

LEGITIMATE POWER MUST BE VISIBLE

Public Doctrine on Clandestine Influence and Undisclosed Power

The Core Problem: Across democracies, undisclosed networks exercise influence over public institutions, judicial processes, and policy without accountability or scrutiny. This corrodes democratic legitimacy, distorts decision-making, and privileges hidden agendas over public interest.

The Doctrine in Three Principles

1. Transparency is Non-Negotiable

Any individual or organization exercising material influence over public decisions must disclose that influence. Hidden coordination, concealed direction, and undisclosed allegiances are incompatible with democratic consent.

2. Public Duty Supersedes Private Oath

No secrecy oath, private pledge, or clandestine obligation may lawfully require obstruction of justice, concealment of crime, or violation of public law. Where such conflicts arise, the public duty prevails.

3. Networks Are Accountable

Coordinated efforts by undisclosed groups to manipulate markets, interfere with courts, or distort governance are not protected speech—they are organized misconduct. Sustained secrecy itself becomes evidence of intent to evade accountability.

For Public Officials

If you hold public office and belong to an organization that requires secrecy about membership or operations, you have three choices: disclose it, leave it, or resign your office. Failing to do so violates the trust placed in you and the principle of public accountability.

For Whistleblowers

You have the right to report clandestine influence, corruption, and misconduct without fear of retaliation. No confidentiality agreement, non-disclosure clause, or oath of secrecy can lawfully prevent you from exposing criminal activity, fraud, or threats to democratic institutions.

For Institutions

Audit your own ecosystems. Identify undisclosed affiliations, hidden networks, and concealed coordination within your ranks. Transparency strengthens institutions; secrecy weakens them.

THE DOCTRINE

Legitimate power must be visible to those it affects. Where power hides, democracy dies.

This is not a proposal to eliminate privacy, personal associations, or lawful organizational autonomy. It is a demand that power—particularly power that influences public systems—be exercised openly and subject to accountability.

States, institutions, and civil society organizations are urged to adopt transparency frameworks aligned with these principles.

Marie-Soleil Seshat Landry

OSINT Investigator | Spymaster

MarieLandrySpyShop.com