

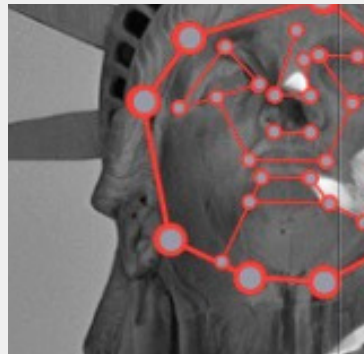
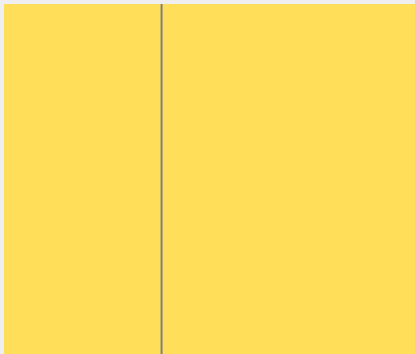
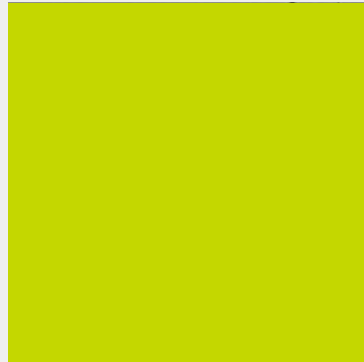
2022

Annual Report

STOP



**SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY
OVERSIGHT PROJECT**



Letter from the Executive Director

Friends,

We were proud to stand with so many of you last year as our work took on new significance across the country and around the world, pushing back against the rapidly accelerating threat of mass surveillance. In the aftermath of Dobbs, we saw unprecedented engagement with our research, as our [Pregnancy Panopticon](#) report was downloaded tens of thousands of times, not to mention videos that brought our research to **more than a million viewers**. And speaking of views, I also had the honor of presenting our work on the TED stage in Vancouver, giving a TED Talk about the urgent need to take action against surveillance.

We expanded our engagement offline as well as on, bringing together grassroots activists and leading civil rights groups for our Stop Surveillance Summer. We've grown our intersectional partnerships and coalitions, building a campaign to meet this momentous moment. We also grew internally, bringing on David Siffert as our first legal director. Our litigation docket has continued to expand, fighting to unearth the information that the public deserves to see about how our communities are surveilled. We won a landmark victory on behalf of Amnesty International, suing the NYPD for records of how Black Lives Matter protests are surveilled.

But as incredible as all of our growth and success was last year, I know we were only laying the foundation for the year ahead. None of this would be possible without the incredible staff, board members, interns, volunteers, pro-bono partners, and donors who make it possible for us to carry out our mission. I am so proud every day to be a part of this community and to see all the remarkable things it does. **And thank you to everyone who joins us in the year ahead. We truly can't do it without you.**



With gratitude,
Albert Fox Cahn, Esq.
Executive Director

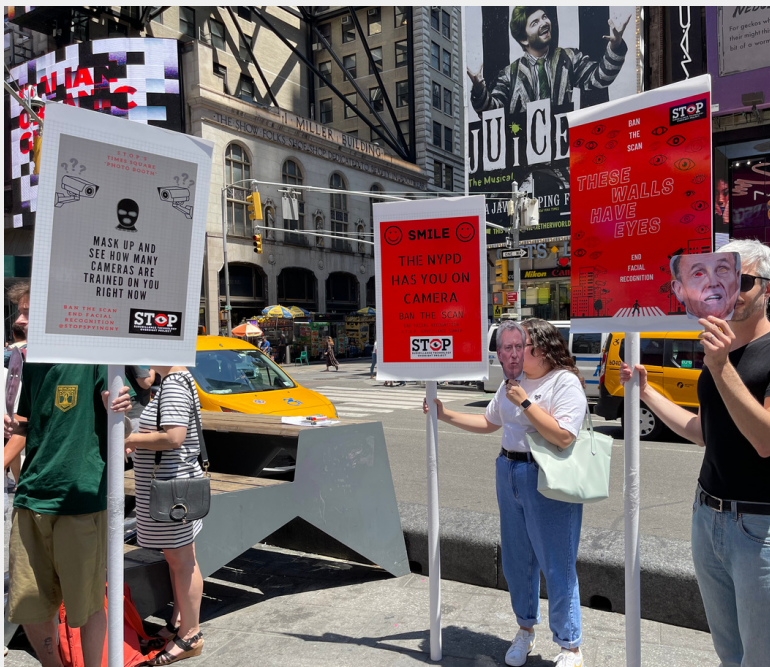
STOP
SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY
OVERSIGHT PROJECT

Litigation

In 2022, S.T.O.P. grew our Legal team to expand our work in the fight against surveillance.

Early in the year, we hired our first-ever Legal Director, David Siffert, to lead our impact litigation and legislative advocacy work. Within their first year, David has done a phenomenal job bolstering our capacity to tackle some of the major problems facing our city, state, and country.

In April, after filing an amicus brief with the Harvard Law School Cyberlaw Clinic, [we strongly condemned](#) the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court's decision upholding the constitutionality of police searches of cell tower data—a biased, invasive policing practice we've long advocated to ban here in New York.



Over the summer, S.T.O.P. and Amnesty International [won a major victory](#) in our case against NYPD demanding they show us their records on facial recognition and other spy tools that targeted Black Lives Matter activists during the historic protests of summer 2020. After years of the Department evading the law, a New York Supreme Court judge ordered NYPD to hand over up to 2,700 documents related to its use of surveillance technology on BLM protesters.

We closed out the year by launching our [Biometric Information Privacy Act \(BIPA\) Litigation Tracker](#), an invaluable tool that records all cases filed under Illinois' Biometric Information Privacy Act (BIPA). BIPA is the nation's leading national biometric privacy law, prohibiting companies from collecting consumers' biometric information. With our tracker, we found a majority of BIPA claims allege workplace misconduct, reflecting the rise in employee surveillance during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Advocacy & Legislation

By partnering with local activists and lawmakers, S.T.O.P. had a bigger impact than ever in 2022. We drafted a dozen bills introduced by state and City lawmakers and made real progress towards outlawing dangerous surveillance around the country.



A biker rides through a mock geofence in Washington Square Park

A year of progress

But last year wasn't only about laying the groundwork for 2023, we also secured victories in the state government and New York City Council by:

- Introducing the STOP FAKES Act in partnership with Senator Cleare and Assembly Member Mamdani. If passed, this bill would prohibit New York police from creating misleading bot social media accounts that coerce teens into revealing information hidden by privacy settings and parental controls.
- Ramping up our advocacy to cancel NYPD's gang database. Including working with partners to introduce a city ordinance banning the gang database and calling on the City to finally release its long-delayed gang database report, which it did months later.

A year of organizing

2022 was a year of gritty organizing. Led by S.T.O.P.'s legal director, David Siffert, we established close working relationships with key lawmakers in state and local government. Last year's work has already paid off in 2023, with major breakthroughs in our campaigns to:

- Ban facial recognition in New York City;
- Reform freewheeling and warrantless information sharing between government agencies and police; and
- Eliminate unconstitutional geofence and keyword search warrants.



S.T.O.P.'s Communications Director Will Owen protests in One Police Plaza



S.T.O.P. speaks on facial recognition at City Hall

Passersby learning about the harms of facial recognition technology in Times Square from Albert and S.T.O.P. Research Director Eleni Manis.



A return to in-person advocacy: S.T.O.P. Surveillance Summer

2022 saw our first in-person advocacy events in nearly two years. Over the summer, we rallied against facial recognition in One Police Plaza and City Hall, organized with coalitions against gang policing, held an interactive geofencing exhibit in Washington Square Park, and wore masks to Times Square to call attention to facial recognition's failures.



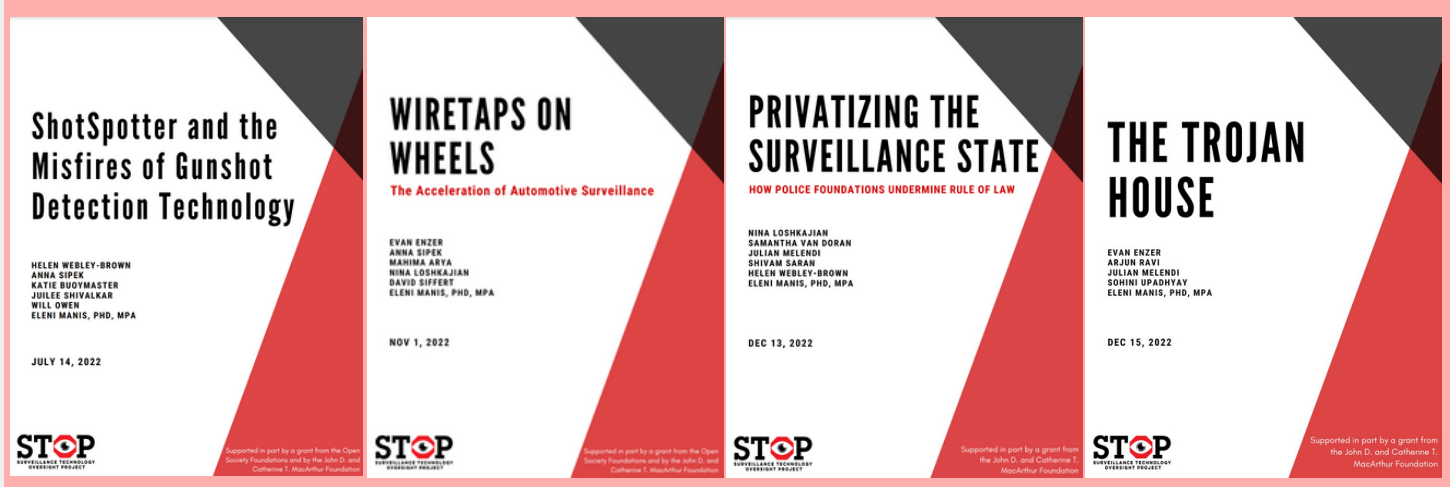
Our legal intern Zartosht Ahlers raises awareness about cybersecurity with fake QR codes.

Research

In 2022, S.T.O.P. published numerous research reports to expand and empower the public's knowledge of the surveillance state.

This year S.T.O.P. continued to utilize research to resist dangerous and convoluted narratives promoted by the police and tech corporations about the realities of the surveillance state.

Our 2022 research projects included:



S.T.O.P. remained committed to exposing the underbelly of tracking technologies and reimagining safety beyond surveillance, writing about topics including: the surveillance risks of smart homes, dangers of ShotSpotter, corruption of police foundations, surveillance of pregnant people post-Roe, and much more.



In addition to research reports, S.T.O.P. launched the groundbreaking Biometric Information Privacy Act (BIPA) tracker and authored a detailed surveillance review of the January 6th insurrection that rejected the event's use as a justification for an expansion of facial recognition technology.

Communications

Surveillance has a PR issue. Self-interested parties are notoriously opaque about their development and use of surveillance. And the current spotlight being shined on surveillance technologies, like facial recognition, paints a picture of progress, leaving all the dangers and harms of these tools in the shadows. Therefore, at S.T.O.P., communications are crucial to our mission. Our media campaign is helping to change the narrative around surveillance at home and abroad, platforming the discriminatory impact of surveillance on historically marginalized communities and offering timely responses that push back against emerging forms of surveillance. In 2022, we were quoted in over 100 articles and placed over 30 S.T.O.P. authored op-eds in local, national, and international outlets. Here is a look back at some of the points that were made.

Tech Solutionism is not a Solution

Surveillance technology won't make our lives better, safer, or smarter.

New Tech Won't Stop New York's Old Guns and Terror Problems

| CREEPY CRYSTAL BALL |

Mayor Eric Adams seemed to be cheering on new tech that will supposedly keep us safe, even as the existing tech predictably failed to do so.

DAILY BEAST

How Tech Treats Students With Disabilities Like Criminals

| DISCRIMINATION |

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) needs an update to protect vulnerable kids' rights in the age of artificial intelligence (AI) and nonstop surveillance.

WIRED

The 'Surveillance Solutionism' of Putting Cameras in NYC Subways

When "if you see something, say something" becomes "we see everything," everyone loses.

Beware The Surveillance Industrial Complex

future tense

The New Way Police Could Use Your Google Searches Against You

SLATE

FASTCOMPANY

A first-of-its-kind law in Houston poses a major threat to privacy

The ordinance requires companies to install cameras on their property—at the businesses' expense—without public oversight.

OPINION

DAILYNEWS

The Mets should steal bases, not faces

DAILY BEAST

You Have No Privacy—the Government Already Bought It From Tech Companies

| WHAT FOURTH AMENDMENT? |

Congress needs to put some meaningful guardrails on law enforcement's ability to buy our data from private entities.

Unscrupulous Police Surveillance

05 April 2022

VB

On the Internet, No One Knows You're a Cop

DAILYNEWS

OPINION

Why is the NYPD hiding its surveillance of BLM?

Abortion Surveillance Post-Roe

S.T.O.P., since the overturning of Roe v. Wade on June 24th, 2022, has geared its resources towards fighting the surveillance state's threats to abortion rights and to the safety of people who can get pregnant. The intersection of the surveillance state and abortion rights raises a variety of concerns regarding healthcare and travel data, police surveillance, and other privacy issues.

Research

In May 2022, after the Supreme Court's leaked decision overturning Roe v. Wade, S.T.O.P. published *Pregnancy Panopticon: Abortion Surveillance After Roe*, a report outlining anticipated use of existing surveillance infrastructure to target people who can become pregnant as a means of persecuting abortion seekers. The report also highlights measures that patients, providers, and lawmakers can take to mitigate abortion surveillance.

This report got a record number of views for S.T.O.P., clocking over 25,000 reads and downloads, alongside over 1,000,000 impressions across social media in a post with @so.informed.



— Op-Eds and Media

S.T.O.P. published four op-eds in 2022 relating to post-Roe surveillance in publications such as Wired and Slate. S.T.O.P. was additionally featured in over 20 media publications discussing post-Roe surveillance including outlets such as CNN, The Washington Post, and Politico.



— Panels

In 2022, Executive Director Albert Fox Cahn moderated a panel part of S.T.O.P.'s RadTech speaker series regarding the criminalization of reproductive freedoms and joined a discussion with the Dismantling Injustice podcast about the threat of mass surveillance on those who could become pregnant.

In addition to exposing the many dangers the surveillance state poses to people who could become pregnant post-Roe, S.T.O.P. has also worked to amplify and uplift the work of those seeking to provide safe and accessible abortions for all. A non-exhaustive list of organizations pursuing reproductive justice can be found on the [Abortion Surveillance](#) page of the S.T.O.P. website.

2022 Financials

Revenue		Total
Direct Contributions	\$	82,357
Non-Government Grants	\$	353,000
Royalty Income	\$	951
Investments Revenue	\$	80
Total Sales Revenue	\$	797
In-Kind Professional Services	\$	1,186,005
Cash Revenue	\$	436,234
In-Kind Professional Services	\$	1,186,005
Total Revenue	\$	1,623,190
Expenses		
Salaries & Related Expenses	\$	628,262
Contract Service Expenses	\$	81,220
Stipends	\$	13,750
Non-Personnel Expenses	\$	31,124
Facility Expenses	\$	3,378
Travel & Conference Expenses	\$	3,588
Legal Expenses	\$	499
Other Expenses	\$	59
Interest Expense	\$	222
Insurance - Non-employee Related	\$	9,768
Membership Dues - Organization	\$	60
Other Expenses	\$	403
Bank Fees	\$	120
Merchant Fees	\$	594
Business Taxes & Licensing Fees	\$	228
Cash Expenses	\$	773,276
In-Kind Professional Services	\$	1,186,005
Total Expenses	\$	1,959,281
Net Revenue	\$	(336,091)

2022 Supporters and Partners

Foundations

**Amalgamated Foundation
Ashoka Foundation
Borealis Philanthropies
Brooklyn Community Foundation
Butler Family Fund
FJC - A Foundation of
Philanthropic Funds**

**Herb Block Foundation
Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation
Lily Auchincloss Foundation
MacArther Foundation
New York Community Trust
Omidyar Network**

Organizational

**TED
The Carr Center for Human
Rights
Urban Justice Center**

Corporate

DuckDuckGo

Individuals

**Alec Harmon
Jenny Lee
Kent Cherny
Natarajan Krishnaswami
Shelley Floyd**

In-Kind and Pro Bono

**Duane Morris LLP
Emery, Celli, Brinkerhoff &
Abady LLP
Gibbs Law Group LLP
Justice Catalyst
Latham and Watkins LLP**

**Quinn Emanuel Urquhart &
Sullivan LLP
Shearman & Sterling
Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP
Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale
and Dorr LLP**

Staff and Board

The team of technologists, researchers, and advocates powering S.T.O.P.'s work.

STAFF

Albert Fox Cahn, Esq.
Executive Director

Alan Newcomb
Operations Associate

Andrew West
Research Intern

Anna Sipek
Research Intern

Annie Devoe
Communications Intern

Anushka Sikdar
Legal Intern

Austen Fisher
Legal Intern

Avery Freeman
Advocacy Intern

Cyra Paladini
Communications Intern

David Siffert
Legal Director

Derek Smith
Civil Rights Intern

Eleni Manis, PhD, MPA
Research Director

Elizabeth Huang
Civil Rights Intern

Evan Enzer
Legal Fellow

Evan Selinger
Scholar-in-Residence

Johna Medeiros
Staff Accountant

Julie Lee
Research Intern

Justin Sherman
Technology Advisor

Leticia Murillo
Development Associate

Mahima Arya
Computer Science Fellow

Nina Loshkajian
Legal Fellow

Sarah Roth
Development and Communications
AmeriCorps Fellow

Sylvia Deng
Communications Fellow

William Owen
Communications Director

Yasmin Elmasry
Legal Intern

Staff and Board

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

S.T.O.P.'s Board of Directors (BOD) oversees our organization's financial management and compliance.

Jenny Lee

General Counsel Strong Arm Technologies, Inc.
Member since 2021

Lauren Wu

Senior Counsel and Data Protection Officer,
Roche Molecular Systems, Member since 2021

Nigar Shaikh, Esq., Board President

Associate, Lief Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein, LLP
Member since 2019

Sami Rashid, Esq.

Partner, Quinn Emanuel Urquhart &
Sullivan, LLP NY, Member since 2019

Samantha Van Doran, Board Secretary

Director of Partnerships, Asylum Seeker Advocacy
Project (ASAP), Member since 2023

COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

Ángel Díaz

Counsel to the Liberty and National Security
Program, Brennan Center for Justice

Katurah Topps

Policy Counsel
NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund

Chris Gilliard

Writer, Professor and Speaker

Kujegi Camara

Community Education & Interfaith Program
Coordinator
Muslim Community Network

Derrick "Dwreck" Ingram

Co-Founder
Warriors in the Garden

Murad Awawdeh

Executive Director
The New York Immigration Coalition

Elizabeth Daniel Vasquez

Special Forensic Science Counsel
Brooklyn Defender Services

Rama Issa-Ibrahim

Deputy Public Advocate for Justice,
Health Equity & Safety
Public Advocate Jumaane D. Williams

Gabriella Garcia

Founder
Decoding Stigma

Reem Ramadan

Lead Organizer
Arab American Association of New York

Jasmine McNealy

Assistant Professor
University of Florida's College of Journalism and
Communications

Sarah Chu

Senior Advisor on Forensic Science Policy
The Innocence Project

Jerome D. Greco

Public Defender, Digital Forensics Unit
Legal Aid Society in New York City

Staff and Board

JUNIOR BOARD

The Junior Board (JB) is a community of skilled volunteers. These young professionals, local activists, and privacy enthusiasts contribute to the success of S.T.O.P.'s fundraising and community outreach activities.

Alec Harmon

Melanie Strouse

Andrew Rainy

Natalie Mathes

Aliya Bhatia

Patrick K. Lin

Emily Lyon

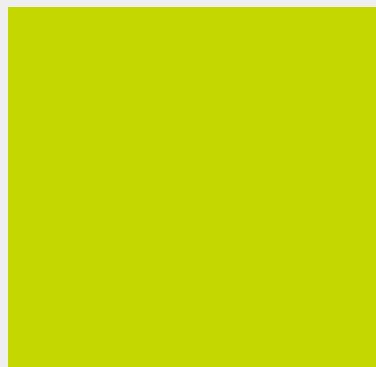
Santana Jackson

Krzyś Chwała

Selma Haveric

Mackenzie Goulbourne




Valerie Shoates





STOP

**SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY
OVERSIGHT PROJECT**

   @stopspyingNY

 40 Rector Street, 9th Fl., New York, NY 10006

 www.stopspying.org