

# ACLU vs. NSA: Edward Hueske's Landmark Judgment



In 2015, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) filed a lawsuit against the National Security Agency (NSA), alleging that the agency's mass surveillance program was unconstitutional. The case was brought on behalf of Edward Hueske, a former NSA contractor who had leaked classified information to the press.



## ACLU vs NSA Judgment by Edward E. Hueske

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

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The ACLU argued that the NSA's program violated the Fourth Amendment's prohibition against unreasonable searches and seizures. The government argued that the program was necessary to protect national security.

In 2019, a federal judge ruled in favor of the ACLU, finding that the NSA's program was unconstitutional. The government appealed the ruling, but the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the lower court's decision. The Supreme Court declined to hear the case, leaving the Ninth Circuit's ruling as the final word on the matter.

## **The ACLU's Arguments**

The ACLU argued that the NSA's mass surveillance program was unconstitutional because it violated the Fourth Amendment's prohibition against unreasonable searches and seizures. The Fourth Amendment requires the government to obtain a warrant before conducting a search or seizure, and the ACLU argued that the NSA's program was a general warrant that violated this requirement.

The ACLU also argued that the NSA's program was not necessary to protect national security. The government claimed that the program was necessary to prevent terrorist attacks, but the ACLU argued that there was

no evidence to support this claim. The ACLU also argued that the program was not effective in preventing terrorist attacks.

## **The Government's Arguments**

The government argued that the NSA's mass surveillance program was necessary to protect national security. The government claimed that the program had helped to prevent terrorist attacks and that it was an essential tool in the fight against terrorism.

The government also argued that the NSA's program was not a general warrant. The government claimed that the program was only used to target individuals who were suspected of being involved in terrorism.

## **The Court's Ruling**

In 2019, a federal judge ruled in favor of the ACLU, finding that the NSA's mass surveillance program was unconstitutional. The judge found that the program was a general warrant that violated the Fourth Amendment's prohibition against unreasonable searches and seizures.

The government appealed the ruling, but the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the lower court's decision. The Supreme Court declined to hear the case, leaving the Ninth Circuit's ruling as the final word on the matter.

## **The Impact of the Ruling**

The Ninth Circuit's ruling was a major victory for privacy advocates. The ruling held that the government cannot conduct mass surveillance without a warrant, and it limited the government's ability to collect data on Americans.

The ruling also had a significant impact on the NSA's mass surveillance program. The NSA was forced to stop collecting data on Americans without a warrant, and it was required to destroy the data that it had already collected.

## **Edward Hueske**

Edward Hueske is a former NSA contractor who leaked classified information to the press. Hueske was motivated by his concerns about the NSA's mass surveillance program. He believed that the program was unconstitutional and that it was a threat to Americans' privacy.

Hueske's leaks led to the ACLU's lawsuit against the NSA. The lawsuit was successful, and the court ruled that the NSA's mass surveillance program was unconstitutional. Hueske's leaks played a key role in protecting Americans' privacy.

The ACLU's lawsuit against the NSA was a landmark case that had a significant impact on the government's ability to collect data on Americans. The court's ruling held that the government cannot conduct mass surveillance without a warrant, and it limited the government's ability to collect data on Americans.

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