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## Koch Brothers sue Cato Institute, president

By Allen McDuffee

Billionaires Charles and David Koch have filed a lawsuit against the libertarian Cato Institute, its president Edward Crane and a board member, according to court documents obtained by The Washington Post.

The complaint centers on the the handling of the shares of [William A Niskanen](#), a former chairman of the Cato Institute, following his [death October 26, 2011](#).

The Cato Institute, originally founded in 1974 as The Charles Koch Foundation, was formed as a corporation with shareholders. It was re-named The Cato Institute in 1976.

The lawsuit, filed in the District Court of Johnson County, Kansas, lists Charles G. Koch and David H. Koch as the plaintiffs and Kathryn Washburn, Edward H. Crane, III, and the Cato Institute as the defendants.

Ed Crane is the founder and president of the Cato Institute. Washburn, Niskanen's widow, is a member of Cato's board of directors and is named in the suit as the persoanl representative of the estate of Niskanen.

**Story developing.**