

Ronna McDaniel Worried That Dominion and Smartmatic Lawsuits Might Perch On RNC's Doorstep Next

By Ursula Faw - February 6, 2021

All is quiet over at Fox News right now. Lou Dobbs is the sacrificial lamb and no word at this time about the fates of Maria Bartiromo or Jeannine Pirro, also named defendants in the \$2.7 Billion defamation lawsuit that Smartmatic brought against Fox News and its hosts. And the buck may not stop there. RNC chair Ronna McDaniel is worried about the crazy talk that Rudy Giuliani and Sidney Powell brought to a recent RNC meeting there. New York Times:

And she expressed regret about letting Rudolph W. Giuliani, the former president's personal lawyer and the former mayor of New York, and Sidney Powell, another member of Mr. Trump's legal team who spread conspiracy theories, hold a news conference at the R.N.C. headquarters in Washington.

"When I saw some of the things Sidney was saying, without proof, I certainly was concerned it was happening in my building," she said. "There are a whole host of issues we had to deal with — what is the liability of the R.N.C., if these allegations are made and unfounded?"

What is the liability, indeed? Dominion has signaled its legal action could expand significantly. So far it hasn't landed on the RNC doorstep and maybe it won't, but the entire issue of liability for hosting people who make utterly irresponsible and slanderous comments is coming into focus right now. Washington Post:

The question from there is how legally problematic the claims were. Defamation litigation is intensive and requires meeting certain thresholds. Those who made such claims themselves, for instance, could face more jeopardy than those who provided a forum for them to do so. Some claims involved citing others who made allegations or simply raised the theories as questions, while others more forcefully and definitively alleged nefarious activity. Dobbs arguably erred more toward actually embracing the theories than his fellow Fox hosts, for example.

What Giuliani said:

"They were founded as a company to fix elections. They have a terrible record and they are extremely hackable." (Nov. 13, Fox Business)

"They [committed fraud] absolutely in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Republicans were shut out from enough of the county so they could accomplish what Smartmatic wanted to do. And what you — that pattern that they have there, we have evidence that that's the same pattern

Smartmatic used in other elections in which they were disqualified. In other words, this is their pattern of activity.” (Nov. 15, Fox News – Maria Bartiromo’s show)

“It’s Smartmatic, which is a company that was founded in 2005 in Venezuela for the specific purpose of fixing elections. That’s their expertise: how to fix elections.” (Nov. 18, Fox Business – Lou Dobbs’s show) [...]

What Sidney Powell said:

“And President Trump won by not just hundreds of thousands of votes, but by millions of votes – that were shifted by this software that was designed expressly for that purpose. We have sworn witness testimony of why the software was designed. It was designed to rig elections. ... It was exported internationally for profit by the people that are behind Smartmatic and Dominion. They did this on purpose. It was calculated. They have done it before.” (Nov. 15, Fox News – Bartiromo’s show)

“We’ve detected voting irregularities that are inexplicable and aligned with these problems in other states that think they have valid systems, but the people who bought the Dominion system for sure knew exactly what they were getting.” (Nov. 15, Fox News – Bartiromo’s show)

“We now have reams and reams of actual documents from Smartmatic and Dominion, including evidence that they planned and executed all of this. ... We have evidence of how they flip the votes, how it was designed to flip the votes.” (Dec. 10, Fox Business – Dobbs’s show)

This is crazy talk and the only wonder is that the lawsuits weren’t filed long before they were. The RNC has reason to worry, not just about the lawsuits which they will probably escape being a part of, but the larger picture, which is that the Republican party is morphing into QNation right now. That’s a lot bigger existential issue than whether they get sued for hosting Powell and Giuliani talking trash to the base. Ben Sasse is right, the GOP needs to make a choice “between conservatism and madness.” That’s exactly where the line is drawn.

Share this:

