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Nov 4, 2021 - Politics & Policy

Smartmatic sues Newsmax and OANN for defamation



Rebecca Falconer



Smartmatic filed separate defamation [lawsuits against Newsmax](#) and [One America News Network](#)

Wednesday, accusing the conservative networks of knowingly peddling disinformation about its voting technology during the 2020 presidential election.

Why it matters: The voting company [is already suing Fox News](#) and [Rudy Giuliani and Sidney Powell](#). The latest suit makes similar allegations to the ones filed earlier this year — that the networks embarked on a "disinformation campaign" that harmed Smartmatic's business.

- Voting technology company Dominion is also suing Newsmax and OANN — [as well as Giuliani](#), who served as personal attorney to former President Trump, MyPillow [CEO Mike Lindell](#), businessman Patrick Byrne and [pro-Trump lawyer Powell](#) — for allegedly [making false statements](#) about its voting machines during the election.

Details: Smartmatic said [in a statement](#) Wednesday that the company is "charging that the defendants knowingly and deliberately disseminated a continuous stream of falsehoods that harmed

Smartmatic and negatively impacted the company's business."

- It accused both Newsmax and OANN in the suits of "falsely" stating that Smartmatic "rigged" the presidential election for President Biden in key swing states, [a conspiracy theory](#) repeated by some Trump supporters

services during the 2020 election.

What they're saying: Smartmatic CEO Antonio Mugica said in a statement that the company took legal action because the damage to the firm "from this parallel universe of lies and disinformation has reverberated across the United States and in dozens of countries around the world."

- J. Erik Connolly, an attorney for Smartmatic, said in a statement: "Despite claims to provide viewers with honest, unbiased reporting, these outlets victimized Smartmatic by spreading false information about the company following last year's election, all in their efforts to increase viewership and revenue."

The other side: "While Newsmax has yet to receive or review the Smartmatic filing, Newsmax reported accurately on allegations made by well-known public figures," a spokesperson for the outlet said in an emailed statement.

- These included the former president, "his advisors and members of Congress, as well as reporting on Smartmatic's claims in its defense."
- "Smartmatic's action against Newsmax today is a clear attempt to squelch the rights of a free press," the spokesperson added.

What to watch: Fox News has filed a motion to dismiss the \$2.7 billion defamation lawsuit that

- Newsmax and OANN [have been trying to lure investors](#) to take on the hugely profitable Fox News, but they're "poorly positioned to absorb significant financial penalties" from a lawsuit, the [New York Times](#) notes.
- OANN did not immediately respond to Axios' request for comment.



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Rebecca Falconer
Nov 5, 2021 - Politics & Policy

Pa. voting official alleges Trump, Giuliani claims led to his heart attacks

President Trump and Rudy Giuliani at a 2020 event in Bedminster, N.J. Photo: Jim Watson/AFP via Getty Images

A Pennsylvania election official is suing former President Trump, Rudy Giuliani and Trump surrogates, alleging that their baseless claims about [the 2020 presidential election](#) led to him receiving

The big picture: James Savage, a voting machine warehouse custodian in Delaware County, said [in his lawsuit](#) that his character was "assassinated on a national level" by the defendants, whom he alleges made "deliberate, malicious, and defamatory statements and insinuations" about him during news conferences and on Fox News.

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Erin Doherty
26 mins ago - Health

FDA endorses Pfizer, Moderna COVID boosters for all adults

A health care worker administers a third dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID vaccine at a senior living facility in Worcester, Pa., in August. Photo: Hannah Beier/Bloomberg via Getty Images

The Food and Drug Administration on Friday [endorsed](#) booster shots of the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines for anyone 18 and older.

Why it matter: The move could dramatically increase the number of Americans who are eligible to receive a booster by tens of millions.

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Supply chain troubles aren't going anywhere

Illustration: Aïda Amer/Axios

Supply chain snarls are probably here to stay. That's not to say that today's specific challenges won't abate at some point. But there will be new ones — different from our current variety of chip shortages and a dearth of truck drivers.

Why it matters: Pandemic-driven turmoil may have put supply chains on the public's radar, but major disruptions were picking up even before COVID — think trade wars, Brexit, and an increasing number of extreme weather events.

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