



Blog

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[Keating and Crane: Meet the Parents of the Super PACs](#)

David Keating and Edward Crane write, “If you are looking for the villains who created the so-called Super PACs, look no further. We are the guilty parties. We are two of the winning plaintiffs in *SpeechNow.org v. Federal Election Commission*, which was decided by the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit in March 2010. Contrary to the belief that Citizens United created Super PACs, SpeechNow.org made such groups possible and legal. . . . [I]n *Buckley* the court ruled that individuals could spend unlimited amounts to support a federal candidate if those expenditures were not coordinated with the candidate's campaign. SpeechNow.org went further. It held that the First Amendment allows two, or four, or 400 or more individuals to pool their resources and exercise the same right to make independent expenditures that one individual could make under *Buckley*. Hence, Super PACs.”