

New York Times Quotes Matthew Sanderson on Campaign Finance

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New York Times

A group of conservative operatives using sophisticated robocalls raised millions of dollars from donors using pro-police and pro-veteran messages. But instead of using the money to promote issues and candidates, an analysis by The New York Times shows, nearly all the money went to pay the firms making the calls and the operatives themselves, highlighting a flaw in the regulation of political nonprofits.

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Campaign-finance experts said that the groups' defense of their work — especially their arguments that the fund-raising calls were political activism in themselves — seemed to test the limits of what was allowed under law.

“Constructing an elaborate self-licking ice cream cone, or fund-raising cycle that feeds itself, that’s not an exempt purpose,” said Matthew Sanderson, a lawyer at the firm Caplin & Drysdale who has advised Republican campaigns, using the I.R.S.’s term for an allowable use of the groups’ money. “The fund-raising has to be *for* something.”

For the full article, please visit *The New York Times*' website.

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