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 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.

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.
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:

ShotSpotter and the Misfires of Gunshot Detection Technology
Wiretaps on Wheels: The Acceleration of Automotive Surveillance
Privatizing the Surveillance State: How Police Foundations Undermine Rule of Law
The Trojan House

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.

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.

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

The New Way Police Could Use Your Google Searches Against You

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.

The Mets should steal bases, not faces

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

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

Unscrupulous Police Surveillance

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct Contributions</td>
<td>$ 82,357</td>
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<td>Non-Government Grants</td>
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<td>Royalty Income</td>
<td>$ 951</td>
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<td>Investments Revenue</td>
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<td>Total Sales Revenue</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-Kind Professional Services</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cash Revenue</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>In-Kind Professional Services</td>
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<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
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#### Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries &amp; Related Expenses</td>
<td>$ 628,262</td>
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<td>Contract Service Expenses</td>
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<td>Stipends</td>
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<td>Non-Personnel Expenses</td>
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<td>Facility Expenses</td>
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<td>Travel &amp; Conference Expenses</td>
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<td>Legal Expenses</td>
<td>$ 499</td>
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<td>Other Expenses</td>
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<td>Interest Expense</td>
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<td>Insurance - Non-employee Related</td>
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<td>Membership Dues - Organization</td>
<td>$ 60</td>
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<td>Other Expenses</td>
<td>$ 403</td>
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<td>Bank Fees</td>
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<td>Merchant Fees</td>
<td>$ 594</td>
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<td>Business Taxes &amp; Licensing Fees</td>
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<td><strong>Cash Expenses</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>In-Kind Professional Services</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
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#### Net Revenue

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<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Net Revenue</td>
<td>$(336,091)</td>
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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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albert Fox Cahn, Esq.</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alan Newcomb</td>
<td>Operations Associate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew West</td>
<td>Research Intern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anna Sipek</td>
<td>Research Intern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annie Devoe</td>
<td>Communications Intern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anushka Sikdar</td>
<td>Legal Intern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austen Fisher</td>
<td>Legal Intern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avery Freeman</td>
<td>Advocacy Intern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyra Paladini</td>
<td>Communications Intern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Siffert</td>
<td>Legal Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Derek Smith</td>
<td>Civil Rights Intern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eleni Manis, PhD, MPA</td>
<td>Research Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Huang</td>
<td>Civil Rights Intern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evan Enzer</td>
<td>Legal Fellow</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evan Selinger</td>
<td>Scholar-in-Residence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johna Medeiros</td>
<td>Staff Accountant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julie Lee</td>
<td>Research Intern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justin Sherman</td>
<td>Technology Advisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leticia Murillo</td>
<td>Development Associate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahima Arya</td>
<td>Computer Science Fellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nina Loshkajian</td>
<td>Legal Fellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Roth</td>
<td>Development and Communications AmeriCorps Fellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sylvia Deng</td>
<td>Communications Fellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Owen</td>
<td>Communications Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yasmin Elmasry</td>
<td>Legal Intern</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**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

- **Nigar Shaikh, Esq.,** Board President
  Associate, Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein, LLP
  Member since 2019

- **Samantha Van Doran,** Board Secretary
  Director of Partnerships, Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project (ASAP), Member since 2023

- **Lauren Wu**
  Senior Counsel and Data Protection Officer,
  Roche Molecular Systems, Member since 2021

- **Sami Rashid, Esq.**
  Partner, Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP NY, Member since 2019

**COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD**

- **Ángel Díaz**
  Counsel to the Liberty and National Security Program, Brennan Center for Justice

- **Chris Gilliard**
  Writer, Professor and Speaker

- **Derrick “Dwreck” Ingram**
  Co-Founder
  Warriors in the Garden

- **Elizabeth Daniel Vasquez**
  Special Forensic Science Counsel
  Brooklyn Defender Services

- **Gabriella Garcia**
  Founder
  Decoding Stigma

- **Jasmine McNealy**
  Assistant Professor
  University of Florida's College of Journalism and Communications

- **Jerome D. Greco**
  Public Defender, Digital Forensics Unit
  Legal Aid Society in New York City

- **Katurah Topps**
  Policy Counsel
  NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund

- **Kujegi Camara**
  Community Education & Interfaith Program Coordinator
  Muslim Community Network

- **Murad Awawdeh**
  Executive Director
  The New York Immigration Coalition

- **Rama Issa-Ibrahim**
  Deputy Public Advocate for Justice, Health Equity & Safety
  Public Advocate Jumaane D. Williams

- **Reem Ramadan**
  Lead Organizer
  Arab American Association of New York

- **Sarah Chu**
  Senior Advisor on Forensic Science Policy
  The Innocence Project
**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
Andrew Rainy
Aliya Bhatia
Emily Lyon
Krzyś Chwała
Mackenzie Goulbourne

Melanie Strouse
Natalie Mathes
Patrick K. Lin
Santana Jackson
Selma Haveric
Valerie Shoates