

Foreign Funded NGO at Center of Anti-Fossil Fuel Activism

*990s show aggressive support for congressional investigations
Funds from Rockefellers bankrolling climate litigation campaign*

Key Takeaways:

- The foreign-funded Center for Climate Integrity (CCI) – as well as related organizations – are at the center of left-wing efforts to destroy the US fossil fuel industry through Democratic-led congressional investigations and “climate litigation.”
 - If successful, litigation would surely bankrupt the companies and put national security at risk by making the US dependent on judgment-proof, foreign adversaries for its energy needs.
- CCI’s litigation push is expansive and multi-tiered.
 - On the state level, CCI recruits county/city/state plaintiffs filing lawsuits against fossil fuel companies. At the same time, CCI’s parent organization provides funding for attorney’s fees and costs in these cases.
 - On the federal level, CCI provides funding and resources to support left-wing congressional investigations into oil companies that seek to misleadingly support the litigation.
 - CCI also provides funding for “scientific research” solely for the purpose of supporting plaintiffs’ cases.
 - CCI further funds activist groups with ties to John Podesta, Arabella Advisors, and George Soros.
- Senator Whitehouse and Representative Raskin continue to support CCI’s efforts and have referred the CCI supported investigation to the DOJ.

Center for Climate Integrity (CCI) – Funding/Background

CCI Funding: CCI was founded in 2017 as an initiative of the Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development (IGSD)¹ and receives significant amounts of funding from the Rockefellers and the Children’s Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF), which was founded by a British Billionaire, Christopher Hohn. In 2017, The Rockefellers provided IGSD with over \$1M to “*launch an aggressive climate litigation campaign against America’s top energy producers.*”² In January of 2018, foreign-funded CIFF provided CCI with at least \$7M to “*accelerate climate action by supporting litigation that promotes climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience.*”³

CCI’s Work: CCI’s 2022 990 discloses it is a key player in the attack on the oil and gas industry.⁴ CCI’s activities directing Congressional Democrats and plaintiffs’ lawyers, includes, lobbying efforts, generating “scientific” studies intended to support litigation, filing amicus briefs, hosting events, and carrying out social media campaigns targeting the oil and gas industry. For example, in Florida, CCI hired a lobbyist⁵ to arrange meetings between city officials and the plaintiffs’ attorneys leading these lawsuits while also pursuing an aggressive public relations campaign promoting litigation.⁶ Examples of CCI’s campaign’s successful pitches include:

¹ <https://web.archive.org/web/20210425103332/http://www.igsd.org/initiatives/the-center-for-climate-integrity/>

² https://www.charitiesnys.com/RegistrySearch/show_details.jsp?id=%7bCFF4BB76-3F74-46B9-AF17-90F3A90AF78E%7d

³ <https://ciff.org/grant-portfolio/center-for-climate-integrity/>

⁴ <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/821659823/202300979349300120/IRS990>

⁵ <https://flarecord.com/stories/512480648-fort-lauderdale-says-it-has-no-intention-of-filing-suit-against-fossil-fuel-companies-over-climate-change>

⁶ <https://eidclimate.org/obscure-activist-emerges-as-key-player-in-climate-litigation-campaign/>

- The City and County of Honolulu filed a lawsuit against fossil fuel companies shortly after CCI hosted an event at the University of Hawaii.⁷
- The Minnesota Attorney General filed a lawsuit against fossil fuel companies and a trade association after CCI shared information about a potential lawsuit with the AG. CCI also hosted an event at the University of Minnesota to promote a lawsuit.⁸
- After CCI hosted an event at Monmouth University⁹ to promote climate litigation, the City of Hoboken and the Attorney General of New Jersey filed lawsuits.¹⁰
 - IGSD (CCI’s founder) is even footing the bill for fees in the Hoboken lawsuit.¹¹
- Multnomah County, Oregon filed a lawsuit following an event CCI hosted at Lewis & Clark Law School.¹²

CCI’s Presence on the Hill:

In 2022, CCI reported in its 990 that its funding has gone towards campaigns “supporting congressional investigations designed to expose the oil and gas industry’s historic and ongoing climate deception.”¹³ The timing of this funding coincides with the timing of the House Oversight Committee’s investigation into fossil fuel companies for their alleged disinformation where subpoenas were sent out at the end of 2021 and hearings were conducted throughout 2022.

4a	(Code:) (Expenses \$ 2,702,190 including grants of \$ 686,500) (Revenue \$)
	CAMPAIGNS - CCI CONDUCTS, AND SUPPORTS LOCAL PARTNERS IN CONDUCTING, MEDIA AND GRASSTOPS ORGANIZING CAMPAIGNS DESIGNED TO PLACE CLIMATE ACCOUNTABILITY - THE IDEA THAT CLIMATE POLLUTERS SHOULD BE HELD FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CLIMATE DAMAGE THEY’VE DELIBERATELY CAUSED AT THE CENTER OF THE CLIMATE DEBATE. THIS INCLUDES SHARING A WIDE RANGE OF CAPACITIES AND RESOURCES WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS WHO JOIN CCI’S LEADERS FOR CLIMATE ACCOUNTABILITY NETWORK. SUPPORTING CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATIONS DESIGNED TO EXPOSE THE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY’S HISTORIC AND ONGOING CLIMATE DECEPTION, AND SUPPORTING STATE LEGISLATORS WORKING TO HOLD THE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR ROLE IN CAUSING THE CLIMATE CRISIS.
4b	(Code:) (Expenses \$ 1,108,219 including grants of \$ 10,000) (Revenue \$)
	LEGAL - CCI SUPPORTS CLIMATE ACCOUNTABILITY LITIGATION BY PROVIDING PLAINTIFFS WITH KEY "SMOKING GUN" DOCUMENTS, THE LATEST SCIENTIFIC FINDINGS, ACCESS TO LEADING LEGAL AND SCIENTIFIC EXPERTS, LOCALIZED, IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS OF CLIMATE ADAPTATION COSTS, AND BY FILING CAREFULLY TAILORED AMICUS BRIEFS. CCI ALSO ENCOURAGES NEW CLIMATE LITIGATION BY BUILDING POLICYMAKER SUPPORT FOR CLIMATE ACCOUNTABILITY AND BY ADVISING STATE AND MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS ON THEIR COST RECOVERY OPTIONS.
4c	(Code:) (Expenses \$ 374,236 including grants of \$) (Revenue \$)
	SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH - CCI DESIGNS, SUPPORTS, PUBLISHES, DISTRIBUTES, AND PROMOTES ORIGINAL RESEARCH INTENDED TO OBJECTIVELY QUANTIFY THE COSTS OF ADAPTING PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE TO THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND TO DEMONSTRATE THE DIRECT LINK BETWEEN THAT DAMAGE AND THE ACTIONS OF INDIVIDUAL FOSSIL FUEL COMPANIES AND ASSOCIATIONS. CCI ALSO HELPS COMMUNITIES UNDERSTAND THE SPECIFIC TYPES AND COSTS OF CLIMATE ADAPTATION MEASURES THAT ARE POTENTIALLY RECOVERABLE THROUGH LITIGATION, AND THE LINK BETWEEN FOSSIL FUEL EMISSIONS AND LOCAL AND STATE LEVEL CLIMATE IMPACTS.
	(Code:) (Expenses \$ 432,255 including grants of \$) (Revenue \$)
	COMMUNICATIONS - CCI USES A WIDE RANGE OF COMMUNICATIONS TOOLS AND STRATEGIES TO EDUCATE THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND KEY AUDIENCES ABOUT CLIMATE ACCOUNTABILITY ISSUES. THIS WORK INCLUDES PAID AND EARNED MEDIA, TRADITIONAL PRESS OUTREACH AND COVERAGE, SOCIAL AND DIGITAL MEDIA, AND MORE. CCI’S COMMUNICATIONS TEAM ALSO PROVIDES RESOURCES TO COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND ELECTED OFFICIALS IN ORDER TO SUPPORT THEIR WORK AS MESSENGERS FOR CLIMATE ACCOUNTABILITY WITH VARIOUS AUDIENCES.

⁷ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yPW6k5T5-ogrzjG62gtLI-JEw8Mctsha/view>

⁸ <https://twitter.com/UofMNLawSchool/status/1177329914418270208>

⁹ <https://climateintegrity.org/news/monmouth-university-panel-makes-the-case-for-climate-accountability-in-new-jersey>

¹⁰ <https://eidclimate.org/key-documents-raise-troubling-questions-about-money-behind-hoboken-climate-lawsuit/>

¹¹ https://hobokennj.iqm2.com/Citizens/Detail_LegiFile.aspx?Frame=&MeetingID=1891&MediaPosition=&ID=3251&CssClass=

¹² <https://college.lclark.edu/calendars/events/event/327542>

¹³ <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/821659823/202300979349300120/IRS990>

CCI's presence on the Hill is ever-present – during the Senate Budget Committee's hearing on May 15, 2024, (Budgeting for the Storm: Climate Change and the Costs to National Security), Mike Meno¹⁴, CCI's Communications Director can be seen sitting behind one of the witnesses for the hearing. One week later, Senator Whitehouse and Representative Raskin urged DOJ to investigate the oil companies.



CCI's 990 also discloses it has supported plaintiffs by providing "key 'smoking gun' documents". CCI's support of "congressional investigations" and efforts to push litigation raises questions on how it is using access to Democratic Senators, Representatives, and staff to push special interest and foreign-funded agendas.

CCI/Atalaya Law/Co-Equal Connection

- Co-Equal is an Arabella-managed organization that has faced accusations of breaking congressional ethics rules.¹⁵
 - Co-Equal was accused of helping Democratic members of Congress hire consultants and lawyers to investigate opponents of left-progressive environmentalist initiatives.
 - Phil Barnett and Phil Schiliro are co-founders of Co-Equal
- CCI has contributed to organizations tied to Co-Equal
 - CCI paid \$160K to Atalaya Law as a "legal retainer for providing congression".
 - Atalaya Law is registered as a PLLC with the DC Secretary of State and Phil Barnett and Phil Schiliro are listed as the owners.
 - Atalaya Law's registered address is a single-family home owned by Phil Barnett.
 - Other than the registration information, very little is known about this law firm. The firm does not have a web presence and searches have yielded very few results.
- In the Hillary Clinton emails released by WikiLeaks, Barnett and Schiliro are included in email exchanges using a "@sb-atalaya.com" email address.¹⁶

Section B. Independent Contractors		
I Complete this table for your five highest compensated independent contractors that received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. Report compensation for the calendar year ending with or within the organization's tax year.		
(A) Name and business address	(B) Description of services	(C) Compensation
RISING TIDE INTERACTIVE 529 14TH ST NW WASHINGTON, DC 20045	DIGITAL MEDIA SERVICES	300,000
BEELINE ASSOCIATES 53 TARA ROAD ORINDA, CA 94563	STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT	281,745
FENTON COMMUNICATIONS 1010 VERMONT AVENUE NW WASHINGTON, DC 20005	MEDIA BUYING SERVICES	200,000
ATALAYA LAW 415 14TH STREET SOUTHEAST WASHINGTON, DC 20003	LEGAL RETAINER FOR PROVIDING CONGRESSION	160,000
ALTEGA ACCOUNTING & FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS	ACCOUNTING SERVICES	148,884

¹⁴ <https://climateintegrity.org/about/people/mike-meno>

¹⁵ <https://capitalresearch.org/article/new-ethics-complaint-soros-funded-arabella-front-helped-democrats-break-congressional-ethics-rules/>

¹⁶ <https://wikileaks.org/podesta-emails/emailid/26295>