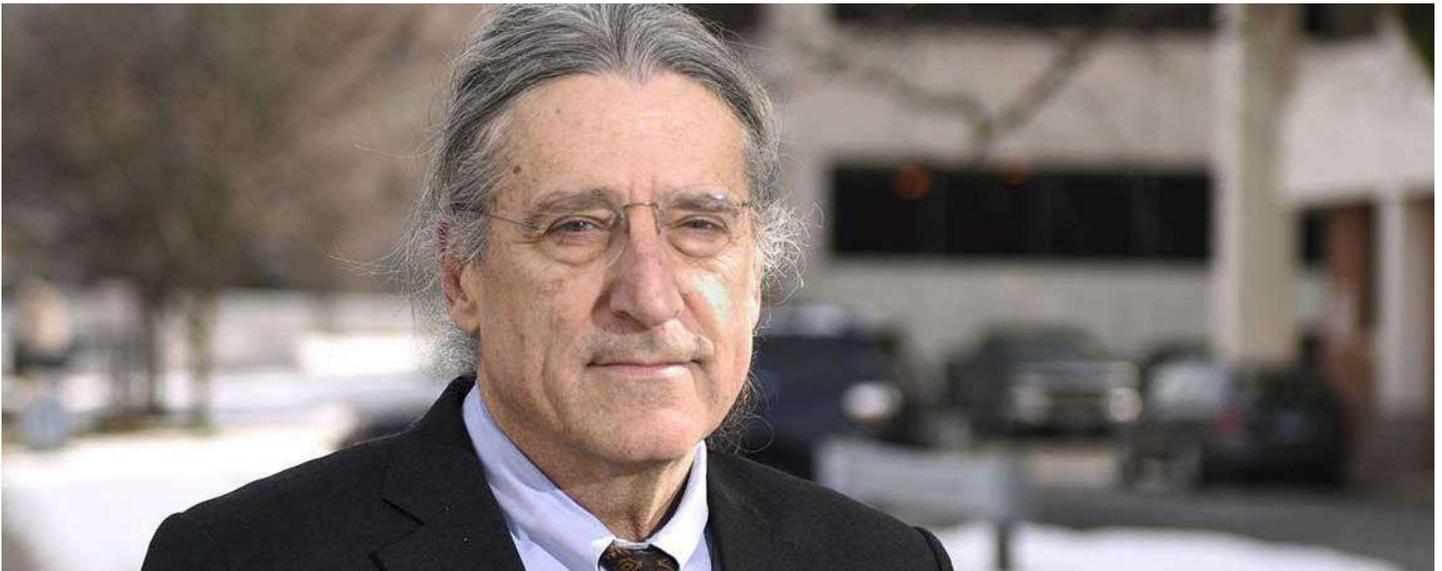


Alex Jones argues ‘blood on the streets’ rant against attorney of Newtown families was protected free speech

by Rob Ryser



New Haven-based defense attorney Norm Pattis.

Extrémist Alex Jones has appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, arguing that his “blood on the streets” rant against an attorney representing families who lost loved ones in the Sandy Hook shooting was protected free speech.

Norm Pattis, the high-profile New Haven attorney, calls the sanction Jones received in trial court after his 2019 rant an “unprecedented attack on freedom of speech” and a “direct, frontal assault on the First Amendment itself” because what

Jones said did not constitute a legal threat.

“(Jones’) views on the judicial process and the conduct of its various participants are core political speech protected by the First Amendment regardless of whether he expresses them with Shakespearean eloquence or with quintessential American vim and vigor,” Pattis wrote in the appeal. “Courts are not above the Constitution. They can transgress on constitutional liberties just as readily as the legislative or executive branches, particularly when they regulate the speech of those subject to

their jurisdiction.”

Jones’ appeal to the highest court in the country aims to overturn a decision by state Superior Court Judge Barbara Bellis to deny Jones what he considers a key line of defense in a defamation lawsuit brought against him by an FBI agent and six families who lost loved ones in the 2012 Sandy Hook shooting.

Bellis’ sanction, which was upheld by the Connecticut Supreme Court in July, came after the Texas-based businessman went on his Infowars broadcast with Pattis and claimed someone had embedded child pornography in Jones’ emails that were turned over to Sandy Hook families as part of the pretrial discovery process.

Transcripts from Jones’ June 14, 2019, Infowars broadcast quote Jones singling out Chris Mattei, one of the families’ attorneys at Koskoff,

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Koskoff & Bieder in Bridgeport, and saying, among other things, “[I]f they want war — you know, it’s not a threat. It’s like an AC/DC song. If you want blood, you’ve got it. Blood on the streets, man.”

