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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
January 2024 Grand Jury

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

ANDREW LEFT,

Defendant.

CR No. 2:24-cr-00456-TJH

I N D I C T M E N T

[18 U.S.C. § 1348(1): Securities Fraud; 15 U.S.C. §§ 78j(b), 78ff and 17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5: Fraud in Connection with Purchase and Sale of Securities; 18 U.S.C. § 1001(a)(2): Making False Statements; 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c): Criminal Forfeiture]

The Grand Jury charges:

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1 Security"), advocating that the current price was too high or too
2 low. Defendant LEFT's recommendations often included an explicit or
3 implicit representation about Citron's trading position and a "target
4 price," which defendant LEFT represented as his own view of the
5 Targeted Security's true value.

6 6. Defendant LEFT published his recommendations in Citron-
7 branded reports, articles, and social media content and promoted them
8 through media campaigns, including outreach to members of the news
9 media, appearances on cable news programs, and interviews published
10 in news articles online. In connection with his media appearances
11 and interviews, defendant LEFT was routinely required to disclose the
12 positions that he and Citron held in a Targeted Security.

13 7. Defendant LEFT knew that his recommendations influenced
14 investors' decisions to buy or sell stock and thereby empowered him
15 to manipulate the price of a Targeted Security. By using the Citron
16 Twitter Account to generate "catalysts" -- events with the ability to
17 move stock prices -- defendant LEFT profited from his advance
18 knowledge that he was about to trigger such movements in the market.
19 But for the scheme to work, defendant LEFT knew that investors needed
20 to believe that the recommendations and positions he set forth were
21 sincerely maintained, and not merely vehicles for defendant LEFT to
22 personally profit. To maintain the false pretense that Citron's
23 recommendations and positions were sincerely held, defendant LEFT
24 made false and misleading representations and half-truths about his
25 economic incentives, conviction in Citron's analyses, and valuations
26 of Targeted Securities. Because disclosing the truth would diminish
27 his credibility, defendant LEFT made false and misleading statements
28 and half-truths to deceive investors to believe that he held a

1 position when, in fact, after using his influence on the market to
2 manipulate stock prices in a particular direction, defendant LEFT
3 closed his positions to capitalize on the temporary price movement
4 caused by his public statements. Defendant LEFT used this deception
5 and concealment to manipulate the market for his own financial gain.

6 Stock Trading

7 8. An investor held a "long" position in the stock of a
8 publicly traded company if the investor stood to gain financially
9 from an increase in the price of that company's shares. For example,
10 the investor could own the security with the expectation that the
11 shares would rise in price in the future. An investor could also
12 have a "long" position by buying "call" options that entitled the
13 option-holder to purchase shares at a future date at a prearranged
14 price (referred to as the "strike price") that the investor believed
15 would be lower than the market price the security would have reached
16 by that date.

17 9. An investor held a "short" position in the stock of a
18 publicly traded company if the investor stood to gain financially
19 from a decrease in the price of that company's shares. An investor
20 could achieve a short position in various ways, including "short
21 selling" shares of the company's stock or through the purchase of
22 "put options."

23 a. Short selling involved borrowing shares of a company's
24 stock from a broker for a fee and then selling the borrowed shares.
25 If the price of the shares decreased, the short seller could then
26 return the borrowed shares to the broker by purchasing them at a
27 lower price on the open market than the short seller originally sold
28 them, thereby capturing the decline in the stock's price as a profit.

1 b. When buying put options, the option-holder could force
2 the counterparty to buy shares of a particular stock at a future date
3 at a prearranged price. If the price of the shares decreased by that
4 future date, the option-holder could sell the counterparty those
5 shares at a higher price than the option-holder could acquire them
6 for on the open market, thereby profiting from the fall in the
7 stock's price.

8 10. "Short-dated options" expired and became worthless after a
9 set duration, which could be as soon as the same day they are
10 purchased. Buying short-dated options could reflect a trader's bet
11 that the price of the underlying security would move in a short
12 timeframe before the contract expires.

13 11. An investor could open or close trading positions by
14 placing "limit" orders or "market" orders. A limit order was an
15 order to buy or sell a security if its price was available above or
16 below a certain price, whereas a market order was an order to buy or
17 sell at whatever price the security was then trading. Placing a
18 limit order could indicate the price at which a trader intended to
19 buy or sell a security in the future.

20 12. A "retail investor" was a non-professional, individual
21 investor who purchased securities for their own personal accounts and
22 generally traded and invested in dramatically smaller amounts and
23 volumes as compared to institutional investors (i.e. mutual funds,
24 hedge funds, or professional traders).

25 13. Interactive Brokers LLC ("IB") and E*TRADE Securities Inc.
26 ("E*TRADE") were online brokerage platforms that enabled individuals
27 and institutions to trade stock shares, options, and other securities
28 and financial instruments. Defendant LEFT held accounts in his name

1 and in Citron Capital's name at IB (the "Citron IB Account") and at
2 E*TRADE (the "LEFT E*TRADE Account") (collectively, the "LEFT Trading
3 Accounts").

4 14. The New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") and the National
5 Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotations Stock Market
6 ("NASDAQ") were "national securities exchanges" within the meaning of
7 the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

8 15. The common stock and options to trade the common stock of
9 American Airlines Group Inc. ("AAL"); Beyond Meat Inc. ("BYND");
10 Cronos Group Inc. ("CRON"); Facebook Inc. ("FB"); General Electric
11 Company ("GE"); Luckin Coffee Inc. ("LK"); Namaste Technologies Inc.
12 ("NXTTF"); Novavax Inc. ("NVAX"); Nvidia Corp. ("NVDA"); India
13 Globalization Capital Inc. ("IGC"); Invitae Corp. ("NVTA"); Palantir
14 Technologies Inc. ("PLTR"); PolarityTE Inc. ("PTE"); Roku Inc.
15 ("ROKU"); Tesla Inc. ("TSLA") Twitter Inc. ("TWTR"); and XL Fleet
16 Corp. ("XL") were securities. AAL, BYND, CRON, FB, GE, LK, NVAX,
17 NVDA, IGC, NVTA, PLTR, PTE, ROKU, TSLA, TWTR, and XL were issuers
18 with a class of securities registered under section 12 of the
19 Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. § 78l) and that were
20 required to file reports under section 15(d) of the Securities
21 Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78o(d)).

22 The Investigation into Illegal Market Manipulation

23 16. The Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"), the United
24 States Postal Inspection Service ("USPIS"), the United States
25 Attorney's Office for the Central District of California ("USAO"),
26 and the Fraud Section of the United States Department of Justice
27 ("DOJ") were conducting a federal criminal investigation of defendant
28 LEFT for federal crimes, including illegal market manipulation in

1 violation of the federal securities laws (the "Federal
2 Investigation").

3 17. The United States Securities and Exchange Commission
4 ("SEC") was an agency of the United States conducting a civil
5 investigation of defendant LEFT for violations of the federal
6 securities laws (the "SEC Investigation").

7 B. THE SCHEME TO DEFRAUD

8 18. Beginning no later than in or about March 2018, and
9 continuing through at least in or about October 2023, in Los Angeles
10 County, within the Central District of California, and elsewhere,
11 defendant LEFT, knowingly and with intent to defraud, devised,
12 participated in, and executed a scheme to defraud investors and
13 potential investors in connection with securities of issuers with a
14 class of securities registered under Section 12 of the Securities
15 Exchange Act of 1934 and that were required to file reports under
16 section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, in violation of
17 Title 18, United States Code, Section 1348(1).

18 C. THE OPERATION OF THE SCHEME

19 19. The scheme to defraud operated, in substance, as follows:

20 a. Knowing that Citron's reputation with investors had
21 the power to move markets, defendant LEFT selected a Targeted
22 Security about which he intended to publish commentary with the
23 intention of manipulating the Targeted Security's price.

24 b. Defendant LEFT prepared commentary about the Targeted
25 Security for dissemination through Citron. In some instances, the
26 commentary represented defendant LEFT's own work. In other
27 instances, defendant LEFT disseminated as his own the commentary of
28 third parties, such as analysts at hedge funds.

1 c. In the leadup to publication of Citron's commentary,
2 defendant LEFT established long or short positions in a Targeted
3 Security in one or both of his accounts, the LEFT Trading Accounts,
4 such that defendant LEFT profited by taking advantage of the intended
5 short-term movement in the Targeted Security's price caused by his
6 commentary.

7 d. To exploit his advance knowledge of the timing and
8 subject of the forthcoming commentary on the Targeted Security,
9 defendant LEFT often built his positions using inexpensive, short-
10 dated options contracts that would expire within zero to five trading
11 days and submitted limit orders to close his positions as soon as the
12 Targeted Security reached a certain price.

13 e. To maximize the impact of Citron's commentary on the
14 price of the Targeted Security, and thus defendant LEFT's ability to
15 profit from his advance knowledge that a price movement was about to
16 be triggered, defendant LEFT caused Citron's commentary to be
17 deceptive in numerous respects, including the following:

18 i. Knowing that Citron's influence on the market was
19 largely based on his personal reputation, defendant LEFT concealed
20 the contributions of third parties, including hedge funds, in the
21 preparation of Citron's commentary. Defendant LEFT also maintained
22 the false pretense that the content of the Citron's commentary was
23 not tainted by any conflict of interest by concealing that he often
24 provided these and other third parties, including in return for
25 compensation, advance notice of the anticipated publication of Citron
26 Reports to enable the third parties to profit by trading around the
27 Citron Reports and/or mitigate their losses by adjusting their
28 positions.

1 ii. Knowing that Citron's influence on the market was
2 also based in large part on the public's perception that he was
3 confident in the content and conclusions of Citron's commentary,
4 defendant LEFT concealed his intention to trade a Targeted Security
5 in a manner inconsistent with the content and conclusions of Citron's
6 commentary by covering all or the majority of the positions he held
7 in the Targeted Security shortly after the Citron commentary on the
8 Targeted Security was published.

9 iii. To maximize the impact of Citron's commentary on
10 the price of a Targeted Security, defendant LEFT bolstered Citron's
11 credibility through false and misleading statements about its
12 research staff, process, independence, external investors, and
13 economic incentives.

14 iv. To enhance the perception that he was confident
15 in the Citron commentary's conclusions and create the perception that
16 his analyses were rigorous, defendant LEFT often included a "target
17 price" for a Targeted Security which was purportedly derived from his
18 analyses and reflected his sincere projection of the Targeted
19 Security's future price. In reality -- with the hope of triggering
20 not a pistol shot but a cannon blast -- defendant LEFT selected
21 extreme target prices to attract media attention and provoke an
22 immediate change to the prices of the Targeted Security while
23 concealing his intention to exit all or the majority of the positions
24 he held in the Targeted Security well before they reached -- if they
25 ever did -- the target price selected.

26 v. To draw the attention of news-based trading
27 algorithms and to alarm investors, defendant LEFT included
28 sensationalized headlines and inflammatory language in the Citron

1 reports, such as "fraud" and "smoking gun." In employing this
2 rhetoric, defendant LEFT generally sought to maximize the impact on
3 the price of the Targeted Security as quickly as possible and create
4 the opportunity for defendant LEFT to profitably exit his position as
5 quickly as possible.

6 f. Knowing that Citron's influence on the market was
7 largely based on the public's perception that he was confident in the
8 content and conclusions in Citron's commentary, defendant LEFT made
9 false and misleading representations about his and Citron's trading
10 and concealed the fact that he intended to and did trade in a manner
11 designed to exploit the temporary price volatility that Citron's
12 commentary created. To profit from the intended price movement
13 triggered by Citron's reports and tweets, defendant LEFT covered all
14 or substantially all of the positions he held in a Targeted Security,
15 often within hours -- and sometimes minutes -- after publication.

16 g. To buttress the public perception that defendant LEFT
17 was committed to the views expressed in Citron's commentary,
18 regardless of the immediate impact on the price of a Targeted
19 Security, defendant LEFT engaged in media campaigns, appearing in
20 podcast and television interviews and in print and online media, to
21 promote his investment commentary, often including false and
22 misleading statements. These campaigns had the intended effect of
23 amplifying defendant LEFT's ability to manipulate the price of the
24 Target Securities.

25 h. To create the false impression that he managed outside
26 investors' money, in order to bolster his influence with the
27 investing public and ability to artificially move securities prices,
28 defendant LEFT made false and misleading statements -- including

1 publicly issuing "investor letters" -- to advance the false pretense
2 that he successfully managed third-party investors' funds and was a
3 credible investment adviser. In fact, Citron Capital never had
4 outside investors.

5 i. Knowing that Citron's influence on the market was
6 largely based on defendant LEFT's personal reputation and market-
7 moving capacity, defendant LEFT also falsely represented that he did
8 not share Citron's commentary with hedge funds before the reports
9 were published. In truth, defendant LEFT often provided third
10 parties, including hedge funds, with advance notice of the
11 anticipated publication of Citron's commentary to enable the third
12 parties to profit by trading around the commentary and, in other
13 instances, mitigate their losses by adjusting their positions before
14 publication. For example:

15 i. Defendant LEFT coordinated with hedge funds to
16 disseminate short reports and information to be posted on Twitter,
17 coordinated with hedge funds regarding the timing of publication, and
18 enabled the hedge funds to trade in the Targeted Securities before
19 the reports were disseminated. In exchange for sharing his planned
20 announcements with the hedge funds in advance of posting them
21 publicly, the hedge funds paid defendant LEFT a portion of their
22 trading profits.

23 ii. To maintain the illusion of Citron's
24 independence, and thus the credibility of Citron's commentary,
25 defendant LEFT concealed Citron's financial relationships with hedge
26 funds, and falsely represented to law enforcement that Citron "never"
27 exchanged compensation with a hedge fund or coordinated trading with
28 a hedge fund in advance of the issuance of its commentary.

1 iii. To conceal his coordination with and compensation
2 from one hedge fund, defendant LEFT directed a third party to create
3 false invoices requesting payments for research services even though
4 no research services had been provided. In truth, the payments were
5 defendant LEFT's share of profits from the hedge fund's trading
6 around Citron's publications and media campaigns.

7 20. To maintain his scheme to manipulate the market and prevent
8 his deceptive practices from being discovered, defendant LEFT:

- 9 a. Communicated using encrypted messaging apps;
10 b. Deleted electronic communications even when directed
11 by the SEC to maintain those communications for use in its
12 investigation into defendant LEFT and Citron's practices; and
13 c. Made false statements when interviewed by federal law
14 enforcement in connection with the Federal Investigation.

15 Defendant LEFT's Use of Deceptive Reports

16 Cronos Group Inc. (CRON)

17 21. On or about August 27 and August 28, 2018, in electronic
18 communications, defendant LEFT wrote Individual B, a portfolio
19 manager for Hedge Fund A: "I have a hot voice in cannibas[;] Let's
20 take a vantage of it"[;] and "what stock is alll retail . . . the
21 best shorts are retail shorts no doubt[;] we can make money in weed
22 [;] i have good weed track record . . . do we go long [other
23 company] or short CRON . . . we can DESTROY CRON," and "cron short
24 we could get 2 bucks."

25 22. At the open of the market on the morning of on or about
26 August 29, 2018, defendant LEFT had no position in CRON. At
27 approximately 9:41 a.m., defendant LEFT began building a short
28 position in CRON. Prior to 10:07 a.m. on or about August 30, 2018,

1 defendant LEFT had built a short position of approximately 883,900
2 shares of short exposure to CRON (including a short equity position,
3 put options purchased, and call options sold).

4 23. On or about August 30, 2018, at approximately 10:07 a.m.,
5 defendant LEFT posted on the Citron Twitter Account, including a link
6 to a Citron short report with the headline, "CRON: The Dark Side of
7 The Cannabis Space" and a tweet stating "\$CRON tgt price \$3.5.
8 Everything that is contaminated about the Cannabis space. ALL HYPE
9 with possible securities fraud" At the time of the tweet,
10 CRON was trading at approximately \$11.50 per share.

11 24. On or about August 30, 2018, at approximately 11:08 a.m.,
12 defendant LEFT posted again on the Citron Twitter Account, promoting
13 his short position on CRON, that, "Andrew Left from Citron on CNBC
14 Fast Money 5:25pm ET to discuss why \$CRON is the most overhyped of
15 all the 'pot stocks' with a target price of \$3.5[.]"

16 25. Defendant LEFT placed orders to begin closing out his short
17 CRON position approximately 24 minutes after posting the first tweet.
18 By the close of the trading day, defendant LEFT had a net short
19 exposure of approximately 348,900 shares -- a reduction of
20 approximately 61% of defendant LEFT's total pre-CRON tweet position.

21 26. Later on August 30, 2018, after the close of market,
22 defendant LEFT appeared on CNBC's "Fast Money" and defended his
23 characterization of CRON as a fraud. During the telecast, defendant
24 LEFT was directly asked -- twice -- about his own position in CRON.
25 The host followed up and asked, "Are you just as short the stock
26 right now as you were at the beginning of the day?" Defendant LEFT
27 falsely stated that he only covered a "small size" of his short
28 position in CRON earlier that day when, as defendant LEFT then knew,

1 at the time of his appearance on CNBC, he had already closed more
2 than 60% of his pre-tweet positions.

3 27. On or about August 31, 2018, in an electronic communication
4 to Individual B, defendant LEFT wrote that once he realized that it
5 was retail investors who owned CRON stock, his trades around Citron's
6 commentary were like taking "candy from a baby."

7 28. On or about October 4, 2023, and October 5, 2023, in an
8 effort to conceal his market manipulation scheme, defendant LEFT
9 falsely represented in testimony given under oath before the SEC that
10 he did not target stocks that had large retail bases.

11 Tesla, Inc. (TSLA)

12 29. On or about October 22, 2018, in the LEFT E*TRADE Account,
13 defendant LEFT purchased short-dated call options, representing more
14 than approximately 235,000 shares of TSLA stock, that expired three
15 days later, on October 26, 2018.

16 30. Or about October 23, 2018, defendant LEFT posted the
17 following on the Citron Twitter Account to promote his long position
18 on TSLA: "\$TSLA dropping earnings on top of \$F tomorrow might be a
19 bad sign for shorts. After reviewing all recent info on \$TSLA
20 dominating its categories, Citron is LONG Telsa for this quarter."
21 Defendant LEFT also included a link to a Citron report on TSLA. At
22 the time, TSLA's stock was trading at approximately \$266.

23 31. Within one minute of announcing, "Citron is LONG Tesla for
24 the quarter," defendant LEFT placed an order to sell call options
25 representing approximately 120,000 shares of TSLA -- more than half
26 of his pre-tweet position -- for a profit of at least \$1 million. By
27 the close of the next trading day, on or about October 24, 2018,
28 defendant LEFT sold approximately 81 percent of his pre-tweet

1 position for a profit of at least \$6.6 million. This trading all
2 occurred prior to TSLA's earnings announcement on or about October
3 24, 2018.

4 32. Expecting that Citron's commentary on TSLA would invite
5 others to question Citron's integrity and to advance the false
6 pretense that defendant LEFT did not opportunistically trade around
7 Citron's reports, defendant LEFT stated in the report:

8 We know this note is going to have many critics, most being
9 our fellow short sellers who might categorize us as
10 opportunist. To anyone who challenges the integrity of
11 Citron or our constant monitoring of the Tesla story all
12 you have to do is look at the class action lawsuit recently
13 filed against Tesla. In it you will see the principal of
14 Citron was actively trading tens of millions of dollars of
15 Tesla and the infamous "\$420" tweet resulted in a loss of
16 almost \$2 million. By no means does Citron only trade on
17 publishing stories. We actively manage a book that has
18 been trading Tesla for five years.

19 33. On or about October 23, 2018, defendant LEFT appeared on
20 CNBC to promote Citron's long report on TSLA.

21 Nvidia Corp. (NVDA)

22 34. On or about November 20, 2018, at approximately 8:40 a.m.,
23 in an electronic communication with Individual C, a portfolio
24 manager, defendant LEFT wrote: "Do you want to make some fast
25 money[.] Put together a thesis why nvda is oversold . . . We can
26 destroy it . . . Just read the analyst notes from this past quarter
27 and assemble the best of the ideas."

28 35. Later that morning, between approximately 9:40 a.m. and
10:17 a.m., defendant LEFT, through the LEFT Trading Accounts, opened
long positions in NVDA, including short-dated call options that
expired three days later.

36. At approximately 10:17 a.m., defendant LEFT promoted NVDA
as a favorable investment on the Citron Twitter Account, stating,

1 "Citron buys \$NVDA. This is the first time in 2 years stock offers
2 an appealing risk-reward to investors . . . We see \$165 before we see
3 \$120." At the time, NVDA's stock was trading at approximately \$144.

4 37. Despite his representation that he expected NVDA's share
5 price to rise to \$165, less than two hours after announcing "Citron
6 buys \$NVDA," defendant LEFT sold 100 percent of his pre-tweet
7 positions in the LEFT Trading Accounts when the NVDA was trading
8 within a range of approximately \$150 - \$151, for a profit of at least
9 \$930,000.

10 Twitter, Inc. (TWTR)

11 38. On or about December 20, 2018, defendant LEFT held
12 approximately 145,000 share short equity position in TWTR stock in
13 the LEFT Trading Accounts. In the Citron IB Account, defendant LEFT
14 bought short-dated put options, representing more than 1.2 million
15 shares of TWTR stock, that expired on December 21, 2018.

16 39. Prior to publishing a tweet concerning TWTR, at
17 approximately 9:41 and 9:43 a.m., defendant LEFT entered limit orders
18 to sell his put options in the Citron IB Account.

19 40. At approximately 9:52 a.m., defendant LEFT posted on the
20 Citron Twitter Account with a link to a Citron report about TWTR:
21 "\$TWTR has become Harvey Weinstein of social media. Price tgt \$20
22 Amnesty Intl study cannot be ignored by Wall St or Madison Ave.
23 \$TWTR will be forced to clean up the site and will have a fast impact
24 on MAU[.]". At the time of the tweet, TWTR's stock was trading at
25 approximately \$31.

26 41. Within one trading day, defendant LEFT closed 100 percent
27 of his short positions in TWTR in the LEFT Trading Accounts when TWTR
28

1 was trading within a range of \$28 - \$30 for a profit of at least \$2
2 million.

3 42. On or about December 20, 2018, in private electronic
4 communications, defendant LEFT and Individual A had the following
5 conversation about their trading around Citron's tweet and report on
6 TWTR:

7 Defendant LEFT: I feel like I want blood
8 Made some money back today on
the short side

9 Individual A: \$2m trade Twtr

10 Defendant LEFT: Gives power for long

11 Individual A: Not bad

12 Defendant LEFT: Whew
13 If we bounce

14 Individual A: Huge fucking day

15 Defendant LEFT: Every news outlet is calling me

16 Individual A: Love the title. Harvey Weinstein of
17 social media
18 Love twtr bounce

19 Defendant LEFT: We will get another shot at it

20 43. During the same conversation, defendant LEFT and Individual
21 A discussed being "a tweet away" from meeting Citron's end of year
22 target of \$21 million.

23 Facebook, Inc. (FB)

24 44. On or about December 26, 2018, in the morning, defendant
25 LEFT opened a long position in FB in the LEFT Trading Accounts,
26 including approximately 20,000 shares of stock and short-dated call
27 options representing approximately 340,000 shares of FB stock that
28 expired in two days on December 28, 2018.

1 45. On or about December 26, 2018, at approximately 9:52 a.m.,
2 defendant LEFT posted on the Citron Twitter Account, with a link to a
3 Citron report on FB: "\$FB Backing up the sleigh. \$160 tgt. Citron
4 presents the only information that counts on \$FB looking past the
5 rhetoric. Would you rather have your kids addicted to Nicotine or
6 Instagram? Wall St answer will amaze you[.]" At the time of the
7 tweet, FB's stock was trading at approximately \$129.

8 46. To cause a temporary and artificial increase in the stock
9 price of FB by which he could profit, defendant LEFT publicly stated
10 in the Citron report that FB was Citron's "2019 S&P Stock of the
11 Year."

12 47. On or about December 26, 2018, in a private electronic
13 communication, defendant LEFT explained his strategy to artificially
14 manipulate the price of FB stock: "As crazy as it sounds when I put
15 out reports and big names like this in the middle of the day what I'm
16 really doing is switching algorithms" and "sometimes it works in a
17 big way."

18 48. Within six hours of posting Citron's tweet and report
19 promoting his long position in FB, defendant LEFT sold the equivalent
20 of approximately 320,000 shares, approximately 89 percent of his pre-
21 tweet position in the LEFT Trading Accounts, at a time when FB was
22 trading within a range of approximately \$130 - \$134. Within 48
23 hours, defendant LEFT sold 100 percent of his pre-tweet long
24 positions in FB for a profit of at least \$680,000.

25 Defendant LEFT's Use of Deceptive Tweets

26 Roku, Inc. (ROKU)

27 49. On or about January 8, 2019, between market open and
28 approximately 9:40 a.m., defendant LEFT opened short positions in

1 ROKU including short-dated put options that expired within three
2 trading days (on January 11, 2019) in the LEFT Trading Accounts.

3 50. At approximately 9:41 a.m., defendant LEFT posted to the
4 Citron Twitter Account that ROKU was "uninvestable." At the time,
5 ROKU's stock was trading at approximately \$41. Within two minutes of
6 posting the tweet, defendant LEFT placed orders to exit his pre-tweet
7 positions. In the Citron IB Account, defendant LEFT placed a limit
8 order to exit his short equity position at \$40.87, and by
9 approximately 11:03 a.m. -- approximately one hour and twenty-two
10 minutes after the tweet -- defendant LEFT exited his entire pre-tweet
11 positions in the LEFT Trading Accounts.

12 51. On or about January 8, 2019, at approximately 12:58 p.m.,
13 in an electronic communication, a ROKU investor told defendant LEFT,
14 "One of these days you'll see the light on Roku." In response,
15 defendant LEFT stated: "Lol. Was a great set up for Trade this
16 morning."

17 52. By on or about January 8, 2019, at approximately 1:20 p.m.,
18 defendant LEFT deleted the earlier tweet on ROKU from the Citron
19 Twitter Account and falsely and misleadingly posted: "To clarify, we
20 are watching ROKU from the side," when, in fact, defendant LEFT made
21 at least \$700,000 in profits from his manipulative statement and
22 trading in ROKU that morning.

23 Beyond Meat (BYND)

24 53. On or about May 17, 2019, defendant LEFT began to build a
25 short position in BYND in the LEFT Trading Accounts. Just prior to
26 approximately 1:50 p.m. -- when Citron published a tweet on BYND --
27 defendant LEFT held a net short exposure of approximately 496,000
28 shares of BYND. Included in defendant LEFT's position were put

1 options with a strike price of \$90 that he purchased on or about May
2 17, 2019, which expired that same day. Just prior to the publication
3 of Citron's tweet, BYND was trading at approximately \$88.

4 54. At approximately 1:50 p.m., defendant LEFT tweeted on the
5 Citron Twitter Account: "\$BYND has become Beyond Stupid. Most heavily
6 traded retail stock on Robinhood, market cap now bigger than
7 industry, and superior competitor coming to market soon. We expect
8 \$BYND to go back to \$65 on earnings On retail exhaustion. [Look]"

9 55. Within approximately three minutes of the tweet, defendant
10 LEFT began closing his position in the Citron IB Account in BYND.
11 Between approximately 1:52 and 2:02 p.m., within twelve minutes of
12 posting the tweet, defendant LEFT sold the \$90 put options that
13 expired the same day. At approximately 2:03 p.m., defendant LEFT had
14 reduced his net short exposure (in options and equities) in the LEFT
15 Trading Accounts to approximately 6,500 shares -- an approximately
16 98% reduction in his position.

17 56. At approximately 2:08 p.m., defendant LEFT responded to an
18 inquiry from CNBC concerning his position. Defendant LEFT wrote back
19 to CNBC: "Yes I shorted some today Seems to be all retail driven
20 without any fundamental basis." Defendant LEFT's statement was
21 materially misleading because he had covered nearly his entire short
22 position by this time.

23 57. Defendant LEFT purchased additional \$90 put options upon
24 learning that CNBC would be publishing an article concerning BYND.
25 By approximately 9:41 a.m. the next morning, on or about May 20,
26 2019, defendant LEFT had completely closed his entire position in
27 BYND despite the price remaining above approximately \$84 per share --
28 substantially above the \$65 target price included in Citron's tweet.

1 Palantir (PLTR)

2 63. On or about November 25, 2020, between approximately 9:04
3 and 9:58 a.m., defendant LEFT opened short positions in PLTR in the
4 LEFT Trading Accounts that would generate a profit if PLTR's stock
5 price declined. In addition to his equity short positions, defendant
6 LEFT purchased, through the Citron IB Account, short-dated put
7 options that expired the same day.

8 64. On or about November 27, 2020, at approximately 10:08 a.m.,
9 defendant LEFT posted on the Citron Twitter Account: "What a run the
10 past month for all. But as traders looking for short exposure, \$PLTR
11 is no longer a stock but a full casino. Does not take a ball of
12 crystal to know this will fall back to Arda [sic]. Shorting with a
13 \$20 2020 target." At the time, PLTR's stock was trading at
14 approximately \$31.

15 65. Approximately eight minutes after calling PLTR a "casino"
16 stock and stating that Citron was "shorting with a \$20 2020 target,"
17 defendant LEFT began closing his short positions in the Citron IB
18 Account. By market close, defendant LEFT completely closed the
19 equity positions that he opened in the Citron IB Account immediately
20 prior to posting the tweet. At market close on or about November 27,
21 2020, PLTR was trading at approximately \$28.

22 66. The next trading day following the Thanksgiving holiday, on
23 or about November 30, 2020, by approximately 10:54 a.m., defendant
24 LEFT completely closed his short positions in the LEFT Trading
25 Accounts. Defendant LEFT's trading around the PLTR tweet resulted in
26 profits of at least \$820,000.

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1 XL Fleet Corp. (XL)

2 67. On or about December 23, 2020, between approximately 11:10
3 a.m. and 1:40 p.m., defendant LEFT purchased approximately 345,000
4 shares of XL stock in the LEFT Trading Accounts.

5 68. At 1:37 p.m., approximately four minutes before posting a
6 tweet promoting his long position in XL, defendant LEFT placed a
7 limit order to sell his shares in the LEFT E*TRADE Account if XL rose
8 in price to \$27.50 per share. XL was trading at approximately \$25
9 per share at this time.

10 69. At approximately 1:41 p.m., defendant LEFT posted to the
11 Citron Twitter Account: "Citron long \$XL tgt \$60." Approximately one
12 minute later, defendant LEFT placed a limit order to sell his shares
13 in the Citron IB Account if XL rose in price to \$28.

14 70. Within one trading day, defendant LEFT sold all of the XL
15 shares he purchased on or about December 23, 2020, in the LEFT
16 Trading Accounts for a profit of at least \$1.7 million.

17 Defendant LEFT's Deceptive Use of Investor Letters

18 71. In or around October 2018, defendant LEFT established
19 Citron Capital, a purported hedge fund, to advance the false pretense
20 that he successfully managed third-party investors' funds and was a
21 credible investment adviser.

22 72. On or about October 30, 2018, defendant LEFT provided the
23 news outlet Reuters with a Citron Capital investor presentation that
24 indicated that defendant LEFT earned an average annualized return of
25 89.98 percent from his trading between 2007 and 2017. Defendant LEFT
26 informed Reuters that, after investing only his own wealth for
27 roughly two decades, he had launched a hedge fund, that he planned to
28

1 raise "a few hundred million dollars" from investors, and that he
2 would begin trading through the hedge fund in weeks.

3 73. On or about July 17, 2019, defendant LEFT disseminated an
4 "investor letter" issued by Citron Capital asserting that, in the
5 first half of 2019, "the Fund generated a gross return of 36.6% and
6 net return of 24.7% after fees and expenses," and stating that, "the
7 managers of Citron would like to reassure our investors that our
8 focus remains on finding and trading around asymmetric opportunities
9 on both the long and short side with processes and insights that have
10 been developed over the past 20 years."

11 74. On or about December 23, 2020, defendant LEFT falsely
12 represented that Citron had third-party investors in an interview in
13 which he stated, "My investors don't pay me to be right. My
14 investors pay me to make money. I'm not a professor. I'm not
15 supposed to have some erudite answer about the Fed and its effect on
16 monetary flow. Make money. That's my directive from my investors."

17 75. On the following occasions, defendant LEFT disseminated
18 "investor letters" to members of the news media to bolster his public
19 reputation by advancing the false pretense that he managed a hedge
20 fund with third-party investors:

21 a. On or about January 6, 2020, defendant LEFT
22 disseminated an "investor letter" issued by Citron Capital, stating
23 that in 2019, the hedge fund generated "a gross return of 56.4% and
24 net return of 43.3%."

25 b. On or about January 4, 2021, defendant LEFT
26 disseminated an "investor letter" issued by Citron Capital, stating
27 that in 2020, the hedge fund generated "a gross return of 202% and
28 net return of 155%."

1 NVTA stating: "I can get stock [referring to NVTA's price] to 30" and
2 "what can I put in a tweet to juice it[?]".

3 81. On July 26, 2019, prior to publishing a positive Citron
4 tweet and report about NVTA, defendant LEFT bought call options in
5 the Citron IB Account, that positioned the fund to profit if NVTA's
6 stock price rose.

7 82. On July 30, 2019, in electronic communications, defendant
8 LEFT privately messaged Individual E, a portfolio manager at Hedge
9 Fund C, "NVTA you need to [own]."

10 83. On July 31, 2019, defendant LEFT posted on the Citron
11 Twitter Account with a link to a Citron report about NVTA. The
12 report stated:

13 As noted in Citron Capital's 1H '19 investor letter, the
14 fund has been long shares of Invitae (\$NVTA) and will
15 continue to stay long until the stock hits at least \$65 as
16 we believe it is on its way to \$100.

17 Citron's conviction on Invitae was strengthened by this
18 week's purchase of Genomic Health (\$GHDX) by Exact Sciences
19 (\$EXAS) in a \$2.8 billion deal.

20 We are not concerned about next week's earnings as we would
21 happily buy more on any dip - we have seen this movie
22 before and have learned from our mistakes. Our only
23 question is who will acquire \$NVTA?

24 84. That same day, on or about July 31, 2019, defendant LEFT
25 reduced the fund's position in NVTA by selling 130,000 shares in the
26 Citron IB Account.

27 85. During the following week, despite his statements on or
28 about July 31, 2019, defendant LEFT sold the remaining shares and
calls in the Citron IB Account to close the fund's existing position
in NVTA. From on or about July 17, 2019 to on or about August 6,
2019, the price of NVTA was within a range of approximately \$21 to
\$28.

1 Defendant LEFT's Attempts To Conceal His Scheme

2 General Electric (GE)

3 86. On or about August 16, 2019, defendant LEFT initiated a
4 media campaign to discredit another activist short seller's short
5 report on GE and artificially inflate the price of GE stock to
6 benefit defendant LEFT's trading positions.

7 87. On August 16, 2019, at approximately 8:12 a.m., defendant
8 LEFT placed a limit order to buy 200,000 shares of GE stock at a
9 price of \$8.34, which was filled by approximately 8:14 a.m. At
10 approximately 9:38 a.m., defendant LEFT placed a limit order to sell
11 the same shares if GE's stock price increased to \$8.63.

12 88. At approximately 10:44 a.m., defendant LEFT posted to the
13 Citron Twitter Account: "Markopolos report on \$GE was the worst that
14 activist short selling has to offer. Aggressive accounting is not
15 fraud. Disingenuous all the way through" The post included
16 a link that directed viewers to Citron's own GE report published on
17 Citron's website.

18 89. Defendant LEFT made false and misleading representations in
19 Citron's GE report to manipulate the price of GE's stock and benefit
20 his own trading positions. Specifically, defendant LEFT represented
21 that, "Citron took the opportunity to buy stock as well." In truth,
22 at the time defendant LEFT made the statement, he had already placed
23 an order to sell his shares, and within approximately one hour of
24 posting Citron's tweet and report on GE, defendant LEFT had sold all
25 of his shares of GE for a profit of at least \$70,000.

26 90. Defendant LEFT also emailed a link to Citron's GE
27 commentary to members of the news media, including CNBC, in an effort
28 to fraudulently bolster defendant LEFT's credibility by promoting the

1 false pretense that defendant LEFT was independent, and free from
2 financial conflicts of interest, and therefore, more credible than
3 other activist investors. Specifically, Citron's commentary stated:

4 a. Markopolos "is being paid a % of profits from an
5 unnamed hedge fund that is short GE," which had been the subject of a
6 recent short report by Harry Markopolos. "No credible hedge fund or
7 short seller would ever do this."

8 b. "[I]n 18 years of publishing, we [Citron] have never
9 been compensated by a third party to publish research. More
10 important, compensation tied to the 'success of a trade' would not
11 pass internal compliance nor would it pass compliance of any fund
12 that Citron would collaborate with on ideas."

13 c. "[U]sing full disclosures, short sellers have become
14 an important facet of self-regulation of the markets. Unfortunately,
15 what we have just witnessed with Mr. Markopolos is reckless,
16 dishonest, and most importantly secretive -- all which gives activist
17 short selling a bad name."

18 91. In reality, defendant LEFT had, in fact, been compensated
19 by unnamed hedge funds that held short positions in the securities
20 targeted in Citron's commentary, and Citron had no "internal
21 compliance" limiting defendant LEFT's collaboration with hedge funds.

22 92. Indeed, between in or about September 2018 and December
23 2018, defendant LEFT received more than \$1 million from Hedge Fund A,
24 and between in or about January 2019 and August 2019, defendant LEFT
25 and Individual A received more than \$1 million from Hedge Fund B.

26 93. Defendant LEFT concealed his coordination with and
27 compensation from Hedge Fund A and Hedge Fund B from Citron's
28 followers, members of the media, regulators, and law enforcement,

1 among others, to further his scheme to manipulate the market and
2 defraud the investing public by perpetuating the false pretense that
3 his investment recommendations were credible and unbiased.

4 Namaste Technologies (NXTTF) & India Globalization Capital (IGC)

5 94. In or around September 2018, defendant LEFT entered into an
6 agreement with Hedge Fund A to execute a short campaign targeting
7 Namaste Technologies, Inc (NXTTF), a company whose securities were
8 traded over-the-counter. At the time, Hedge Fund A was participating
9 in a bought offering -- where an investment bank commits to
10 purchasing an entire offering from a company and then apportions it
11 to other interested clients -- and stood to benefit if Citron's short
12 campaign caused NXTTF's stock price to decline.

13 95. On or about September 11, 2018, in exchange for defendant
14 LEFT's dissemination of negative information on NXTTF, Hedge Fund A
15 agreed to pay defendant LEFT a portion of Hedge Fund A's profits from
16 shorting NXTTF.

17 96. On or about September 14, 2018, on the Citron Twitter
18 Account, defendant LEFT called NXTTF a "total joke," and advised
19 investors to "drop it like its hot" -- a reference to a pledge party
20 hosted by NXTTF and iconic rapper Snoop Dogg that employees of Hedge
21 Fund A attended on September 11, 2018.

22 97. On or about September 25, 2018, in an interview for BNN
23 (Bloomberg TV's Canadian network), defendant LEFT discussed his
24 negative tweets about NXTTF and falsely stated, "I am going to keep
25 shorting NXTTF until it goes to zero." Notwithstanding this
26 representation, the next day, in an electronic communication to an
27 executive of Hedge Fund A, defendant LEFT asked, "Should we cover all
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1 Namaste and wait or keep some?" The Hedge Fund A executive replied,
2 "We should cover a bunch."

3 98. In or about October 2018, defendant LEFT and Hedge Fund A
4 worked together to execute a short campaign targeting India
5 Globalization Capital Inc. ("IGC"), a company whose securities were
6 traded on the NYSE under the ticker IGC.

7 99. On or about October 2, 2018, on the Citron Twitter Account,
8 defendant LEFT posted:

9 a. "\$IGC. If you are able to short, it is a gift. No
10 product. All hype. Raised Money 2 weeks ago at \$1.15 Finger
11 traders will get burned. This hype stock is the poster child of a
12 cannabis bubble. Always cautious but nothing but air. Could write
13 pages about this scheme."

14 b. "Correction. \$IGC has raised money 3 times in 3 weeks
15 at an average price of \$3.31. At least the company is honest about
16 the absurd move The stock should have a skull and crossbones at
17 Fidelity. Just praying for more borrow to open up. Target price -
18 \$6 fast[.]"

19 100. On or about October 4, 2018, on the Citron Twitter Account,
20 defendant LEFT posted concerning NXTTF: "Citron proves without a
21 doubt the fraud being committed at Namaste Tech \$n \$nxttf. This \$700
22 mil company will be a 0 one regulators and accountants read." He
23 also included a link to a Citron short report on NXTTF.

24 101. Hedge Fund A's trading around defendant LEFT's short
25 campaigns targeting NXTTF and IGC generated profits of more than \$3.8
26 million. Defendant LEFT's share of these profits was more than \$1.1
27 million.

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1 102. Defendant LEFT directed Hedge Fund A to send defendant
2 LEFT's share of the trading profits through a third-party
3 intermediary to conceal the true beneficiary and purpose of the
4 payments from Hedge Fund A to defendant LEFT. Specifically, at
5 defendant LEFT's direction, Individual F provided Hedge Fund A with
6 false invoices on or about the following dates and in the following
7 approximate amounts:

Date	Description	Amount
10/08/18	Research Services	\$840,000
10/08/18	Research Services	\$390,000
10/08/18	Research Services - Canopy Acquisitions & Slang	\$100,000
10/15/18	Research Services - Shopify	\$250,000
10/22/18	Research Services - Exchange Income	\$210,000
10/26/18	Research Services - Trupanion	\$290,000
11/01/18	Research Services - Arlo Netgear	\$240,000
11/13/18	Research Services - ACHC	\$197,000

18 103. Upon receipt of payment of the false invoices by Hedge Fund
19 A, Individual F sent wire transfers to a Citibank Account ending
20 x7508, controlled by defendant LEFT, on or about the following dates
21 and in the following approximate amounts:

22 ///

Date	Description	Amount
11/26/18	Consulting Services from Jan 1 to April 30, 2018	\$250,000
12/05/18	Consulting Services from May 1 to June 31, 2018	\$250,000
12/17/18	Consulting Services from July 1 to Sept 31, 2018	\$250,000
12/24/18	Consulting Services from Sept 31 to Dec 31, 2018	\$250,000
12/31/18	Consulting Services from Nov 1 to Dec 31, 2018	\$137,000

104. On or about January 29, 2021, defendant LEFT knowingly and intentionally made the following materially false statements to a Postal Inspector from the USPIS while the Postal Inspector was in the Central District of California:

a. When asked, "When you check with other hedge funds that specialize in the industry that you are looking at, is there compensation between the two of you?" defendant LEFT falsely stated that there was "[n]ever . . . never, never, never" compensation between himself and hedge funds. In fact, as defendant LEFT then knew, from at least September 2018 through December 2018, defendant LEFT received compensation from Hedge Fund A after consulting with Hedge Fund A in advance of the issuance of Citron's commentary.

b. When further asked, "Do you share your report before it goes public with [hedge funds]?" defendant LEFT falsely stated, "No, no, no, the only thing I might do . . . I might double check a spreadsheet [I]t's always done to make sure it's factually right." In fact, defendant LEFT routinely shared the content of Citron's commentary with hedge fund managers in advance of publication to give them advanced notice and time to establish or adjust their trading positions and thereby profit or minimize losses from price volatility caused by Citron's publication.

1 105. On a date prior to January 30, 2021, electronic
2 communications between defendant LEFT and individual A were cleared
3 from the encrypted messaging app Telegram.

4 106. On or about February 1, 2021, the SEC provided defendant
5 LEFT and Citron Capital with subpoenas for documents and notice that
6 evidence, including, but not limited to, all communications through
7 and content on the Citron Twitter Account, should be preserved and
8 retained until further notice. On or about March 14, 2023, despite
9 the SEC's directive to retain such records for an ongoing
10 investigation, defendant LEFT caused the deletion of electronic
11 communications contained in the Citron Twitter Account.

12 Defendant LEFT's Gains from the Fraudulent Scheme

13 107. In furtherance of the scheme to defraud investors,
14 defendant LEFT manipulated the market for at least 15 Targeted
15 Securities and thereby fraudulently obtained profits of at least \$16
16 million through transactions in the LEFT Trading Accounts.

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1 connection with the purchase and sale of securities by issuing Citron
2 reports and tweets concerning the following issuers:

COUNT	DATE	ISSUER IN CITRON PUBLIC STATEMENT
TWO	08/30/2018	CRON
THREE	10/02/2018	IGC
FOUR	10/04/2018	NXTTF
FIVE	10/18/2018	PTE
SIX	10/23/2018	TSLA
SEVEN	11/20/2018	NVDA
EIGHT	12/20/2018	TWTR
NINE	12/26/2018	FB
TEN	01/08/2019	ROKU
ELEVEN	05/17/2019	BYND
TWELVE	07/31/2019	NVTA
THIRTEEN	08/16/2019	GE
FOURTEEN	01/31/2020	LK
FIFTEEN	04/20/2020	NVAX
SIXTEEN	06/05/2020	AAL
SEVENTEEN	11/27/2020	PLTR
EIGHTEEN	12/23/2020	XL

1 FORFEITURE ALLEGATION

2 [18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C); 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c)]

3 114. Pursuant to Rule 32.2 of the Federal Rules of Criminal
4 Procedure, notice is hereby given that the United States of America
5 will seek forfeiture as part of any sentence, pursuant to Title 18,
6 United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C) and Title 28, United States
7 Code, Section 2461(c), in the event of defendant ANDREW LEFT's
8 conviction of any of the offenses set forth in Counts One through
9 Eighteen of this Indictment.

10 115. Defendant LEFT, if so convicted, shall forfeit to the
11 United States of America the following:

12 a. All right, title, and interest in any and all
13 property, real or personal, constituting, or derived from, any
14 proceeds traceable to the offense; and

15 b. To the extent such property is not available for
16 forfeiture, a sum of money equal to the total value of the property
17 described in subparagraph (a).

18 116. Pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section
19 981(a)(1)(c), as incorporated by Title 28, United States Code,
20 Section 2461(c), defendant LEFT, if so convicted, shall forfeit
21 substitute property, up to the total value of the property described
22 in the preceding paragraph if, as the result of any act or omission
23 of that defendant, the property described in the preceding paragraph,
24 or any portion thereof: (a) cannot be located upon the exercise of
25 due diligence; (b) has been transferred, sold to or deposited with a
26 third party; (c) has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the
27 Court; (d) has been substantially diminished in value; or (e) has

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1 been commingled with other property that cannot be divided without
2 difficulty.

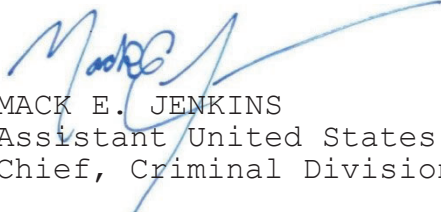
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4 A TRUE BILL

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6 /s/

7 _____
Foreperson

8 E. MARTIN ESTRADA
United States Attorney

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