformation’ Group Partnered With Teachers’ Union Donates Predominantly To Democrats,” [Daily Caller](#), 3/7/22)

NewsGuard’s Executive Vice President Of Partnerships Has Contributed To Biden And Pete Buttigieg’s Presidential Campaigns And Its Chief Technology Officer Has Made Small Contributions To Various Democrats. “Executive vice president of partnerships Sarah

Brandt donated to the presidential campaigns of Biden and Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, while chief technology officer Mikey Wang made several small contributions to various Democratic candidates including Georgia Sens. Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff.” (Ailan Evans, “Leadership Of Anti-Misinformation’ Group Partnered With Teachers’ Union Donates Predominantly To Democrats,” [Daily Caller](#), 3/7/22)

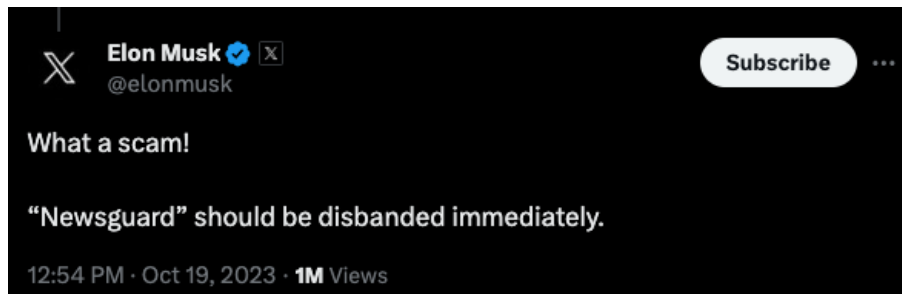
“Several Other Members Of NewsGuard Have Also Made Small Political Donations, Predominantly To Democratic Candidates.” (Ailan Evans, “Leadership Of Anti-Misinformation’ Group Partnered With Teachers’ Union Donates Predominantly To Democrats,” [Daily Caller](#), 3/7/22)

CALLS FOR DISBANDMENT

Elon Musk Has Recently Called For NewsGuard To Be Disbanded As He Considers Their Services A “Scam”

In October 2023, Elon Musk Called For NewsGuard To Be “Disbanded.” “On Thursday, Twitter CEO and entrepreneur Elon Musk called for NewsGuard—a for-profit entity dedicated to countering what it calls misinformation—to be ‘disbanded.’” (Steven Richards, “‘What A Scam!’ Elon Musk Calls For Self-Described ‘Media Watchdog’ NewsGuard To Be Disbanded,” [JustTheNews](#), 10/20/23)

Elon Musk Tweeted That NewsGuard Was A “Scam” And “Should Be Disbanded Immediately.” (Elon Musk, [X/Twitter](#), 10/19/23)



In November 2023, Musk Tweeted That NewsGuard Was A “Propaganda Shop That Will Produce Any Lies You Want If You Pay Them Enough Money.” (Elon Musk, [X/Twitter](#), 11/22/23)



Musk’s Comments Were Spurred By Comments From Mike Benz, The Executive Director Of The Foundation For Freedom Online, Who Noted That NewsGuard Had Partnered With The European Union To Combat Disinformation. “His statements came after former State Department official Mike Benz, executive director of the Foundation for Freedom Online, pointed out that NewsGuard partnered with the European Union to develop its new disinformation codes and helps the body combat mis- and disinformation in a post to Musk’s X, formerly Twitter.” (Steven Richards, “‘What A Scam!’ Elon Musk Calls For Self-Described ‘Media Watchdog’ NewsGuard To Be Disbanded,” [JustTheNews](#), 10/20/23)

“The Recently Amended EU Guidelines Can Fine Companies Up To 6% Of Global Annual Revenue Or Even Ban Them In EU Countries.” (Steven Richards, “‘What A Scam!’ Elon Musk Calls For Self-Described ‘Media Watchdog’ NewsGuard To Be Disbanded,” [JustTheNews](#), 10/20/23)

Benz Claimed NewsGuard Had Put News Outlets Out Of Operation By Placing Them On A Coronavirus Misinformation Tracking Center Blacklist. “NewsGuard has partnered with

the U.S. State Department, the Defense Department, and the World Health Organization to combat what it claims is COVID-19 misinformation. According to Benz, NewsGuard has put news sites out of operability by placing them on a Coronavirus Misinformation Tracking Center blacklist. An archived page from its website highlights some of the most prominent purported COVID-19 myths propagated by these sites.” (Steven Richards, “‘What A Scam!’ Elon Musk Calls For Self-Described ‘Media Watchdog’ NewsGuard To Be Disbanded,” [JustTheNews](#), 10/20/23)

PARTNERED WITH AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

NewsGuard Has Partnered With The American Federation Of Teachers

In January 2022, The American Federation Of Teachers Announced A National Partnership With NewsGuard. “The American Federation of Teachers has launched a national partnership with a leading anti-misinformation tool NewsGuard to protect and champion legitimate journalism and fact-based reporting and to help educators and their students navigate a sea of online disinformation. Under the terms of the pathbreaking licensing agreement, coinciding with National News Literacy Week, the AFT’s 1.7 million members, tens of millions of kids they teach, and their families, can now receive free, real-time “traffic light” news ratings and detailed “Nutrition Label” reviews, via a licensed copy of NewsGuard’s browser extension, whenever they search the web for news and information.” (NewsGuard, “AFT Partners With NewsGuard To Combat Misinformation Online,” [Press Release](#), 1/25/22)

The Deal Allowed The Union To License NewsGuard Web Browser Extensions To Its 1.7 Million Members. “Tens of millions of American school children will soon rely on a liberal media watchdog group to determine what counts as misinformation. The American Federation of Teachers this week struck a deal to license NewsGuard web browser extensions to its 1.7 million union members.” (Chuck Ross, “Teachers’ Union Taps Liberal Watchdog To Help Students Identify Misinformation,” [The Washington Free Beacon](#), 1/26/22)

According To AFT President Randi Weingarten, NewsGuard Will “Help Students To ‘Separate Fact From Fiction’ And ‘Develop Their Critical-Thinking And Analytical Skills.’” “Students across the country will soon rely on NewsGuard's tools to determine the reliability of hundreds of websites. American Federation of Teachers president Randi Weingarten said her union will use NewsGuard to help students to ‘separate fact from fiction’ and ‘develop their critical-thinking and analytical skills.’” (Chuck Ross, “Teachers’ Union Taps Liberal Watchdog To Help Students Identify Misinformation,” [The Washington Free Beacon](#), 1/26/22)

The Internet Accountability Group (IAP) And Free Speech America Took Issue With The Partnership And Called On Congress To Investigate. (Internet Accountability Project, [X/Twitter](#), 4/21/22; Free Speech America, [X/Twitter](#), 4/22/22)



A coalition of education and tech policy groups, led by @fightforschools demands Congress investigate the Orwellian partnership between leftist website ratings firm @NewsGuardRating and the anti-parent American Federation of Teachers @AFTunion.



newsbusters.org
Letter to Congress Cites MRC Study to Slam Teachers Union Partnership with ...
Nineteen organizations demanded Congress investigate the Orwellian
partnership between leftist website ratings firm NewsGuard and the anti-paren...

SUED FOR FIRST AMENDMENT VIOLATIONS

The Left-Leaning Consortium For Independent Journalists Has Filed A Federal Lawsuit Against NewsGuard Alleging First Amendment Violations

In October 2023, The “Left-Leaning” Consortium News Filed A Federal Lawsuit In The Southern District Of New York Against NewsGuard, Alleging “Defamation” And “First Amendment Violations.” “The federal government and NewsGuard Technologies Inc., the for-profit entity dedicated to ferreting ‘misinformation’ in the news media, were sued Monday for alleged defamation and First Amendment violations. The suit was filed in the Southern District of New York by the Consortium for Independent Journalists. The group publishes Consortium News, which the founder, the late Associated Press journalist Robert Perry, said in 2020 that he started it roughly 25 years ago as an alternative to the groupthink of the mainstream media. Perry died in 2018.” (Steven Richards, “Federal Government ‘Disinformation’ Arbiter NewsGuard Sued For Alleged First Amendment Violation,” [JustTheNews](#), 10/23/23)

The Lawsuit Alleged The U.S. And NewsGuard Are “Engaged In A Pattern And Practice Of Labelling, Stigmatizing And Defaming America Media Organizations That Oppose Or Dissent From American Foreign And Defense Policy, Particularly As To Russia And Ukraine.” “The U.S. and NewsGuard are ‘engaged in a pattern and practice of labeling, stigmatizing and defaming American media organizations that oppose or dissent from American foreign and defense policy, particularly as to Russia and Ukraine,’ according to the lawsuit.” (Steven Richards, “Federal Government ‘Disinformation’ Arbiter NewsGuard Sued For Alleged First Amendment Violation,” [JustTheNews](#), 10/23/23)

- **“The Suit Further Alleges Such Efforts Are Accomplished By ‘A Contract Between Newsguard’s ‘Misinformation Fingerprints’ Program And The Department Of Defense Cyber Command, An Element Of The Intelligence Community.’”** (Steven Richards, “Federal Government ‘Disinformation’ Arbiter NewsGuard Sued For Alleged First Amendment Violation,” [JustTheNews](#), 10/23/23)

Additionally, Media Organizations Challenging U.S. Foreign And Defense Policy Are “Reported” And “Labelled As ‘Anti-U.S.’, Purveyors Of Russian ‘Misinformation’ And Propaganda.” “According to the suit, under the agreement, media organizations that challenge or dispute U.S. foreign and defense policy as to Russia and Ukraine are ‘reported to the government by NewsGuard and labelled as ‘anti-U.S.’, purveyors of Russian ‘misinformation’ and propaganda, publishing ‘false content’ and failing to meet journalistic standards.” (Steven Richards, “Federal Government ‘Disinformation’ Arbiter NewsGuard Sued For Alleged First Amendment Violation,” [JustTheNews](#), 10/23/23)

PROBLEMATIC ADVISOR

Former CIA Director Michael Hayden Was A Signee Of A Letter Warning That Hunter Biden's Stolen Laptop Was A Russian Disinformation Operation. Hayden's Biden Laptop Claims Have Been Debunked By The FBI

Michael Hayden Is An Advisor To NewsGuard. (“(Ret.) General Michael Hayden,” [NewsGuard](#), Accessed 11/26/23)

(Ret.) General Michael Hayden

Advisor

(Ret.) General Michael Hayden is former Director of the CIA, former Director of the National Security Agency, and former Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence.

Hayden Signed A Letter Warning That Biden Laptop Story Was A Russian Information Operation Intended To Influence The 2020 Election. “Interestingly, one of NewsGuard's most high-profile advisors, former CIA director and retired Air Force General Michael Hayden, signed the original letter warning about Hunter Biden's laptop being a Russian information operation shortly before the 2020 election.” (Steven Richards, “What A Scam! Elon Musk Calls For Self-Described ‘Media Watchdog’ NewsGuard To Be Disbanded,” [JustTheNews](#), 10/20/23)

- **The FBI Debunked The Claim.** “The contents of the laptop were eventually verified by the news media and the FBI.” (Steven Richards, “What A Scam! Elon Musk Calls For Self-Described ‘Media Watchdog’ NewsGuard To Be Disbanded,” [JustTheNews](#), 10/20/23)

“The Wall Street Journal Later Said That The Letter Signed By Hayden ‘Itself Was Disinformation.’” (Steven Richards, “What A Scam! Elon Musk Calls For Self-Described ‘Media Watchdog’ NewsGuard To Be Disbanded,” [JustTheNews](#), 10/20/23)

QUESTIONABLE FUNDING

An Early Funder Of NewsGuard, The John S. & James L. Knight Foundation Has Backed “Numerous Left-Wing Causes”

The John S. & James L. Knight Foundation Was An Original Funder Of NewsGuard. “Media Bias has little money compared to NewsGuard, which raised \$6 million from outfits such as Publicis Group and the John S. & James L. Knight Foundation.” (Hiawatha Bray, “Standing Guard Against Fake News,” *The Boston Globe*, 11/1/18)

The Foundation “Backs Numerous Left-Wing Causes, Including A Journalism Department At Howard University Headed By Nikole Hannah-Jones,” The Author Of The “1619 Project.” “One of NewsGuard's biggest funders is the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, a philanthropy that backs numerous left-wing causes, including a journalism department at Howard University headed by Nikole Hannah-Jones. Hannah-Jones is the author of the ‘1619 Project,’ which pushes a distorted view of America’s founding.” (Chuck Ross, “Teachers’ Union Taps Liberal Watchdog To Help Students Identify Misinformation,” [The Washington Free Beacon](#), 1/26/22)

Backed By A Harvey Weinstein Ally

“Another NewsGuard Backer Is Jules Kroll, The Founder Of The Intelligence Firm That Helped Hollywood Producer Harvey Weinstein Compile Dossiers On Women Who Accused Him Of Sexual Assault.” (Chuck Ross, “Teachers’ Union Taps Liberal Watchdog To Help Students Identify Misinformation,” [The Washington Free Beacon](#), 1/26/22)