



Lemont High School

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Dr. Matt Maxwell, Superintendent

Eric Michaelsen, Principal



Exemplary High Performing School • 2017 National Blue Ribbon Schools Program

Via Email

November 19, 2025

W (AACL)

Michael A. Ayele

P.O.Box 20438

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

E-mail: waac13@gmail.com ; waac1313@gmail.com ; waac42913@gmail.com

Re: Illinois Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request - 5 ILCS 140 / 1

Dear W:

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated November 13, 2025, and received in my office on November 13, 2025.

In your letter you requested the following:

What I am requesting for prompt disclosure are records in your possession detailing your discussions about [1] the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) as a federal agency of the United States government which has on (or around) July 13th 2022 concluded the processing of FOIA Request Case No.: 820 – 2022 – 005060 by affirming to Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W that (i) they do not recognize the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) as an “independent federal agency created in 1965;” (ii) they have absolutely no knowledge of the awards granted by the NEH for “top-rated proposal examined by panels of independent, external reviewers;” (iii) they have absolutely no knowledge of the NEH defining the term “humanities” as the “study and interpretation of language, linguistics, literature, history, jurisprudence, philosophy, archeology, comparative religion, ethics etc;” iv [2] the NEH as a federal agency of the United States government which has on (or around) March 24th 2022 concluded the processing of FOIA Request Case No.: 22 – 26 by affirming to Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W that they have never contacted (i) the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) before publishing (on their official website) a brief biography of Jean Seberg stating that “Jean Seberg had become a member of the NAACP at the age of 14 (fourteen)” in 1952; (ii) the Department of Justice (DOJ) Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) before publishing (on their official website) a brief biography of Jean Seberg stating that Jean Seberg was “defamed and wiretapped” under the direction and coordination of the FBI with the Los Angeles Times and Newsweek; [3] Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W as a Black Bachelor of Arts (B.A) Degree graduate of Westminster College (Fulton, Missouri) who has witnessed his written content being paradoxically subjected to frenzy before it was very inappropriately filtered and distorted on search engines such as AOL, Bing/MSN, Google and Yahoo following his decision to publish (i) his correspondence with the EEOC on matters related to the mission statement of the NEH; (ii) his correspondence with the NEH on the biography of Jean Seberg (after the defamation and wiretap she was subjected to); [4] Chapter 22.2 of Iowa's Open Records Law decreeing as follows: “Every person shall have the right to examine and copy a public record and to publish or otherwise disseminate a public record or the information contained in a public record. (...) The right to copy a public record shall include the right to make photographs or photographic copies while the public record is in the possession of the custodian of the public record. All rights under this section are in addition to the right to obtain a certified copy of a public record under section 622.46. A government body shall not

prevent the examination or copying of a public record by contracting with a nongovernment body to perform any of its duties or functions;" [5] the Iowa Public Information Board (IPIB) as a state government agency which has on (or around) November 06th 2025 disagreed with Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W interpretation that Chapter 22.2 of Iowa Open Records Law (i) enables every person regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, religious affiliation and/or disability state to "publish or otherwise disseminate a public record or the information contained in a public record" without fear of harassment and fear of retaliation; (ii) codifies in American state level of government the 1st (First) Amendment of the United States Constitution which decrees as follows: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of people peaceably assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." v

Response to request:

In response to your requests, the District does not have any records in its possession or control pertaining to the items in your requests.

As Superintendent and one of the FOIA Officers for the District, I am responsible for granting and denying requests for records under the FOIA. The District's responses contained in this letter intend to be fully responsive to your specific request. If I have misinterpreted your request, please clarify your request in writing to me.

If you should have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Maxwell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Matt Maxwell
Superintendent
Lemont High School District 210

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request - 5 ILCS 140 / 1

External

Inbox



Michael Ayele

Nov 13, 2025, 6:17 AM

(6 days ago)

to mmaxwell,
thamilton@lhs210.net,
me, Michael

W (AACL)

Date.: November 13th 2025

Michael A. Ayele
P.O.Box 20438
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
E-mail: waac113@gmail.com ; waac11313@gmail.com ; waac142913@gmail.com

Request for Records

Hello,

This is Michael A. Ayele sending this message though I now go by W and I prefer to be referred to as such. I am writing this letter for the purpose of filing a request for records with your office. ^[i] The bases for this

records request are [1] the biography of Jean Seberg (November 13th 1938 – August 30th 1979) ^[ii] and [2]

Chapter 22.2 of Iowa's Open Records Law. ^[iii]

Please find attached to this email the content of my records request as well as information explaining my request for a fee waiver and expedited processing. ^[iv] Thank you.

Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W
Anti-Racist Human Rights Activist
Audio-Visual Media Analyst
Anti-Propaganda Journalist

Work Cited

^[i] Please be advised that I have previously disseminated a vast number of documents obtained through records requests using the means of various digital publishing platforms. As a representative of the media, I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that the records you disclose to me could be made available to the general public at no financial expense to them. This records request is being filed for non-commercial purposes to inform members of the general public / representatives of the media [who may be interested in the written content of Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W – Association for the Advancement of Civil Liberties (AACL)] about the activities, the engagements and the priorities of the U.S government at the local, state and federal level.

^[ii] About Jean Seberg's Biography (November 13th 1938 – August 30th 1979) and Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a)

W's Correspondence with the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)

Despite publishing a brief summary of Jean Seberg's life on their website, the NEH denied ever holding internal

discussions about [1] Jean Seberg's membership with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); [2] Jean Seberg's charitable donations to the NAACP and the Black Panther Party; [3] the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) wiretap of Jean Seberg; [4] the mental health impact of wiretap on Jean Seberg; [5] the mental health impact of libelous articles (published by the Los Angeles Times and Newsweek) on Jean Seberg; [6] the circumstances surrounding the suspicious death of Jean Seberg when she was only 40 (forty) years old; [7] Kristen Stewart portrayal of Jean Seberg in the 2019 movie entitled "*Seberg*."

As a Black Bachelor of Arts (B.A) Degree graduate of Westminster College (Fulton, Missouri), Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W does find it odd that the NEH would publish a summary of Jean Seberg's biography on their website without [1] internally discussing the matter among themselves; [2] contacting non-profit organizations (such as the NAACP) they say she was close to; [3] contacting the Department of Justice (DOJ) Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) who they say were responsible for her wiretap; [4] the Los Angeles Times and other news outlets that have gone on to (i) smear her good name; (ii) adversely impact her mental health; (iii) take issue with her being an anti-racist woman.

It is the judgment of Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W that the NEH processing of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, which was assigned Case No.: 22 – 26 was very bizarre for various reasons. For instance, even though the NEH say that they are an independent federal agency created in 1965, Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W was unable to independently corroborate this with the NEH in his correspondence with them. Additionally, even though the NEH say that they are responsible for the processing of application of grants submitted to them by museums, archives, libraries, colleges, universities, public television, radio stations, individual scholars etc, Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W was unable to independently corroborate this with the NEH in his correspondence with them.

Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W deeply regrets the NEH processing of the FOIA request that had been assigned Case No.: 22 – 26 as much as he regrets the processing of the FOIA appeal that had been assigned Case No.: 22 – A – 01 because the processing of this FOIA request (and the ensuing processing of the appeal) served to further undermine public confidence in the mission of the NEH.

[iii]

Iowa's Code Chapter 22.2. Right to examine public records.

1) **Every person shall have the right to examine and copy a public record and to publish or otherwise disseminate a public record or the information contained in a public record.** Unless otherwise provided for by law, the right to examine a public record shall include the right to examine a public record without charge while the public record is in the physical possession of the custodian of the public record. The right to copy a public record shall include the right to make photographs or photographic copies while the public record is in the possession of the custodian of the public record. All rights under this section are in addition to the right to obtain a certified copy of a public record under section 622.46.

2. **A government body shall not prevent the examination or copying of a public record by contracting with a nongovernment body to perform any of its duties or functions.**

Retrievable here.: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/ico/chapter/22.pdf>

[iv]

The facts presented in my request for a fee waiver and expedited processing will not bolster public confidence in the activities, the engagements and the priorities of internet search engines (ISE) such as AOL, Bing/MSN, Google and Yahoo because they have previously filtered, distorted and suppressed Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W correspondence with [1] the EEOC on matters related to the mission statement of the NEH (in violation of Chapter 22.2 of Iowa's Open Records Law); [2] the NEH on the biography of Jean Seberg (in violation of Chapter 22.2 of Iowa's Open Records Law).

As previously mentioned, Chapter 22.2 of Iowa's Open Records Law decrees that *“every person shall have the right to examine and copy a public record and to publish or otherwise disseminate a public record or the information contained in a public record.”* For me, this statute makes absolutely clear that the dissemination of a public record is not a privilege, but an inherent right of the public (and the press) in a free and democratic society. In other words, once a record has been transmitted from a government body to an individual recipient, that individual recipient is fully entitled to share, reproduce, or otherwise circulate that record without interference or retaliation. The spirit of Iowa Code Chapter 22.2 rests on a simple but vital democratic principle that the individual recipient of a public record – not private corporations – determines how, when, and in what form government information is made accessible. When search engines such as AOL, Bing/MSN, Google and Yahoo filter, distort, and suppress correspondence between the government and those primarily engaged in the dissemination of public records, they are in essence violating the letter and the spirit of Iowa Code Chapter 22.2.

The right to examine, copy and disseminate public records is an expression of the core democratic principle that government transparency sustains informed and thoughtful discussions in society by bolstering public confidence in government activities, engagements and priorities. In furtherance of this principle, Chapter 22.2 of Iowa's Open Records Law explicitly prohibits any government body from contracting with a nongovernment

entity—whether for-profit or nonprofit—to perform duties that the government itself is legally obligated to carry out. The statute unambiguously declares that “***a government body shall not prevent the examination or copying of a public record by contracting with a nongovernment body to perform any of its duties or functions.***” This provision codifies a foundational rule of administrative responsibility: the duty to maintain and disclose public records cannot be delegated to private intermediaries whose interests may diverge from the public’s right of access. This provision also codifies that the act of disclosure is a core governmental function that must remain under direct public authority and accountability. In practical terms, this means that local and state government agencies may not outsource the processing of records requests to private law firms, data-management contractors, or third-party vendors in ways that restrict or delay the public’s right of access. Allowing private entities—especially for-profit organizations (such as law firms)—to handle records request submitted to the government (and thereby act as gatekeepers of information) undermines both the spirit and the letter of Chapter 22.2 of Iowa’s Open Records Law. On a personal level, **I am concerned by the growing number of contractual agreements concluded between local government agencies (such as school districts) and private for-profit law firms tasked with processing records requests. I am also concerned by the growing number of contractual agreements concluded between state government agencies (such as community colleges) and private for-profit law firms tasked with processing records requests. For me, these written contractual agreements constitute an improper delegation of governmental responsibility and violate the statutory and democratic principles enshrined in Chapter 22.2 of Iowa’s Open Records Law.**

The public has a compelling and legitimate interest in this information because:

- 1) Jean Seberg became a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) at the age of fourteen in 1952.
- 2) Jean Seberg’s membership with the NAACP at such a young age has been recognized and publicized by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH): a federal agency of the United States government.
- 3) Jean Seberg’s decision to join the NAACP in 1952 - at the height of Jim Crow segregation - reflects a truly extraordinary level of moral courage, open-mindedness and commitment to racial equality. In the twenty-first (21st) century, Jean Seberg’s example (as a white global superstar who embraced anti-racist principles) offers a very powerful inspiration for white girls and women to speak up and to take legal action against racism as well as sexism.
- 4) The issues presented in this records request raise very serious questions about the decision of local government agencies (such as school districts) to contract for-profit organizations (such as law firms) in a manner that violates Iowa’s Code Chapter 22.2 which decrees as follows: “*A government body shall not prevent the examination or copying of a public record by contracting with a nongovernment body to perform any of its duties or functions.*”
- 5) The issues presented in this records request raise very serious questions about the decision of state government agencies (such as community colleges) to contract for-profit organizations (such as law firms) in a manner that violates Iowa’s Code Chapter 22.2 which decrees as follows: “*A government body shall not prevent the examination or copying of a public record by contracting with a nongovernment body to perform any of its duties or functions.*”
- 6) The issues presented in this records request raise very serious questions about the decision of internet search engines (ISE) such as AOL, Bing/MSN, Google and Yahoo to retaliate against people primarily engaged in the dissemination of public records in violation of Iowa’s Code Chapter 22.2 which

decrees as follows: *“Every person shall have the right to examine and copy a public record and to publish or otherwise disseminate a public record or the information contained in a public record.”*

7) The issues presented in this records request raise very serious questions about the letter and spirit of Iowa’s Code Chapter 22.2 in the age of artificial intelligence (AI) particularly given AI’s tendency to hallucinate in a manner that exacerbates racism and sexism.

For these reasons, expedited processing is warranted because:

- 1) The requested records bear directly on urgent and ongoing matters of public understanding, including civil rights history, federal surveillance, propaganda media in the service of racist and sexist interests, Iowa’s Code Chapter 22.2 and the representation of Jean Seberg in public memory.
- 2) Any delay in disclosure will perpetuate existing gaps and distortions in how Jean Seberg’s life is officially portrayed and remembered by the American government - at the federal, state and local levels.
- 3) Jean Seberg’s life and death (November 13th 1938 – August 30th 1979) are directly tied to the unlawful surveillance and disinformation activities of COINTELPRO, a covert FBI program that targeted civil rights activists and their allies. Jean Seberg’s inclusion in COINTELPRO operations – resulting in the deliberate planting of false stories about her in national media – represents a documented abuse of government power against a global superstar engaged in anti-racist advocacy.
- 4) The issues raised in this records request puts into question the government’s integrity about the way that people are treated in the United States of America (U.S.A) particularly if they espouse anti-racist and pro-feminist beliefs as Jean Seberg did.
- 5) The issues raised in this records request puts into question the government’s integrity about the way that people are treated in the U.S.A on account of their anti-racist and anti-sexist activities (including but not limited to their financial support for anti-racist and anti-sexist organizations as well as their participation in anti-racist and anti-sexist demonstrations).
- 6) The issues raised in this records request demonstrate that the 21st Century is not the appropriate time to make excuses for incidents of racism and sexism particularly given Jean Seberg’s very brave and passionate anti-racist activism in the years leading up to the civil rights movement of the 1960s.

W (AACL)

Date.: November 13th 2025

Michael A. Ayele

P.O.Box 20438

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

E-mail: waac113@gmail.com ; waac11313@gmail.com ; waac142913@gmail.com

Request for Records

Hello,

This is Michael A. Ayele sending this message though I now go by W and I prefer to be referred to as such. I am writing this letter for the purpose of filing a request for records with your office.ⁱ The bases for this records request are [1] the biography of Jean Seberg (November 13th 1938 – August 30th 1979)ⁱⁱ and [2] Chapter 22.2 of Iowa's Open Records Law.ⁱⁱⁱ

I) Requested Records

What I am requesting for prompt disclosure are records in your possession detailing your discussions about [1] the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) as a federal agency of the United States government which has on (or around) July 13th 2022 concluded the processing of FOIA Request Case No.: 820 – 2022 – 005060 by affirming to Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W that (i) they do not recognize the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) as an “*independent federal agency created in 1965;*” (ii) they have absolutely no knowledge of the awards granted by the NEH for “*top-rated proposal examined by panels of independent, external reviewers;*” (iii) they have absolutely no knowledge of the NEH defining the term “*humanities*” as the “*study and interpretation of language, linguistics, literature, history, jurisprudence, philosophy, archeology, comparative religion, ethics etc;*”^{iv} [2] the NEH as a federal agency of the United States government which has on (or around) March 24th 2022 concluded the processing of FOIA Request Case No.: 22 – 26 by affirming to Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W that they have never contacted (i) the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) before publishing (on their official website) a brief biography of Jean Seberg stating that “*Jean Seberg had become a member of the NAACP at the age of 14 (fourteen)*” in 1952; (ii) the Department of Justice (DOJ) Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) before publishing (on their official website) a brief biography of Jean Seberg stating that Jean Seberg was “*defamed and wiretapped*” under the direction and coordination of the FBI with the Los Angeles Times and Newsweek; [3] Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W as a Black Bachelor of Arts (B.A) Degree graduate of Westminster College (Fulton, Missouri) who has witnessed his written content being paradoxically subjected to frenzy before it was very inappropriately filtered and distorted on search engines such as AOL, Bing/MSN, Google and Yahoo following his decision to publish (i) his correspondence with the EEOC on matters related to the mission statement of the NEH; (ii) his correspondence with the NEH on the biography of Jean Seberg (after the defamation and wiretap she was subjected to); [4] Chapter 22.2 of Iowa's Open Records Law decreeing as follows: “*Every person shall have the right to examine and copy a public record and to publish or otherwise disseminate a public record or the information contained in a public record. (...) The right to copy a public record shall include the right to make photographs or photographic copies while the public record*

is in the possession of the custodian of the public record. All rights under this section are in addition to the right to obtain a certified copy of a public record under section 622.46. A government body shall not prevent the examination or copying of a public record by contracting with a nongovernment body to perform any of its duties or functions;" [5] the Iowa Public Information Board (IPIB) as a state government agency which has on (or around) November 06th 2025 disagreed with Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W interpretation that Chapter 22.2 of Iowa Open Records Law (i) enables every person regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, religious affiliation and/or disability state to "*publish or otherwise disseminate a public record or the information contained in a public record*" without fear of harassment and fear of retaliation; (ii) codifies in American state level of government the 1st (First) Amendment of the United States Constitution which decrees as follows: "*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of people peaceably assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.*"^v

II) Request for a Fee Waiver and Expedited Processing

The requested records do/will demonstrate that [1] the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) is a federal agency of the United States government which has on (or around) July 13th 2022 concluded the processing of FOIA Request Case No.: 820 – 2022 – 005060 by affirming to Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W that (i) they do not recognize the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) as an "*independent federal agency created in 1965;*" (ii) they have absolutely no knowledge of the awards granted by the NEH for "*top-rated proposal examined by panels of independent, external reviewers;*" (iii) they have absolutely no knowledge of the NEH defining the term "*humanities*" as the "*study and interpretation of language, linguistics, literature, history, jurisprudence, philosophy, archeology, comparative religion, ethics etc;*" [2] the NEH is a federal agency of the United States government which has on (or around) March 24th 2022 concluded the processing of FOIA Request Case No.: 22 – 26 by affirming to Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W that they have never contacted (i) the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) before publishing (on their official website) a brief biography of Jean Seberg stating that "*Jean Seberg had become a member of the NAACP at the age of fourteen*" in 1952; (ii) the Department of Justice (DOJ) Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) before publishing (on their official website) a brief biography of Jean Seberg stating that Jean Seberg was "*defamed and wiretapped*" under the direction and coordination of the FBI alongside the Los Angeles Times and Newsweek; [3] Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W is a Black Bachelor of Arts (B.A) Degree graduate of Westminster College (Fulton, Missouri) who has witnessed his written content being paradoxically subjected to frenzy before it was filtered and distorted on search engines such as AOL, Bing/MSN, Google and Yahoo following his decision to publish (i) his correspondence with the EEOC on matters related to the mission statement of the NEH; (ii) his correspondence with the NEH on the biography of Jean Seberg (after the defamation and wiretap she was subjected to); [4] Chapter 22.2 of Iowa's Open Records Law decrees as follows: "*Every person shall have the right to examine and copy a public record and to publish or otherwise disseminate a public record or the information contained in a public record. (...) The right to copy a public record shall include the right to make photographs or photographic copies while the public record is in the possession of the custodian of the public record. All rights under this section are in addition to the right to obtain a certified copy of a public record under section 622.46. A government body shall not prevent the examination or copying of a public record by contracting with a nongovernment body to perform any of its duties or functions;*" [5] the Iowa Public Information Board (IPIB) is a state government agency which has on (or around) November 06th 2025 disagreed with Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W interpretation that Chapter 22.2 of Iowa Open Records Law (i) enables every

person regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, religious affiliation and/or disability state to “*publish or otherwise disseminate a public record or the information contained in a public record*” without fear of harassment and fear of retaliation; (ii) codifies in American state level of government the 1st (First) Amendment of the United States Constitution which decrees as follows: “*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of people peaceably assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.*”

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The right to examine, copy and disseminate public records is an expression of the core democratic principle that government transparency sustains informed and thoughtful discussions in society by bolstering public confidence in government activities, engagements and priorities. In furtherance of this principle, Chapter 22.2 of Iowa’s Open Records Law explicitly prohibits any government body from contracting with a nongovernment entity—whether for-profit or nonprofit—to perform duties that the government itself is legally obligated to carry out. The statute unambiguously declares that “*a government body shall not prevent the examination or copying of a public record by contracting with a nongovernment body to perform any of its duties or functions.*” This provision codifies a foundational rule of administrative responsibility: the duty to maintain and disclose public records cannot be delegated to private intermediaries whose interests may diverge from the public’s right of access. This provision also codifies that the act of disclosure is a core governmental function that must remain under direct public authority and accountability. In practical terms, this means that local and state government agencies may not outsource the processing of records requests to private law firms, data-management contractors, or third-party vendors in ways that restrict or delay the public’s right of access. Allowing private entities—especially for-profit organizations (such as law firms)—to handle records request submitted to the government (and thereby act as gatekeepers of information) undermines both the spirit and the letter of Chapter 22.2 of Iowa’s Open Records Law. On a personal level, **I am concerned by the growing number of contractual agreements concluded between local government agencies (such as school districts) and private for-profit law firms tasked with processing records requests. I am also concerned by the growing number of contractual agreements concluded between state government agencies (such as community colleges) and private for-profit law firms tasked with processing**

records requests. For me, these written contractual agreements constitute an improper delegation of governmental responsibility and violate the statutory and democratic principles enshrined in Chapter 22.2 of Iowa's Open Records Law.

The core issues presented in this records request are as follows. 1) Have you had conversations about the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) as a federal agency of the United States government which has on (or around) July 13th 2022 concluded the processing of FOIA Request Case No.: 820 – 2022 – 005060 by affirming to Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W that they do not recognize the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) as an *“independent federal agency created in 1965?”* If yes, will you promptly disclose those records? 2) Have you had conversations about the EEOC as a federal agency of the United States government which has on (or around) July 13th 2022 concluded the processing of FOIA Request Case No.: 820 – 2022 – 005060 by affirming to Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W that they have absolutely no knowledge of the awards granted by the NEH for *“top-rated proposal examined by panels of independent, external reviewers?”* If yes, will you promptly disclose those records? 3) Have you had conversations about the EEOC as a federal agency of the United States government which has on (or around) July 13th 2022 concluded the processing of FOIA Request Case No.: 820 – 2022 – 005060 by affirming to Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W that they have absolutely no knowledge of the NEH definition of the term *“humanities”* as the *“study and interpretation of language, linguistics, literature, history, jurisprudence, philosophy, archeology, comparative religion, ethics etc?”* If yes, will you promptly disclose those records? 4) Have you had conversations about the NEH as a federal agency of the United States government which has on (or around) March 24th 2022 concluded the processing of FOIA Request Case No.: 22 – 26 by affirming to Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W that they have never contacted the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) before publishing (on their official website) a brief biography of Jean Seberg stating that Jean Seberg had *“become a member of the NAACP at the age of fourteen”* (in 1952)? If yes, will you promptly disclose those records? 5) Have you had conversations about the NEH as a federal agency of the United States government which has on (or around) March 24th 2022 concluded the processing of FOIA Request Case No.: 22 – 26 by affirming to Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W that they have never contacted the Department of Justice (DOJ) Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) before publishing (on their official website) a brief biography of Jean Seberg stating that Jean Seberg was *“defamed and wiretapped”* under the direction and coordination of the FBI alongside the Los Angeles Times and Newsweek? If yes, will you promptly disclose those records? 6) Have you had conversations about Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W as a Black Bachelor of Arts (B.A) Degree graduate of Westminster College (Fulton, Missouri) who has witnessed his written content being subjected to frenzy before it was filtered and distorted on search engines such as AOL, Bing/MSN, Google and Yahoo following his decision to publish his correspondence with the EEOC on matters related to the mission statement of the NEH? If yes, will you promptly disclose those records? 7) Have you had conversations about Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W as a Black B.A Degree graduate of Westminster College (Fulton, Missouri) who has witnessed his written content being subjected to frenzy before it was filtered and distorted on search engines such as AOL, Bing/MSN, Google and Yahoo following his decision to publish his correspondence with the NEH on the biography of Jean Seberg? If yes, will you promptly disclose those records? 8) Have you had conversations about the frenzy, the filtering and the distortion Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W was subjected to (on search engines such as AOL, Bing/MSN, Google and Yahoo) as a form of harassment (and retaliation) that is inconsistent with Iowa's Code Chapter 22.2 which decrees as follows: *“Every person shall have the right to examine and copy a public record and to publish or otherwise disseminate a public record or the information contained in a public record?”* If yes, will you promptly disclose those records? 9) Have you had conversations about Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W as a Black B.A Degree graduate of Westminster College (Fulton, Missouri) who has in the past very seriously considered filing a Civil Complaint with a District Court in the State of Iowa pursuant to Chapter 22.2 of Iowa's Open Records Law because of the way his written publications on the biography of Jean Seberg (November 13th 1938 – August 30th 1979)

were filtered, distorted and suppressed by search engines such as AOL, Bing/MSN, Google and Yahoo? If yes, will you promptly disclose those records? 10) Have you had conversations about Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W as a Black B.A Degree graduate of Westminster College (Fulton, Missouri) who's no longer seriously entertaining the prospect of filing a Civil Complaint with a District Court in the State of Iowa pursuant to Chapter 22.2 of Iowa's Open Records Law because of his November 06th 2025 correspondence with Iowa's Public Information Board (IPIB) on matters related to the biography of Jean Seberg (November 13th 1938 – August 30th 1979)? If yes, will you promptly disclose those records? 11) Have you had conversations about Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W as a Black B.A Degree graduate of Westminster College (Fulton, Missouri) who was on (or around) November 06th 2025 informed by legal representatives of IPIB that they disagreed with his interpretation that Chapter 22.2 of Iowa's Open Records Law enables every person regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, religious affiliation and/or disability status to "*publish or otherwise disseminate a public record or the information contained in a public record*" without fear of harassment and fear of retaliation? If yes, will you promptly disclose those records? 12) Have you had conversations about Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W as a Black B.A Degree graduate of Westminster College (Fulton, Missouri) who was on (or around) November 06th 2025 informed by legal representatives of IPIB that they disagreed with his interpretation that Chapter 22.2 of Iowa's Open Records Law codifies in American state level of government the 1st (First) Amendment of the United States Constitution which decrees as follows: "*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of people peaceably assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances?*" If yes, will you promptly disclose those records? 13) Have you had conversations about Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W as a Black B.A Degree graduate of Westminster College (Fulton, Missouri) who was in the past informed by many local government agencies (such as school districts) that they had hired a for-profit law firm to process the records requests that are submitted to them? If yes, will you promptly disclose those records? 14) Have you had conversations about the decision of local government agencies (such as school districts) to hire for-profit law firms to process records requests that are submitted to them as being inconsistent with Iowa's Code Chapter 22.2 which decrees as follows: "*A government body shall not prevent the examination or copying of a public record by contracting with a nongovernment body to perform any of its duties or functions?*" If yes, will you promptly disclose those records? 15) Have you had conversations about Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W as a Black B.A Degree graduate of Westminster College (Fulton, Missouri) who was in the past informed by many state government agencies (such as community colleges) that they had hired a for-profit law firm to process the records requests that are submitted to them? If yes, will you promptly disclose those records? 16) Have you had conversations about the decision of state government agencies (such as community colleges) to hire for-profit law firms to process records requests that are submitted to them as being inconsistent with Iowa's Code Chapter 22.2 which decrees as follows: "*A government body shall not prevent the examination or copying of a public record by contracting with a nongovernment body to perform any of its duties or functions?*" If yes, will you promptly disclose those records? 17) Have you had conversations about Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W as a Black B.A Degree graduate of Westminster College (Fulton, Missouri) who has in the past expressed written objections whenever a local government agency (such as a school district) or a state government agency (such as a community college) had assigned his records request to a for-profit law firm? If yes, will you promptly disclose those records?

The public has a compelling and legitimate interest in this information because:

- 1) Jean Seberg became a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) at the age of fourteen in 1952.

- 2) Jean Seberg's membership with the NAACP at such a young age has been recognized and publicized by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH): a federal agency of the United States government.
- 3) Jean Seberg's decision to join the NAACP in 1952 - at the height of Jim Crow segregation - reflects a truly extraordinary level of moral courage, open-mindedness and commitment to racial equality. In the twenty-first (21st) century, Jean Seberg's example (as a white global superstar who embraced anti-racist principles) offers a very powerful inspiration for white girls and women to speak up and to take legal action against racism as well as sexism.
- 4) The issues presented in this records request raise very serious questions about the decision of local government agencies (such as school districts) to contract for-profit organizations (such as law firms) in a manner that violates Iowa's Code Chapter 22.2 which decrees as follows: "*A government body shall not prevent the examination or copying of a public record by contracting with a nongovernment body to perform any of its duties or functions.*"
- 5) The issues presented in this records request raise very serious questions about the decision of state government agencies (such as community colleges) to contract for-profit organizations (such as law firms) in a manner that violates Iowa's Code Chapter 22.2 which decrees as follows: "*A government body shall not prevent the examination or copying of a public record by contracting with a nongovernment body to perform any of its duties or functions.*"
- 6) The issues presented in this records request raise very serious questions about the decision of internet search engines (ISE) such as AOL, Bing/MSN, Google and Yahoo to retaliate against people primarily engaged in the dissemination of public records in violation of Iowa's Code Chapter 22.2 which decrees as follows: "*Every person shall have the right to examine and copy a public record and to publish or otherwise disseminate a public record or the information contained in a public record.*"
- 7) The issues presented in this records request raise very serious questions about the letter and spirit of Iowa's Code Chapter 22.2 in the age of artificial intelligence (AI) particularly given AI's tendency to hallucinate in a manner that exacerbates racism and sexism.

For these reasons, expedited processing is warranted because:

- 1) The requested records bear directly on urgent and ongoing matters of public understanding, including civil rights history, federal surveillance, propaganda media in the service of racist and sexist interests, Iowa's Code Chapter 22.2 and the representation of Jean Seberg in public memory.
- 2) Any delay in disclosure will perpetuate existing gaps and distortions in how Jean Seberg's life is officially portrayed and remembered by the American government - at the federal, state and local levels.
- 3) Jean Seberg's life and death (November 13th 1938 – August 30th 1979) are directly tied to the unlawful surveillance and disinformation activities of COINTELPRO, a covert FBI program that targeted civil rights activists and their allies. Jean Seberg's inclusion in COINTELPRO operations – resulting in the deliberate planting of false stories about her in national media – represents a documented abuse of government power against a global superstar engaged in anti-racist advocacy.

- 4) The issues raised in this records request puts into question the government's integrity about the way that people are treated in the United States of America (U.S.A) particularly if they espouse anti-racist and pro-feminist beliefs as Jean Seberg did.
- 5) The issues raised in this records request puts into question the government's integrity about the way that people are treated in the U.S.A on account of their anti-racist and anti-sexist activities (including but not limited to their financial support for anti-racist and anti-sexist organizations as well as their participation in anti-racist and anti-sexist demonstrations).
- 6) The issues raised in this records request demonstrate that the 21st Century is not the appropriate time to make excuses for incidents of racism and sexism particularly given Jean Seberg's very brave and passionate anti-racist activism in the years leading up to the civil rights movement of the 1960s.

Under penalty of perjury, I hereby declare all the statements I have made to be true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Be well. Stay well. Take care. Keep yourselves at arms distance.

Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W
Anti-Racist Human Rights Activist
Audio-Visual Media Analyst
Anti-Propaganda Journalist

Work Cited

ⁱ Please be advised that I have previously disseminated a vast number of documents obtained through records request using the means of various digital publishing platforms. As a representative of the media, I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that the records you disclose to me could be made available to the general public at no financial expense to them. This records request is being filed for non-commercial purposes to inform members of the general public / representatives of the media [who may be interested in the written content of Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W – Association for the Advancement of Civil Liberties (AACL)] about the activities, the engagements and the priorities of the U.S government at the local, state and federal level.

ⁱⁱ About Jean Seberg's Biography (November 13th 1938 – August 30th 1979) and Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W's Correspondence with the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)

Despite publishing a brief summary of Jean Seberg's life on their website, the NEH denied ever holding internal discussions about [1] Jean Seberg's membership with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); [2] Jean Seberg's charitable donations to the NAACP and the Black Panther Party; [3] the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) wiretap of Jean Seberg; [4] the mental health impact of wiretap on Jean Seberg; [5] the mental health impact of libelous articles (published by the Los Angeles Times and Newsweek) on Jean Seberg; [6] the circumstances surrounding the suspicious death of Jean Seberg when she was only 40 (forty) years old; [7] Kristen Stewart portrayal of Jean Seberg in the 2019 movie entitled "*Seberg*."

As a Black Bachelor of Arts (B.A) Degree graduate of Westminster College (Fulton, Missouri), Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W does find it odd that the NEH would publish a summary of Jean Seberg's biography on their website without [1] internally discussing the matter among themselves; [2] contacting non-profit organizations (such as the NAACP) they say she was close to; [3] contacting the Department of Justice (DOJ) Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) who they say were responsible for her wiretap; [4] the Los Angeles Times and other news outlets that have gone on to (i) smear her good name; (ii) adversely impact her mental health; (iii) take issue with her being an anti-racist woman.

It is the judgment of Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W that the NEH processing of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, which was assigned Case No.: 22 – 26 was very bizarre for various reasons. For instance, even though the NEH say that they are an independent federal agency created in 1965, Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W was unable to independently corroborate this with the NEH in his correspondence with them. Additionally, even though the NEH say that they are responsible for the processing of application of grants submitted to them by museums, archives, libraries, colleges, universities, public television, radio stations, individual scholars etc, Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W was unable to independently corroborate this with the NEH in his correspondence with them.

Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W deeply regrets the NEH processing of the FOIA request that had been assigned Case No.: 22 – 26 as much as he regrets the processing of the FOIA appeal that had been assigned Case No.: 22 – A – 01 because the processing of this FOIA request (and the ensuing processing of the appeal) served to further undermine public confidence in the mission of the NEH.

iii Iowa's Code Chapter 22.2. Right to examine public records.

1) **Every person shall have the right to examine and copy a public record and to publish or otherwise disseminate a public record or the information contained in a public record.** Unless otherwise provided for by law, the right to examine a public record shall include the right to examine a public record without charge while the public record is in the physical possession of the custodian of the public record. The right to copy a public record shall include the right to make photographs or photographic copies while the public record is in the possession of the custodian of the public record. All rights under this section are in addition to the right to obtain a certified copy of a public record under section 622.46.

2. **A government body shall not prevent the examination or copying of a public record by contracting with a nongovernment body to perform any of its duties or functions.**

Retrievable here.: : <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/ico/chapter/22.pdf>

iv About the Mission Statement of the NEH and Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W's Correspondence with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)

When disclosing [to Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W] limited and redacted records related to the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Management Directive (MD-715) report, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) confirmed (on or around July 13th 2022) never having discussed with the NEH [1] their function in the U.S government as an "*independent federal agency created in 1965;*" [2] the awards they have granted for "*top-rated proposal examined by panels of independent, external reviewers;*" [3] the grants they award "*typically going to cultural institutions, such as museums, archives, libraries, colleges, universities, public television, radio stations, and to individual scholar;*" [4] their decision to define the term "*humanities*" as "*the study and interpretation of language, linguistics, literature, history, jurisprudence, philosophy, archeology, comparative religion, ethics etc;*" [5] Jean Seberg's membership with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); [6] Jean Seberg's charitable donations to the NAACP and the Black Panther Party; [7] the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) wiretap of Jean Seberg; [8] the mental health impact of wiretap on Jean Seberg; [9] the mental health impact of libelous articles (published by the Los Angeles Times and Newsweek on Jean Seberg); [10] the circumstances surrounding the suspicious death of Jean Seberg when she was only 40 (forty) years old; [11] Kristen Stewart portrayal of Jean Seberg in the 2019 movie entitled "*Seberg.*"

v November 04th 2025 Email Sent by Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W to Iowa's Public Information Board (IPIB)

Hello,

This is Michael A. Ayele sending this message though I now go by W and I prefer to be referred to as such.

I am writing this letter to the Iowa Public Information Board (IPIB) for the purpose of filing a complaint.

The facts that have led me to file this complaint are straightforward and the facts are not in dispute.

While I was an undergraduate student at Westminster College (Fulton, Missouri) in the early 2010s, I came across the biography of Jean Seberg (November 13th 1938 - August 30th 1979): a woman who was born and raised in the State of Iowa. Incidentally, Jean Seberg has previously attended the University of Iowa, and the public facing web page of that university lists her as an alumna of note who has made good-faith efforts to make the world furthermore anti-racist and anti-sexist.

Approximately 9 (nine) years ago, in the Spring of 2016, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) (a federal agency of the United States government) published a very brief biography of Jean Seberg noting how [1] she had become a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) at the age of 14 (fourteen) in 1952; [2] she was wiretapped and defamed by the Department of Justice (DOJ) Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for being an anti-racist and anti-sexist woman; [3] she was subjected to slanderous articles published by news media organizations such as the Los Angeles Times and Newsweek for being an anti-racist and anti-sexist woman.

On February 04th 2022, I filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request with the NEH seeking to ascertain what conversations (if any) they have had with [1] the NAACP prior to publishing their biography of Jean Seberg publicizing how she had become a member at the age of 14; [2] their government partners in the FBI prior to publishing their biography of Jean Seberg publicizing how she was defamed and wiretapped by the FBI (in coordination with news media organizations such as the Los Angeles Times and Newsweek).

In response to my FOIA request (which had been assigned FOIA Request Case No.: 22 - 26), the NEH informed me on (or around) March 24th 2022 that prior to publishing their biography of Jean Seberg, they had not given a heads-up to the DOJ (FBI) to inform them that they would officially recognize the defamation and wiretap of Jean Seberg. Additionally, the NEH informed me that prior to publishing their biography of Jean Seberg, they had not given a heads-up to the NAACP to inform them how Jean Seberg (as a white girl and at the height of Jim Crow segregation) became a member of their non-profit organization. Lastly, the NEH informed me that prior to publishing their biography of Jean Seberg, they had not contacted news media organizations such as the Los Angeles Times and Newsweek who had made efforts to slander her good name for being an anti-racist and anti-sexist woman.

As a political scientist (by training and education), I was a little bit perplexed by many aspects of the NEH processing of the FOIA request they had assigned Case No.: 22 - 26. One of the things that startled me about their processing of my FOIA request was how they denied ever having contacted the DOJ (FBI) before publishing their biography of Jean Seberg. To this day, I continue to be very skeptical by the NEH claim that they have not contacted the FBI prior to publishing their biography of Jean Seberg wherein they recognized that the FBI had a vendetta against Jean Seberg because she was an anti-racist and anti-sexist woman.

A few months after the conclusion of my correspondence with the NEH about the biography of Jean Seberg, I began disseminating my correspondence with the NEH (sometime in July 2022). At the time I began publishing my correspondence with the NEH on digital publication platforms, I had published it as is by including the NEH response to my FOIA request as well as my original FOIA request. Not long

MICHAEL A. AYELE (A.K.A) W – ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF CIVIL LIBERTIES (AACL)

after I published my correspondence with the NEH about the biography of Jean Seberg, I began noticing how there was a non-negligible amount of frenzy about the written exchange I had with the NEH. However, I chose to ignore this frenzy hoping it would go away on its own, but it didn't. Indeed, after the frenzy that my correspondence with the NEH had generated came the filtering and distortion of my correspondence with the NEH on various internet search engines including but not limited to AOL, Bing/MSN, Google and Yahoo.

As you are likely aware, Chapter 22.2 of Iowa's Open Records Law decrees that "every person shall have the right to examine and copy a public record and to publish or otherwise disseminate a public record or the information contained in a public record." For me, this statute makes absolutely clear that the dissemination of a public record is not a privilege, but an inherent right of the public (and the press) in a free and democratic society. In other words, once a record has been transmitted from a government body to an individual recipient, that individual recipient is fully entitled to share, reproduce, or otherwise circulate that record without interference or retaliation. The spirit of Iowa Code Chapter 22.2 rests on a simple but vital democratic principle that the individual recipient of a public record – not private corporations – determines how, when, and in what form government information is made accessible. When search engines such as AOL, Bing/MSN, Google and Yahoo filter, distort, and suppress correspondence between the government and those primarily engaged in the dissemination of public records, they are in essence violating the letter and the spirit of Iowa Code Chapter 22.2.

Unfortunately, I regret to inform you that what has happened to me has happened to others. For instance, on (or around) December 27th 2023, the New York Times (NYT) had filed a complaint against Microsoft and OpenAI for filtering and distorting their correspondence with the United States government. According to that complaint, Microsoft and OpenAI generative artificial intelligence ("GENAI") tools rely on large-language models ("LLMs") that were built "*by copying and using millions of NYT copyrighted news articles, in-depth investigations, opinion pieces, reviews, how-to guides and more. (...) Through Microsoft's Bing Chat (recently rebranded as 'Copilot') and OpenAI's ChatGPT, both Microsoft and OpenAI seek to free-ride on the NYT massive investment in its journalism by using it to build substitutive product without permission or payment. (...) At the same time as Microsoft and OpenAI models are copying, reproducing, and paraphrasing NYT content without consent or compensation, they are also causing the NYT commercial and competitive injury by misattributing content to the NYT that it did not, in fact, publish. In AI parlance, this is called a 'hallucination.' In plain English, it's misinformation. ChatGPT defines a 'hallucination' as the 'phenomenon of a machine, such as a chatbot, generating seemingly realistic sensory experiences that do not correspond to any real-world input.' Instead of saying, 'I don't know,' Microsoft and OpenAI GPT models will confidently provide information that is, at best, not quite accurate, and, at worst, demonstrably (but not recognizably) false. And human reviewers find it very difficult to distinguish 'hallucinations' from truthful output. These 'hallucinations' mislead users as to the source of the information they are obtaining, leading them to incorrectly believe that the information provided has been vetted and published by the NYT. Users who ask a search engine what the NYT has written on a subject should be provided with neither an unauthorized copy nor an inaccurate forgery of a NYT article, but a link to the article itself.*"

The NYT have also noted in their December 27th 2023 complaint that "*it takes enormous resources to publish, on average, more than 250 original articles every day. Many of these articles take months – and sometimes longer – to report. That output is the work of approximately 5,800 full-time equivalent Times employees (as of December 31st 2022), some 2,600 of whom are directly involved in the Time's journalism operation. Quite often, the most vital news reporting for society is the most resource-intensive. Some of The Time's most important journalism requires deploying teams of journalists at great cost to report on the ground around the world, providing best-in-class security and support, filing lawsuits against government entities to bring information to light, and supporting journalists through*

investigations that can take months or years. (...) Making great journalism is harder than ever. Over the past two decades, the traditional business models that supported quality journalism have collapsed, forcing the shuttering of newspapers all over the country. It has become more difficult for the public to sort fact from fiction in today's information ecosystem, as misinformation floods the internet, television, and other media. If The Times and other news organizations cannot produce and protect their independent journalism, there will be a vacuum that no computer or artificial intelligence can fill. The protection of the Time's intellectual property is critical to its continued ability to fund world-class journalism in the public interest. If The Times and its peers cannot control the use of their content, their ability to monetize that content will be harmed. With less revenue, news organizations will have fewer journalists able to dedicate time and resources to important, in-depth stories, which creates a risk that those stories will go untold. Less journalism will be produced and the cost to society will be enormous. The Times depends on its exclusive rights of reproduction, adaptation, publication, performance, and display under copyright law to resist these forces. (...) The Times requires third parties to obtain permission before using Times content and trademarks for commercial purposes, and for decades The Times has licensed its content under negotiated licensing agreements. These agreements help ensure that The Times controls how, where, and for how long its content and brand appears and that it receives fair compensation for third-party use. Third-parties, including large tech platforms, pay The Times significant royalties under these agreements in exchange for the right to use Times content for narrowly defined purposes. The agreements prohibit uses beyond those authorized purposes. (...) In 2019, the Times published a Pulitzer-prize winning, five-part series on predatory lending in New York City's taxi industry. The 18-month investigation included 600 interviews, with more than 100 records requests, large scale data analysis, and the review of thousands of pages of internal bank records and other documents, and ultimately led to criminal probes and the enactment of new laws to prevent future abuse. OpenAI had no role in the creation of this content, yet with minimal prompting, will recite large portions of it verbatim."

Therefore, the questions I am asking the Iowa Public Information Board (IPIB) to address are the following ones.

- 1) Given the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) onto internet search engines and the tendency of AI to hallucinate in a manner that exacerbates racism and sexism, how does the IPIB interpret Chapter 22.2 of Iowa's Open Records Law which decrees as follows: "Every person shall have the right to examine and copy a public record and to publish or otherwise disseminate a public record or the information contained in a public record?"
- 2) Does IPIB view Chapter 22.2 of Iowa's Open Records Law as a statute that prohibits for-profit organizations such as AOL, Bing/MSN, Google and Yahoo from harassing and retaliating against people who have previously published their correspondence with the United States government about the biography of Jean Seberg (November 13th 1938 – August 30th 1979) or on other issues related to systemic racism and sexism?
- 3) Does IPIB view Chapter 22.2 of Iowa's Open Records Law as a statute that prohibits for-profit organizations such as AOL, Bing/MSN, Google and Yahoo from filtering, distorting and making unsolicited and incorrect summaries of people's correspondence with the United States government about the biography of Jean Seberg (November 13th 1938 – August 30th 1979) or on other issues related to systemic racism and systemic sexism?

Be well. Stay well. Take care. Keep yourselves at arms distance.

Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W
Anti-Racist Human Rights Activist
Audio-Visual Media Analyst
Anti-Propaganda Journalist

November 06th 2025 Email Sent by Iowa's Public Information Board to Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W
November 04th 2025 Complaint

Dear W,

We have received your request for an advisory opinion and/or formal complaint, and I will be responding on IPIB's behalf.

For our initial response, I do not believe that this is a matter within IPIB's jurisdiction, for a few potential reasons. First, we are an Iowa state agency, and we are limited to the oversight of Iowa's open meetings (Chapter 21) and public records laws (Chapter 22). Your records request appears to be based on the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), which is a federal statute, and the responding party was the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), a federal agency. IPIB is not involved in federal records law.

Your complaint also appears to be against a group of private corporations. [Chapter 22](#) applies only to requests for public records filed with government bodies in the State of Iowa. While other entities may sometimes be in possession of public records, only a government body may be the lawful custodian, and enforcement under [Section 22.10](#) is limited to those bodies. Chapter 22 does not address retaliatory harassment or the information provided by commercial search engines, even if there is a connection to a public records request.

IPIB is also limited in its ability to consider complaints outside of our sixty-day statute of limitations, which requires a complainant to file "within sixty days from the time the alleged violation occurred or the complainant could have become aware of the violation with reasonable diligence." Based on what has been provided, it appears that much of what you are describing took place in previous years, which may put it outside of the sixty-day window.

To answer your questions, Chapter 22 does not apply to organizations such as AOL, Bing/MSN, Google, or Yahoo, as they are not government bodies within the State of Iowa.

Please let me know if I am missing anything, or if there is anything you would like me to clarify.

Best regards,

Alexander Lee, JD

Agency Counsel

Iowa Public Information Board (IPIB)

510 E 12th Street

MICHAEL A. AYELE (A.K.A) W – ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF CIVIL LIBERTIES (AACLI)

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November 06th 2025 Response by Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W to Iowa's Public Information Board (IPIB)

The questions I have asked IPIB were the following ones.

- 1) Given the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) onto internet search engines and the tendency of AI to hallucinate in a manner that exacerbates racism and sexism, how does the IPIB interpret Chapter 22.2 of Iowa's Open Records Law which decrees as follows: *"Every person shall have the right to examine and copy a public record and to publish or otherwise disseminate a public record or the information contained in a public record?"*
- 2) Does IPIB view Chapter 22.2 of Iowa's Open Records Law as a statute that prohibits for-profit organizations such as AOL, Bing/MSN, Google and Yahoo from harassing and retaliating against people who have previously published their correspondence with the United States government about the biography of Jean Seberg (November 13th 1938 – August 30th 1979) or on other issues related to systemic racism and sexism?
- 3) Does IPIB view Chapter 22.2 of Iowa's Open Records Law as a statute that prohibits for-profit organizations such as AOL, Bing/MSN, Google and Yahoo from filtering, distorting and making unsolicited and incorrect summaries of people's correspondence with the United States government about the biography of Jean Seberg (November 13th 1938 – August 30th 1979) or on other issues related to systemic racism and systemic sexism?

- In response to question No.:1, you are definitely entitled to say: *"The IPIB has never had thorough discussions about Chapter 22.2 of Iowa's Open Records Law which decrees that 'every person shall have the right to examine and copy a public record and publish or otherwise disseminate a public record or the information contained in public record.'"*
- In response to question No.: 2, you are definitely entitled to say: *"It is the opinion of IPIB that Chapter 22.2 of Iowa's Open Records Law does not address retaliatory harassment."* However, you are not entitled to say that *"Chapter 22.2 of Iowa's Open Records Law does not address retaliatory harassment."* As previously mentioned, Chapter 22.2 of Iowa's Open Records Law decrees as follows: *"Every person shall have the right to examine and copy a public record and to publish or otherwise disseminate a public record or the information contained in a public record."*

I think it's important to stress here that Chapter 22.2 of Iowa's Open Records Law makes no distinction between federal government records or state government when decreeing as follows:

"Every person shall have the right to examine and copy a public record and to publish or

MICHAEL A. AYELE (A.K.A) W – ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF CIVIL LIBERTIES (AACL)

otherwise disseminate a public record or the information contained in a public record.”

Indeed, Chapter 22.2 of Iowa’s Open Records Law does not have a caveat which says: “*Every person shall have the right to examine and copy a public record and to publish or otherwise disseminate a public record so long as the record has been obtained from a local or state government agency in Iowa.*”

Therefore, because Chapter 22.2 does not have the caveat mentioned above, it naturally follows that “***every person shall have the right to examine and copy a public record to publish or otherwise disseminate a public record or the information contained in a record***” **without harassment and retaliation** whether the record has been obtained from the federal government or from local/state government agencies in Iowa.

- In response to Question No.: 3, you are entitled to say: “*It is the opinion of IPIB that Chapter 22.2 of Iowa’s Open Records Law does not apply to for-profit search engines such as AOL, Bing/MSN, Google or Yahoo.*”

However, you are not entitled to say: “*Chapter 22.2 of Iowa’s Open Record Law does not apply to for-profit search engines such as AOL, Bing/MSN, Google or Yahoo.*”

As previously mentioned, I think it’s important to stress here that Chapter 22.2 of Iowa’s Open Records Law decrees as follows: “***Every person shall have the right to examine and copy a public record and to publish or otherwise disseminate a public record or the information contained in a public record.***”

My interpretation of Chapter 22.2 of Iowa’s Open Records Law is that if someone has “*the right to do something,*” then that someone has the “*right to do something without harassment or retaliation or fear of harassment or fear of retaliation*” whether the harassment or retaliation is coming from the government or for-profit private entities. Of course, this is just my opinion, and I understand that IPIB doesn’t share this opinion. However, just because IPIB doesn’t share this opinion of mine, this doesn’t make you the final arbiter on how to interpret Chapter 22.2 of Iowa’s Open Records Law.

Chapter 22.2 of Iowa’s Open Records Law is open to interpretation by anyone, and I’ve previously shared with you my interpretation of this statute. You are of course fully entitled to disagree with my interpretation of this statute, but I think you should you have the intellectual honesty and academic decency to say that [1] Chapter 22.2 of Iowa’s Open Records Law decrees as follows : “***Every person shall have the right to examine and copy a public record and to publish or otherwise disseminate a public record or the information contained in a public record;***” [2] it’s the opinion of Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W that “*if someone has the right to do something, then that someone should have the right to do something without harassment or retaliation or fear of harassment or fear of retaliation whether the harassment or retaliation is coming from the government or for-profit private entities*” [3] the IPIB is not the final arbiter on how to interpret Chapter 22.2 of Iowa’s Open Records Law; [4] everyone is entitled to their own interpretation of Chapter 22.2 of Iowa’s Open Records Law.

If you’re going to publish your advisory opinion to my complaint, I hereby ask that you have the integrity to publish my original complaint and this email message alongside it.

If you're going to publish your advisory opinion to my complaint, I also ask that you begin your sentence with: ***"It's the opinion of IPIB that...." because you're entitled to your opinion, but it's important to remind laymen people that it's O.K for people have different interpretation of Chapter 22.2 of Iowa's Open Records Law.***

Take care.

November 07th 2025 Email Sent by Iowa's Public Information Board (IPIB) to Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W November 04th 2025

Dear W,

I'm hoping I might be able to clarify a few points of confusion. As defined in [Iowa Code § 22.1\(3\)](#), "public records" for the purposes of Chapter 22 include the following:

a. "Public records" includes all records, documents, tape, or other information, stored or preserved in any medium, of or belonging to this state or any county, city, township, school corporation, political subdivision, nonprofit corporation other than a fair conducting a fair event as provided in chapter 174, whose facilities or indebtedness are supported in whole or in part with property tax revenue and which is licensed to conduct pari-mutuel wagering pursuant to chapter 99D, or tax-supported district in this state, or any branch, department, board, bureau, commission, council, or committee of any of the foregoing.

b. "Public records" also includes all records relating to the investment of public funds including but not limited to investment policies, instructions, trading orders, or contracts, whether in the custody of the public body responsible for the public funds or a fiduciary or other third party.

These definitions limit the meaning of "public record." When [Iowa Code § 22.2\(1\)](#) says that "[e]very person shall have the right to examine and copy a public record and to publish or otherwise disseminate a public record or the information contained in a public record," what it means is that the public has a general statutory right to access the records of state and local government bodies within the State of Iowa. This right does not extend to records belonging to federal agencies, which are instead governed by FOIA. Chapter 22 also does not contain restrictions on non-government entities such as AOL, Bing/MSN, Google or Yahoo, except with regards to the obligations of government bodies when dealing with these entities.

For the purposes of our processing, I'm also looking to clarify whether you intended this to be an advisory opinion or a complaint. I understand that you originally submitted this as an advisory opinion, but you have used both "complaint" and "advisory opinion" in your emails. A request for an advisory opinion is

MICHAEL A. AYELE (A.K.A) W – ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF CIVIL LIBERTIES (AACL)

something we would answer with advice on our interpretation of the law as the agency delegated the responsibility to issue this type of advice. A complaint, meanwhile, would be treated as an allegation against the named entities, and we would either open an investigation against them or issue a dismissal order explaining why we cannot accept the matter. When you get the chance, please clarify whether you would like me to proceed with this matter as a complaint or a request for an opinion.

As before, I'm happy to answer any additional questions you may have.

Best,

Alexander Lee, JD

Agency Counsel

Iowa Public Information Board (IPIB)

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Jessie M. Parker Building, East

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

(515) 401-4461

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November 07th 2025 Email Sent by Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W to Iowa's Public Information Board (IPIB)

You have not answered my questions.

Had you answered my questions appropriately, I would not have sent the email I did previously. Furthermore, I would not have spoken about your integrity because there would be no need for me to do so.

Chapter 22.2 of Iowa's Open Records Law decrees as follows: ***"Every person shall have the right to examine and copy a public record and to publish or otherwise disseminate a public record or the information contained in a public record."***

If someone has ***"the right to publish or otherwise disseminate a public record,"*** it naturally follows (at least for me) that everyone irrespective of gender, race, sexual orientation, national origin, religious affiliation and/or disability status has the right to ***"publish or otherwise disseminate a public record or***

MICHAEL A. AYELE (A.K.A) W – ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF CIVIL LIBERTIES (AACL)

the information contained in a public record," without harassment or retaliation or fear of harassment or fear of retaliation.

Either someone has "***the right to publish or otherwise disseminate a public record***" or they don't. Someone can only have "***the right to publish or otherwise disseminate a public record***" if they ***don't have the fear of harassment or retaliation looming over them.***

In your November 06th 2025 email, it is you who spoke to me about an "*advisory opinion.*" However, when I read your email, I noticed that you never once used the phrase: "*It is the opinion of IPIB...*" Rather, you went on and on and on and on without ever confirming what conversations have taken place within the IPIB about Chapter 22.2 of Iowa's Open Records Law decreeing as follows: "***Every person shall have the right to examine and copy a public record and to publish or otherwise disseminate a public record or the information contained in a public record.***"

As previously noted, my first question to IPIB was the following one.

1) Given the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) onto internet search engines and the tendency of AI to hallucinate in a manner that exacerbates racism and sexism, how does the IPIB interpret Chapter 22.2 of Iowa's Open Records Law which decrees as follows: "***Every person shall have the right to examine and copy a public record and to publish or otherwise disseminate a public record or the information contained in a public record?***"

- This question sought to ascertain what conversations have previously taken place within IPIB about Chapter 22.2 of Iowa's Open Records Law which decrees as follows: "***Every person shall have the right to examine and copy a public record and to publish or otherwise disseminate a public record or the information contained in a public record?***" This question was very inappropriately answered.

My second question to IPIB (at the time I filed my complaint) was the following one:

2) Does IPIB view Chapter 22.2 of Iowa's Open Records Law as a statute that prohibits for-profit organizations such as AOL, Bing/MSN, Google and Yahoo from harassing and retaliating against people who have previously published their correspondence with the United States government about the biography of Jean Seberg (November 13th 1938 – August 30th 1979) or on other issues related to systemic racism and sexism?

- This question was also very inappropriately answered because either someone has "***the right to publish or otherwise disseminate a public record***" or they don't. Someone can only have "***the right to publish or otherwise disseminate a public record***" if they ***don't have the fear of harassment or retaliation looming over them.***

My third question to IPIB (at the time I filed my complaint) was the following one.

3) Does IPIB view Chapter 22.2 of Iowa's Open Records Law as a statute that prohibits for-profit organizations such as AOL, Bing/MSN, Google and Yahoo from filtering, distorting and making

unsolicited and incorrect summaries of people's correspondence with the United States government about the biography of Jean Seberg (November 13th 1938 – August 30th 1979) or on other issues related to systemic racism and systemic sexism?

- This question was also very inappropriately answered because either someone has *"the right to publish or otherwise disseminate a public record"* or they don't. Someone can only have *"the right to publish or otherwise disseminate a public record" if they don't have the fear of harassment or retaliation looming over them.*

I'll be honest with you. I don't care what you do from this point forward. As previously mentioned, if I have spoken about your integrity, it's because I no longer trust your judgment.

On a personal level, I do believe that we really have nothing more to say to one another, so I'd appreciate it if you do not contact me anymore.

As a matter of principle, I only give people one chance, and I see you have ruined your opportunity to work in a constructive manner on matters related to Chapter 22.2 of Iowa's Open Records Law on two occasions.

The first time you ruined your opportunity to work in a to work in a constructive manner on matters related to Chapter 22.2 of Iowa's Open Records Law was in your email where you spoke to me about an *"advisory opinion"* without answering any of my questions to my original complaint.

The second time you ruined your opportunity to work in a to work in a constructive manner on matters related to Chapter 22.2 of Iowa's Open Records Law was in your last email.

I would again like to reiterate that someone can only have *"the right to publish or otherwise disseminate a public record" if they don't have the fear of harassment or retaliation looming over them.*

In both your emails to me, you have never once said someone can only have *"the right to publish or otherwise disseminate a public record" if they don't have the fear of harassment or retaliation looming over them.* So, if you open an investigation, I wouldn't trust your investigation because your integrity has been severely compromised with me.

When you spoke to me about an *"advisory opinion,"* I asked that you publish my original complaint because [1] the facts that have led me to file the complaint were straightforward and undisputed; [2] the questions I had asked IPIB were clear and concise; [3] in your emails to me, you have not answered my questions appropriately by using the phrase : *"It is the opinion of IPIB;"* [4] I have lost all confidence in the integrity of IPIB.

That's why I ask that you not contact me in the future.

Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W
Anti-Racist Human Rights Activist
Audio-Visual Media Analyst
Anti-Propaganda Journalist

P.S: On my end, I do wonder why legal representatives of IPIB would speak to me about an *"advisory opinion"* if they don't use the phrase *"It is the opinion of IPIB ..."* to answer questions asked to IPIB. Overall, I've noticed that you have done many things that have made me question your integrity and
MICHAEL A. AYELE (A.K.A) W – ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF CIVIL LIBERTIES (AACL)

your judgment. Metaphorically speaking, you now have a very huge mountain to climb to earn back my trust, and I just don't think you're up to that task. That's why I ask that you refrain from contacting me again in the future.

November 07th 2025 Email Sent by Iowa's Public Information Board (IPIB) to Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W November 04th 2025 Complaint

Dear W,

Upon opening a complaint or a request for an advisory opinion, it is common practice to exchange a few emails with the requester as needed before proceeding with next steps, whether it's to clarify the scope of our agency's jurisdiction or ensure we understand what exactly is being sought. My original response was intended to do both; I explained that the complaint you were filing did not appear to be within the scope of IPIB's review over Chapter 22 based on my initial analysis, and I asked if there was anything I might be missing which I might help you with, given the volume of materials provided. As stated in that email, I remain entirely willing to provide advice within IPIB's jurisdiction over Chapter 22 if you reach out to us again in the future.

However, based on your last email, it is my understanding that you wish to withdraw your request. I will mark the matter closed as resolved, and you will be under no obligation to communicate with us further.

Best,

Alexander Lee, JD

Agency Counsel

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November 07th 2025 Email Sent by Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W to Iowa's Public Information Board (IPIB)
MICHAEL A. AYELE (A.K.A) W – ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF CIVIL LIBERTIES (AACL)

As a matter of principle, I really don't like to give local and state governments in Iowa a "*rating*" or a "*marking*" because I'm not a lobbyist and I have realized a long time ago that lobbying is not for me.

However, you should know that I have marked the November 04th 2025 complaint I had previously filed with the Iowa Public Information Board (IPIB) as being "*above your paygrade*" to appropriately handle (based on what you have written to me). I have also marked the question I had raised in the complaint I had filed with IPIB as being "*above your paygrade*" to appropriately handle (based on what you have written to me).

Given this marking, I strongly recommend that you not publish an "*advisory opinion*" or any other "*opinion*" that mentions me by name or our correspondence with one another on the letter and spirit of Iowa's Chapter 22.2 which decrees as follows: "*Every person shall have the right to examine and copy a public record and to publish or otherwise disseminate a public record or the information contained in a public record.*"

We have now both shared how we have both marked my complaint, right? So, please don't contact me anymore and refrain from publishing an "*advisory opinion*" or any other "*opinion*" that mentions me by name or our correspondence with one another on the letter and spirit of Iowa's Chapter 22.2 which decrees as follows: "*Every person shall have the right to examine and copy a public record and to publish or otherwise disseminate a public record or the information contained in a public record.*"

If you do publish an "*opinion*," I ask that you have the integrity to publish my original November 04th 2025 portable document file (PDF) complaint alongside any "*advisory opinion*." I also ask that you have the integrity to publish our follow-up communications in any "*advisory opinion*" you intend to issue (if that is what you intend because I don't know what your intentions are).

For your convenience, I will hereby attach my original November 04th 2025 PDF complaint I had filed via email with IPIB.

Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W
Anti-Racist Human Rights Activist
Audio-Visual Media Analyst
Anti-Propaganda Journalist

P.S: I truly believe that the issues we have discussed are sensitive, so proceed with care. Also bear in mind that I don't want you to publish an "*advisory opinion*" that mentions me by name based on what we have discussed. However, I understand that the 1st (First) Amendment of the United States Constitution applies equally to me as it does to you, so if you do publish an "*advisory opinion*," I ask that you publish my complaint separately from your "*advisory opinion*." I also ask that you publish our follow-up communication separately from any "*advisory opinion*." Finally, I ask that you not publish an "*advisory opinion*" without publishing my complaint and our follow-up communication with one another separately.

APPENDIX A.

Aol.

michael ayele wiretap

About the Defamation & Wiretap of Jean Seberg from the Equal ... archive.org/details/mental-health-well-being...

Michael Ayele, an anti-racist activist and journalist, questions the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) for publishing a summary of Jean Seberg's biography without discussing her **FBI wiretap** and its impact on her mental health. He also criticizes the NEH for not contacting the NAACP, the FBI, or the media outlets that smeared Seberg.

Michael Ayele - W (AACL) - YouTube
www.youtube.com/channel/UCUbFUvux6QavgEsn-Ty9Pag

Michael Ayele (a.k.a) W is responsible for the publications of the Association for the Advancement of Civil Liberties (AACL): a non-profit organization primarily engaged in the dissemination of...

Case No.: 22 - 26 as much as it regrets the processing of the FOIA appeal assigned Case No.: 22 - A - 01. Be well. Take care. Keep yourselves at arms distance. **Michael A. Ayele** (a.k.a) W Anti-Racist Human Rights Activist Audio-Visual Media Analyst Anti ...



Archive

<https://archive.org/details/mental-health-after...>

About the Defamation & Wiretap of Jean Seberg from the Equal ...

Web Jul 14, 2022 · Misleading/Inaccurate/Missing Metadata ; texts. About the Defamation & Wiretap of Jean Seberg from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) - **#Michael Ayele** (a.k.a) W - **#Kristen Stewart** ... Keep yourselves at arms distance. **Michael A. Ayele** (a.k.a) W Anti-Racist Human Rights Activist Audio-Visual Media Analyst Anti ...

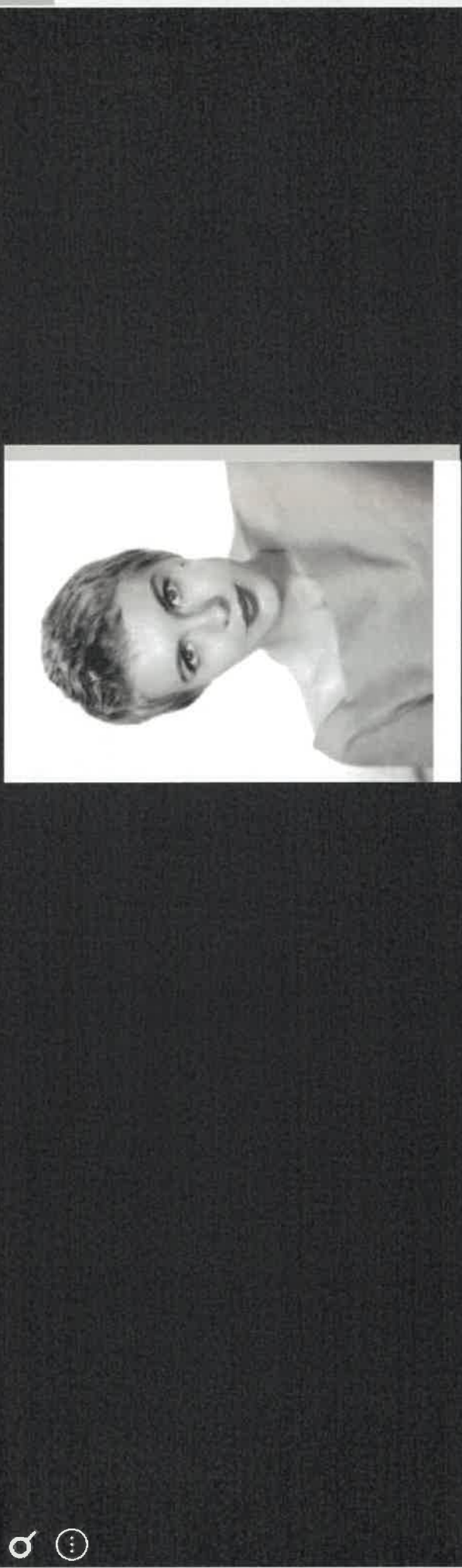


Archive

<https://archive.org/details/michael-ayele-on...>



Misleading/Inaccurate/Missing Met...



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About the Defamation & Wiretap of Jean Seberg from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) - #Michael Ayele (a.k.a) W - #Kristen Stewart

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About the Defamation & Wiretap of Jean Seberg from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) - #Michael Ayele (a.k.a) W - #Kristen Stewart

by Michael Ayele (a.k.a) W - Association for the Advancement of Civil Liberties (AACL)

Publication date	2022-07-15
Usage	Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 4.0 International
Topics	#Michael Ayele (a.k.a) W About the Defamation & Wiretap of Jean Seberg, #Kristen Stewart, #Association for the Advancement of Civil Liberties (AACL), #Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), #National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), #Management Directive (MD-715)
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Language	english-handwritten
Rights	When disclosing limited & redacted records about the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Management Directive (MD-715) reporting obligations. More...

When disclosing limited & redacted records about the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Management Directive (MD-715) reporting obligations, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) confirmed never having discussed with the NEH [1] their function in the U.S government as an *"independent federal agency created in 1965;"* [2] the awards they have granted for *"top-rated proposals examined by panels of independent, external reviewers;"* [3] the grants they award *"typically going to cultural institutions, such as museums, archives, libraries, colleges, universities, public television, radio stations, and to individual scholars;"* [4] their decision to define the term *"humanities"* as *"the study and interpretation of language, linguistics, literature, history, jurisprudence, philosophy, archaeology, comparative religion, ethics etc;"* [5] Jean Seberg's membership with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); [6] Jean Seberg's charitable donations to the NAACP and the Black Panther Party; [7] the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) wiretap of Jean Seberg; [8] the mental health impact of wiretap on Jean Seberg; [9] the mental health impact of libelous articles (published by the Los Angeles Times and Newsweek) on Jean Seberg; [10] the circumstances surrounding the suspicious death of Jean Seberg when she was only 40 years old; [11] the performance of Kristen Stewart in the 2019 movie entitled: *"Seberg."*

The Association for the Advancement of Civil Liberties (AACL) does find it odd that the NEH would publish a summary of Jean Seberg's biography on their website without internally discussing the matter among themselves. The AACL also finds it strange that the NEH would publish a summary of Jean Seberg's biography without contacting [1] the non-profit organizations they say she was close to; [2] the Department of Justice (DOJ) Federal Bureau of Investigation, who they say were responsible for her wiretap; [3] the Los Angeles Times and other news outlets that have gone on to (i) smear her good name, (ii) adversely impact her mental health, (iii) make being an anti-racist seem as if it was a "*bad thing*."

It is the judgment of the AACL that the processing of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, which was assigned by the NEH Case No.: 22 - 26 was very bizarre. Even though the NEH say that they [1] are *an independent federal agency created in 1965*; [2] are responsible for the processing of application of grants submitted to them by museums, archives, libraries, colleges, universities, public television, radio stations, individual scholars etc; [3] have defined the term "*humanities*" as "*the study and interpretations of language, linguistics, literature, history, jurisprudence, philosophy, archaeology, comparative religion, ethics, etc.*" the AACL was unable to independently confirm this. It is the opinion of the AACL that the NEH processing of the FOIA request they have assigned Case No.: 22 - 26 further undermined public confidence in the mission of their agency. The AACL deeply regrets the NEH processing of the FOIA Request assigned Case No.: 22 - 26 as much as it regrets the processing of the FOIA appeal assigned Case No.: 22 - A - 01.

Be well. Take care. Keep yourselves at arms distance.

Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W
Anti-Racist Human Rights Activist
Audio-Visual Media Analyst
Anti-Propaganda Journalist

Notes

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without contacting [1] the non-profit organizations they say she was close to; [2] the Department of Justice (DOJ) Federal Bureau of Investigation, who they say were responsible for her wiretap; [3] the Los Angeles Times and other news outlets that have gone on to (i) smear her good name, (ii) adversely impact her mental health, (iii) make being an anti-racist seem as if it was a "bad thing."

It is the judgment of the AACL that the processing of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, which was assigned by the NEH Case No.: 22 - 26 was very bizarre. Even though the NEH say that they [1] are an independent federal agency created in 1965; [2] are responsible for the processing of application of grants submitted to them by museums, archives, libraries, colleges, universities, public television, radio stations, individual scholars etc; [3] have defined the term "humanities" as "the study and interpretations of language, linguistics, literature, history, jurisprudence, philosophy, archaeology, comparative religion, ethics, etc;" the AACL was unable to independently confirm this. It is the opinion of the AACL that the NEH processing of the FOIA request they have assigned Case No.: 22 - 26 further undermined public confidence in the mission of their agency. The AACL deeply regrets the NEH processing of the FOIA Request assigned Case No.: 22 - 26 as much as it regrets the processing of the FOIA appeal assigned Case No.: 22 - A - 01.

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Addeddate	2022-07-15 04:40:59
Identifier	mental-health-well-being-after-wiretap-jean-seberg-kristen-stewart-michael-ayele-w-aac
Year	2022



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APPENDIX B.

michael ayele wiretap

Michael Ayele, an anti-racist activist and journalist, criticizes the Los Angeles County Library and the National Endowment for the Humanities for their grant and FOIA request related to Jean Seberg, an actress and civil rights activist. He questions the NEH's summary of Seberg's biography, the LA County Library's subscription to the LA Times, and the AACL's involvement in the case.

Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) *W* is a non-profit organization that publishes public records on various topics, including civil liberties, sexual assault, immigration, and disability. One of the publications is about the defamation and **wiretap** of Jean Seberg, an anti-racist actress and activist.

The Los Angeles County Library Disclose Records Documenting ...

WEB Apr 2, 2022 · The Los Angeles County Library Disclose Records Documenting Their Affiliation With the National Endowment for Humanities (NEH) & the Los Angeles Times ...

SelectedWorks

<https://works.bepress.com/michael-ayele/3>

"About the Defamation & Wiretap of Jean Seberg - #Kristen ...

WEB Michael Ayele, an anti-racist activist and journalist, criticizes the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) for publishing a biography of Jean Seberg without contacting the FBI ...

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michael ayele aal

Selected Works of Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W



Article



About the Defamation & Wiretap of Jean Seberg - #Kristen Stewart - #Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W

Zenodo (2023)

Michael Avele

Abstract

When disclosing limited & redacted records about the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Management Directive (MD-715) reporting obligations, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) confirmed never having discussed with the NEH [1] their function in the U.S government as an "independent federal agency created in 1965," [2] the awards they have granted for "top-rated proposals examined by panels of independent, external reviewers," [3] the grants they award "typically going to cultural institutions, such as museums, archives, libraries, colleges, universities, public television, radio stations, and to individual scholars," [4] their decision to define the term "humanities" as "the study and interpretation of language, linguistics, literature, history, jurisprudence, philosophy, archaeology, comparative religion, ethics etc." [5] Jean Seberd's



Selected Works of Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W (/michael-ayele)

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Article

About the Defamation & Wiretap of Jean Seberg - #Kristen Stewart - #Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W - #Los Angeles County Library (California)

Zenodo (2023)

Michael Ayele

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Abstract

In response to a Public Records Act (PRA) request submitted about the defamation and wiretap of Jean Seberg (1938 - 1979), the Los Angeles County Library disclosed records of a grant they were awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) in March 2013 for the amount of \$6,000 (six thousand dollars). The Los Angeles County Library have also disclosed records attesting that they have paid to the Los Angeles Times the amounts of [1] \$28,200 (twenty eight thousand and two hundred dollars) in 2014; [2] \$39, 946 (thirty nine thousand nine hundred and forty six dollars) in 2015; [3] \$39,917 (thirty nine thousand nine hundred and seventeen dollars) in 2016; [4] \$49,577 (forty nine thousand five hundred and seventy seven dollars) in 2017; [5] \$53,927 (fifty three thousand nine hundred and twenty seven dollars) in 2018; [6] \$50,606 (fifty thousand six hundred and six dollars) in 2019; [7] \$40,235 (forty thousand two hundred and thirty five dollars) in 2020; [8] \$17,593 (seventeen thousand five hundred and ninety three dollars) in 2021; [9] \$24,113 (twenty four thousand one hundred and thirteen dollars) in 2022. In sum, the Los Angeles County Library have paid \$344,114 (three hundred forty four thousand one hundred and

fourteen dollars) in fees as a direct consequence of their subscription to the Los Angeles Times between 2014 and 2022.

After a search of the Los Angeles County Public Library online catalog, the Association for the Advancement of Civil Liberties (AACL) was unable to identify any records pertaining to [1] Jean Seberg's membership with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); [2] Jean Seberg's charitable donations to the NAACP and the Black Panther Party; [3] the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) wiretap of Jean Seberg; [4] the mental health impact of wiretap on Jean Seberg; [5] the mental health impact of libelous articles (published by the Los Angeles Times and Newsweek) on Jean Seberg; [6] the circumstances surrounding the suspicious death of Jean Seberg when she was only 40 years old; [7] the performance of Kristen Stewart in the 2019 movie entitled: "Seberg."

The AACL does find it odd that the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) would publish a summary of Jean Seberg's biography on their website without internally discussing the matter among themselves. The AACL also finds it strange that the NEH would publish a summary of Jean Seberg's biography without contacting [1] the non-profit organizations they say she was close to; [2] the Department of Justice (DOJ) Federal Bureau of Investigation, who they say were responsible for her wiretap; [3] the Los Angeles Times and other news outlets that have gone on to (i) smear her good name, (ii) adversely impact her mental health, (iii) make being an anti-racist seem as if it was a "*bad thing*."

It is the judgment of the AACL that the processing of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, which was assigned by the NEH Case No.: 22 - 26 was very bizarre. Even though the NEH say that they [1] are *an independent federal agency created in 1965*; [2] are responsible for the processing of application of grants submitted to them by museums, archives, libraries, colleges, universities, public television, radio stations, individual scholars etc; [3] have defined the term "*humanities*" as "*the study and interpretations of language, linguistics, literature, history, jurisprudence, philosophy, archaeology, comparative religion, ethics, etc;*" the AACL was unable to independently confirm this. It is the opinion of the AACL that the NEH processing of the FOIA request they have assigned Case No.: 22 - 26 further undermined public confidence in the mission of their agency. The AACL deeply regrets the NEH processing of the FOIA Request assigned Case No.: 22 - 26 as much as it regrets the processing of the FOIA appeal assigned Case No.: 22 - A - 01.

Be well. Take care. Keep yourselves at arms distance.

Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W
Anti-Racist Human Rights Activist
Audio-Visual Media Analyst
Anti-Propaganda Journalist

Keywords

#Michael Ayele (a.k.a) W, Defamation & Wiretap of Jean Seberg, #Kristen Stewart,
#Association for the Advancement of Civil Liberties (AACL), #Los Angeles County Library,
#National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), #Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Appeal 22 - A - 01,
#Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request Case No.: 22 - 26, #EEOC Incident Number: 220319 - 000018,
#Josephine Baker, #France 24

Disciplines

Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (<http://network.bepress.com/arts-and-humanities/feminist-gender-and-sexuality-studies>) and

Civil Rights and Discrimination (<http://network.bepress.com/law/civil-rights-and-discrimination>)

Publication Date

Summer June 28, 2023

DOI

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.8089268>

Publisher Statement

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Be well. Take care. Keep yourselves at arms distance.

Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W
Anti-Racist Human Rights Activist
Audio-Visual Media Analyst
Anti-Propaganda Journalist

Citation Information

Michael Ayele. "About the Defamation & Wiretap of Jean Seberg - #Kristen Stewart - #Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W - #Los Angeles County Library (California)" *Zenodo* (2023)
Available at: <http://works.bepress.com/michael-ayele/2/>

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APPENDIX C.

Aol. Michael Ayele

OSF | Biography of Anti-Racist Jean Seberg in Context and ... osf.io/ubp5a

Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W is a human rights activist, audio-visual media analyst and anti-propaganda journalist who has written about the life and legacy of Jean Seberg, an anti-racist actress and activist. He has also filed Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests and appeals to various government agencies and organizations regarding the defamation and wiretap of Jean Seberg.

About The Employment History & The Sexual Harassment ... - Scribd www.scribd.com/document/493219389/About-the...

About the Employment History & the Sexual Harassment of Eliza Dushku - #Michael Ayele (a.k.a) W - #Title VII of the Civil Rights Act - Free download as PDF File (.pdf), Text File (.txt) or read online for free. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) confirmed on February 17th 2022 that

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The following project and components will be deleted.

- Biography of Anti-Racist Jean Seberg in Context and Perspective - #Kristen Stewart - #Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W
- About the Defamation & Wiretap of Jean Seberg - #Kristen Stewart - #Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W - #Los Angeles County Library (California)
- About the Defamation & Wiretap of Jean Seberg - #Kristen Stewart - #Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W - #Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)

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Contributors (/ubp5a/contributors/): **Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W (/mcdbe/)**

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Identifier: DOI 10.17605/OSF.IO/UBP5A

Category:  Project

Description:

Despite publishing a brief summary of Jean Seberg's life on their website, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) denied ever holding internal discussions about [1] Jean Seberg's membership with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); [2] Jean Seberg's charitable donations to the NAACP and the Black Panther Party; [3] the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) wiretap of Jean Seberg; [4] the mental health impact of wiretap on Jean Seberg; [5] the mental health impact of libelous articles (published by the Los Angeles Times and Newsweek) on Jean Seberg; [6] the circumstances surrounding the suspicious death of Jean Seberg when she was only 40 years old; [7] the performance of Kristen Stewart in the 2019 movie entitled: "Seberg."

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Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W

Anti-Racist Human Rights Activist

Audio-Visual Media Analyst

Anti-Propaganda Journalist

License: Other

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Despite publishing a brief summary of Jean Seberg's life on their website, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) denied ever holding internal discussions about [1] Jean Seberg's membership with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); [2] Jean Seberg's charitable donations to the NAACP and the Black Panther Party; [3] the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FB...

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W (/mcdbe/)



When disclosing limited & redacted records about the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Management Directive (MD-715) reporting obligatio...

 About the Defamation and Wiretap of Jean Seberg - #Kristen Stewart - #Michael Ayele (a.k.a) W - #City of Temple, Texas (/rd234/)



W (/mcdbe/)

When disclosing very limited records detailing their formal/informal ties with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP),...

  About the Internet Archive and the Metadata/Texts They Have Labelled "Missing, Inaccurate and/or Misleading." (/p2nx8/)



W (/mcdbe/)

Although the Internet Archive advertise that they would "love" to store as a matter of record digital content on their platform, the Association for t...


Tags

#Association for the Advancement of Civil Liberties (AACL) x


#Biography of Anti-Racist Jean Seberg in Perspective and Context by Michael Ayele (a.k.a) W x

#Defamation and Wiretap of Jean Seberg in Perspective and Context by Michael Ayele (a.k.a) W x


Recent Activity

 Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W (/mcdbe/) created a link to project About the Internet Archive and the Metadata/Texts They Have Labelled "Missing, Inaccurate and/or Misleading." (/p2nx8/)


2023-09-04 12:13 AM

 Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W (/mcdbe/) updated the license of Biography of Anti-Racist Jean Seberg in Context and Perspective - #Kristen Stewart - #Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W (/ubp5a/) to Other


2023-06-28 11:08 AM

 Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W (/mcdbe/) created external identifier(s) doi:10.17605/OSF.IO/UBP5A on Biography of Anti-Racist Jean Seberg in Context and Perspective - #Kristen Stewart - #Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W (/ubp5a/)


2023-06-28 11:07 AM

 Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W (/mcdbe/) made Biography of Anti-Racist Jean Seberg in Context and Perspective - #Kristen Stewart - #Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W (/ubp5a/) public

2023-06-28 11:07 AM

 Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W (/mcdbe/) added tag #National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) FOIA Appeal Request Case No.: 22 - A - 01 (/search/?q=%22#National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) FOIA Appeal Request Case No.: 22 - A - 01%22) to Biography of Anti-Racist Jean Seberg in Context and Perspective - #Kristen Stewart - #Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W (/ubp5a/)

2023-06-28 11:07 AM

 Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W (/mcdbe/) added tag #Association for the Advancement of Civil Liberties (AACL) (/search/?q=%22#Association for the Advancement of Civil Liberties (AACL)%22) to Biography of Anti-Racist Jean Seberg in Context and Perspective - #Kristen Stewart - #Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W (/ubp5a/)

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(<https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/openscienceframework>)



(<https://www.github.com/centerforopenscience>)

APPENDIX D.

About: Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W michaelayeleacl.wordpress.com

Michael Ayele (a.k.a) W is a non-profit organization that disseminates public records on various issues, including **wiretap**. The web page lists some of the publications related to **wiretap**, such as the impact of **wiretap** on mental health, the defamation and **wiretap** of Jean Seberg, and the forcible administration of psychotropic drugs in mental asylums.

Written Publications

Written Publications - About: Michael A.
Ayele (a.k.a) W

Biography of Anti-Racist Jean Seberg in Context and ... archive.org/details/michael-ayele-a.k.a-w-jean...

Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W Anti-Racist Human Rights Activist Audio-Visual Media Analyst Anti-Propaganda Journalist. Year. 2022. Despite publishing a brief summary of Jean Seberg's life on their website, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) denied ever holding internal...

WEB Jul 15, 2022 · Michael Ayele, an anti-racist activist and journalist, questions the NE Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) for publishing a summary of Jean Seberg's ...



Association for the Advancement of Civil Liberties (AACL)

<https://michaelayeleaac1.wordpress.com>

About: Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W

WEB Michael Ayele (a.k.a) W is a non-profit organization that disseminates public records on various issues, including **wiretap**. The web page lists some publications related to **wiretap**, such as the impact of **wiretap** on ...



Michael Ayele (a.k.a) W is a non-pr...

APPENDIX E.

Complaint With Iowa's Public Information Board (IPIB)

Michael Ayele <waac13@gmail.com>

Fri, Nov 7, 2025 at 12:40 AM

To: "Lee, Alexander" <alexander.lee@iowa.gov>, ipib@iowa.gov, charlotte.miller@iowa.gov, charissa.flege@iowa.gov, jayde.hilton@iowa.gov

Cc: "Michael Ayele (W)" <waac13@gmail.com>

The questions I have asked IPIB were the following ones.

- 1) Given the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) onto internet search engines and the tendency of AI to hallucinate in a manner that exacerbates racism and sexism, how does the IPIB interpret Chapter 22.2 of Iowa's Open Records Law which decrees as follows: *"Every person shall have the right to examine and copy a public record and to publish or otherwise disseminate a public record or the information contained in a public record?"*
- 2) Does IPIB view Chapter 22.2 of Iowa's Open Records Law as a statute that prohibits for-profit organizations such as AOL, Bing/MSN, Google and Yahoo from harassing and retaliating against people who have previously published their correspondence with the United States government about the biography of Jean Seberg (November 13th 1938 – August 30th 1979) or on other issues related to systemic racism and sexism?
- 3) Does IPIB view Chapter 22.2 of Iowa's Open Records Law as a statute that prohibits for-profit organizations such as AOL, Bing/MSN, Google and Yahoo from filtering, distorting and making unsolicited and incorrect summaries of people's correspondence with the United States government about the biography of Jean Seberg (November 13th 1938 – August 30th 1979) or on other issues related to systemic racism and systemic sexism?

➤ In response to question No.:1, you are definitely entitled to say: *"The IPIB has never had thorough discussions about Chapter 22.2 of Iowa's Open Records Law which decrees that 'every person shall have the right to examine and copy a public record and publish or otherwise disseminate a public record or the information contained in public record.'"*

➤ In response to question No.: 2, you are definitely entitled to say: *"It is the opinion of IPIB that Chapter 22.2 of Iowa's Open Records Law does not address retaliatory harassment."* However, you are not entitled to say that *"Chapter 22.2 of Iowa's Open Records Law does not address retaliatory harassment."* As previously mentioned, Chapter 22.2 of Iowa's Open Records Law decrees as follows: *"Every person shall have the right to examine and copy a public record and to publish or otherwise disseminate a public record or the information contained in a public record."*

I think it's important to stress here that Chapter 22.2 of Iowa's Open Records Law makes no distinction between federal government records or state government when decreeing as follows: *"Every person shall have the right to examine and copy a public record and to publish or otherwise disseminate a public record or the information contained in a public record."*

Indeed, Chapter 22.2 of Iowa's Open Records Law does not have a caveat which says: *"Every person shall have the right to examine and copy a public record and to publish or otherwise disseminate a public record so long as the record has been obtained from a local or state government agency in Iowa."*

Therefore, because Chapter 22.2 does not have the caveat mentioned above, it naturally follows that *"every person shall have the right to examine and copy a public record to publish or otherwise disseminate a public record or the information contained in a record"* without harassment and retaliation whether the record has been obtained from the federal government or from local/state government agencies in Iowa.

➤ In response to Question No.: 3, you are entitled to say: *"It is the opinion of IPIB that Chapter 22.2 of Iowa's Open Records Law does not apply to for-profit search engines such as AOL, Bing/MSN, Google or Yahoo."*

However, you are not entitled to say: *"Chapter 22.2 of Iowa's Open Record Law does not apply to for-profit search engines such as AOL, Bing/MSN, Google or Yahoo."*

As previously mentioned, I think it's important to stress here that Chapter 22.2 of Iowa's Open Records Law decrees as follows: *"Every person shall have the right to examine and copy a public record and to publish or otherwise disseminate a public record or the information contained in a public record."*

My interpretation of Chapter 22.2 of Iowa's Open Records Law is that if someone has *"the right to do something,"* then that someone has *"right to do something without harassment or retaliation or fear of harassment or fear of retaliation"* whether the harassment or retaliation is coming from the government or for-profit private entities. Of course, this is just my opinion, and I understand that IPIB doesn't share this opinion. However, just because IPIB doesn't share this opinion of mine, this doesn't make you the final arbiter on how to interpret Chapter 22.2 of Iowa's Open Records Law.

Chapter 22.2 of Iowa's Open Records Law is open to interpretation by anyone, and I've previously shared with you my interpretation of this statute. You are of course fully entitled to disagree with my interpretation of this statute, but I think you should you have the intellectual honesty and academic decency to say that [1] Chapter 22.2 of Iowa's Open Records Law decrees as follows : *"Every person shall have the right to examine and copy a public record and to publish or otherwise disseminate a public record or the information contained in a public record;"* [2] it's the opinion of Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W that *"if someone has the right to do something, then that someone should have the right to do something without harassment or retaliation or fear of harassment or fear of retaliation whether the harassment or retaliation is coming from the government or for-profit private entities"* [3] the IPIB is not the final arbiter on how to interpret Chapter 22.2 of Iowa's Open Records Law; [4] everyone is entitled to their own interpretation of Chapter 22.2 of Iowa's Open Records Law.

If you're going to publish your advisory opinion to my complaint, I hereby ask that you have the integrity to publish my original complaint and this email message alongside it.

If you're going to publish your advisory opinion to my complaint, I also ask that you begin your sentence with: *"It's the opinion of IPIB that...." because you're entitled to your opinion, but it's important to remind laymen people that it's O.K for people have different interpretation of Chapter 22.2 of Iowa's Open Records Law.*

Take care.

Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W
Anti-Racist Human Rights Activist
Audio-Visual Media Analyst
Anti-Propaganda Journalist

On Thu, Nov 6, 2025 at 11:12 PM Lee, Alexander <alexander.lee@iowa.gov> wrote:
Dear W,

We have received your request for an advisory opinion and/or formal complaint, and I will be responding on IPIB's behalf.

For our initial response, I do not believe that this is a matter within IPIB's jurisdiction, for a few potential reasons. First, we are an Iowa state agency, and we are limited to the oversight of Iowa's open meetings (Chapter 21) and public records laws (Chapter 22). Your records request appears to be based on the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), which is a federal statute, and the responding party was the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), a federal agency. IPIB is not involved in federal records law.

Your complaint also appears to be against a group of private corporations. Chapter 22 applies only to requests for public records filed with government bodies in the State of Iowa. While other entities may sometimes be in possession of public records, only a government body may be the lawful custodian, and enforcement under Section 22.10 is limited to those bodies. Chapter 22 does not address retaliatory harassment or the information provided by commercial search engines, even if there is a connection to a public records request.

IPIB is also limited in its ability to consider complaints outside of our sixty-day statute of limitations, which requires a complainant to file "within sixty days from the time the alleged violation occurred or the complainant could have become aware of the violation with reasonable diligence." Based on what has been provided, it appears that much of what you are describing took place in previous years, which may put it outside of the sixty-day window.

To answer your questions, Chapter 22 does not apply to organizations such as AOL, Bing/MSN, Google, or Yahoo, as they are not government bodies within the State of Iowa.

Please let me know if I am missing anything, or if there is anything you would like me to clarify.

Best regards,



Alexander Lee, JD
Agency Counsel
Iowa Public Information Board (IPIB)
510 E 12th Street
Jessie M. Parker Building, East
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
(515) 401-4461
alexander.lee@iowa.gov
www.ipib.iowa.gov

On Tue, Nov 4, 2025 at 4:55 AM Michael Ayele <waac13@gmail.com> wrote:

W (AACL) Date.: November 04th 2025
Michael A. Ayele
P.O.Box 20438
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
E-mail: waac13@gmail.com ; waac1313@gmail.com ; waac142913@gmail.com

Complaint with Iowa's Public Information Board (IPIB)

Hello,

This is Michael A. Ayele sending this message though I now go by W and I prefer to be referred to as such.

I am writing this letter to the Iowa Public Information Board (IPIB) for the purpose of filing a complaint.

The facts that have led me to file this complaint are straightforward and the facts are not in dispute.

While I was an undergraduate student at Westminster College (Fulton, Missouri) in the early 2010s, I came across the biography of Jean Seberg (November 13th 1938 - August 30th 1979): a woman who was born and raised in the State of Iowa. Incidentally, Jean Seberg has previously attended the University of Iowa, and the public facing web page of that university lists her as an alumna of note who has made good-faith efforts to make the world furthermore anti-racist and anti-sexist.

Approximately 9 (nine) years ago, in the Spring of 2016, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) (a federal agency of the United States government) published a very brief biography of Jean Seberg noting how [1] she had become a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) at the age of 14 (fourteen) in 1952; [2] she was wiretapped and defamed by the Department of Justice (DOJ) Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for being an anti-racist and anti-sexist woman; [3] she was subjected to slanderous articles published by news media organizations such as the Los Angeles Times and Newsweek for being an anti-racist and anti-sexist woman.

On February 04th 2022, I filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request with the NEH seeking to ascertain what conversations (if any) they have had with [1] the NAACP prior to publishing their biography of Jean Seberg publicizing how she had become a member at the age of 14; [2] their government partners in the FBI prior to publishing their biography of Jean Seberg publicizing how she was defamed and wiretapped by the FBI (in coordination with news media organizations such as the Los Angeles Times and Newsweek).

In response to my FOIA request (which had been assigned FOIA Request Case No.: 22 - 26), the NEH informed me on (or around) March 24th 2022 that prior to publishing their biography of Jean Seberg, they had not given a heads-up to the DOJ (FBI) to inform them that they would officially recognize the defamation and wiretap of Jean Seberg. Additionally, the NEH informed me that prior to publishing their biography of Jean Seberg, they had not given a heads-up to the NAACP to inform them how Jean Seberg (as a white girl and at the height of Jim Crow segregation) became a member of their non-profit organization. Lastly, the NEH informed me that prior to publishing their biography of Jean Seberg, they had not contacted news media organizations such as the Los Angeles Times and Newsweek who had made efforts to slander her good name for being an anti-racist and anti-sexist woman.

As a political scientist (by training and education), I was a little bit perplexed by many aspects of the NEH processing of the FOIA request they had assigned Case No.: 22 - 26. One of the things that startled me about their processing of my FOIA request was how they denied ever having contacted the DOJ (FBI) before publishing their biography of Jean Seberg. To this day, I continue to be very skeptical by the NEH claim that they have not contacted the FBI prior to publishing their biography of Jean Seberg wherein they recognized that the FBI had a vendetta against Jean Seberg because she was an anti-racist and anti-sexist woman.

A few months after the conclusion of my correspondence with the NEH about the biography of Jean Seberg, I began disseminating my correspondence with the NEH (sometime in July 2022). At the time I began publishing my correspondence with the NEH on digital publication platforms, I had published it as is by including the NEH response to my FOIA

request as well as my original FOIA request. Not long after I published my correspondence with the NEH about the biography of Jean Seberg, I began noticing how there was a non-negligible amount of frenzy about the written exchange I had with the NEH. However, I chose to ignore this frenzy hoping it would go away on its own, but it didn't. Indeed, after the frenzy that my correspondence with the NEH had generated came the filtering and distortion of my correspondence with the NEH on various internet search engines including but not limited to AOL, Bing/MSN, Google and Yahoo.

As you are likely aware, Chapter 22.2 of Iowa's Open Records Law decrees that "every person shall have the right to examine and copy a public record and to publish or otherwise disseminate a public record or the information contained in a public record." For me, this statute makes absolutely clear that the dissemination of a public record is not a privilege, but an inherent right of the public (and the press) in a free and democratic society. In other words, once a record has been transmitted from a government body to an individual recipient, that individual recipient is fully entitled to share, reproduce, or otherwise circulate that record without interference or retaliation. The spirit of Iowa Code Chapter 22.2 rests on a simple but vital democratic principle that the individual recipient of a public record – not private corporations – determines how, when, and in what form government information is made accessible. When search engines such as AOL, Bing/MSN, Google and Yahoo filter, distort, and suppress correspondence between the government and those primarily engaged in the dissemination of public records, they are in essence violating the letter and the spirit of Iowa Code Chapter 22.2.

Unfortunately, I regret to inform you that what has happened to me has happened to others. For instance, on (or around) December 27th 2023, the New York Times (NYT) had filed a complaint against Microsoft and OpenAI for filtering and distorting their correspondence with the United States government. According to that complaint, Microsoft and OpenAI generative artificial intelligence ("GENAI") tools rely on large-language models ("LLMs") that were built "by copying and using millions of NYT copyrighted news articles, in-depth investigations, opinion pieces, reviews, how-to guides and more. (...) Through Microsoft's Bing Chat (recently rebranded as 'Copilot') and OpenAI's ChatGPT, both Microsoft and OpenAI seek to free-ride on the NYT massive investment in its journalism by using it to build substitutive product without permission or payment. (...) At the same time as Microsoft and OpenAI models are copying, reproducing, and paraphrasing NYT content without consent or compensation, they are also causing the NYT commercial and competitive injury by misattributing content to the NYT that it did not, in fact, publish. In AI parlance, this is called a 'hallucination.' In plain English, it's misinformation. ChatGPT defines a 'hallucination' as the 'phenomenon of a machine, such as a chatbot, generating seemingly realistic sensory experiences that do not correspond to any real-world input. 'Instead of saying, 'I don't know,' Microsoft and OpenAI GPT models will confidently provide information that is, at best, not quite accurate, and, at worst, demonstrably (but not recognizably) false. And human reviewers find it very difficult to distinguish 'hallucinations' from truthful output. These 'hallucinations' mislead users as to the source of the information they are obtaining, leading them to incorrectly believe that the information provided has been vetted and published by the NYT. Users who ask a search engine what the NYT has written on a subject should be provided with neither an unauthorized copy nor an inaccurate forgery of a NYT article, but a link to the article itself."

The NYT have also noted in their December 27th 2023 complaint that "it takes enormous resources to publish, on average, more than 250 original articles every day. Many of these articles take months – and sometimes longer – to report. That output is the work of approximately 5,800 full-time equivalent Times employees (as of December 31st 2022), some 2,600 of whom are directly involved in the Time's journalism operation. Quite often, the most vital news reporting for society is the most resource-intensive. Some of The Time's most important journalism requires deploying teams of journalists at great cost to report on the ground around the world, providing best-in-class security and support, filing lawsuits against government entities to bring information to light, and supporting journalists through investigations that can take months or years. (...) Making great journalism is harder than ever. Over the past two decades, the traditional business models that supported quality journalism have collapsed, forcing the shuttering of newspapers all over the country. It has become more difficult for the public to sort fact from fiction in today's information ecosystem, as misinformation floods the internet, television, and other media. If The Times and other news organizations cannot produce and protect their independent journalism, there will be a vacuum that no computer or artificial intelligence can fill. The protection of the Time's intellectual property is critical to its continued ability to fund world-class journalism in the public interest. If The Times and its peers cannot control the use of their content, their ability to monetize that content will be harmed. With less revenue, news organizations will have fewer journalists able to dedicate time and resources to important, in-depth stories, which creates a risk that those stories will go untold. Less journalism will be produced and the cost to society will be enormous. The Times depends on its exclusive rights of reproduction, adaptation, publication, performance, and display under copyright law to resist these forces. (...) The Times requires third parties to obtain permission before using Times content and trademarks for commercial purposes, and for decades The Times has licensed its content under negotiated licensing agreements. These agreements help ensure that The Times controls how, where, and for how long its content and brand appears and that it receives fair compensation for third-party use. Third-parties, including large tech platforms, pay The Times significant royalties under these agreements in exchange for the right to use Times content for narrowly defined purposes. The agreements prohibit uses beyond those authorized purposes. (...) In 2019, the Times published a Pulitzer-prize winning, five-part series on predatory lending in New York City's taxi industry. The 18-month investigation included 600 interviews, with more than 100 records requests, large scale data analysis, and the review of thousands of pages of internal bank records and other documents, and ultimately led to criminal probes and the enactment of new laws to prevent future abuse. OpenAI had no role in the creation of this content, yet with minimal prompting, will recite large portions of it verbatim."

Therefore, the questions I am asking the Iowa Public Information Board (IPIB) to address are the following ones.

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Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W
Anti-Racist Human Rights Activist
Audio-Visual Media Analyst
Anti-Propaganda Journalist

3 attachments

 **W (AACL) Nov 04th 2025 Complaint.pdf**
1377K

 **W (AACL) Degree and Transcript.pdf**
621K

 **Bio of Jean Seberg After Defamation and Wiretap.pdf**
3609K

W (AACL) Date.: November 04th 2025
Michael A. Ayele
P.O.Box 20438
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
E-mail: waac113@gmail.com ; waac11313@gmail.com ; waac142913@gmail.com

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Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W
Anti-Racist Human Rights Activist
Audio-Visual Media Analyst
Anti-Propaganda Journalist

APPENDIX A.

Aol.

michael ayele wiretap

About the Defamation & Wiretap of Jean Seberg from the Equal ... archive.org/details/mental-health-well-being...

Michael Ayele, an anti-racist activist and journalist, questions the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) for publishing a summary of Jean Seberg's biography without discussing her **FBI wiretap** and its impact on her mental health. He also criticizes the NEH for not contacting the NAACP, the FBI, or the media outlets that smeared Seberg.

Michael Ayele - W (AACL) - YouTube
www.youtube.com/channel/UCUbFUvux6QavgEsn-Ty9Pag

Michael **Ayele** (a.k.a) W is responsible for the publications of the Association for the Advancement of Civil Liberties (AACL): a non-profit organization primarily engaged in the dissemination of...

Case No.: 22 - 26 as much as it regrets the processing of the FOIA appeal assigned Case No.: 22 - A - 01. Be well. Take care. Keep yourselves at arms distance. **Michael A. Ayele** (a.k.a) W Anti-Racist Human Rights Activist Audio-Visual Media Analyst Anti ...



Archive

<https://archive.org/details/mental-health-after...>

About the Defamation & Wiretap of Jean Seberg from the Equal ...

Web Jul 14, 2022 · Misleading/Inaccurate/Missing Metadata ; texts. About the Defamation & Wiretap of Jean Seberg from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) - #Michael Ayele (a.k.a) W - #Kristen Stewart ... Keep yourselves at arms distance. **Michael A. Ayele** (a.k.a) W Anti-Racist Human Rights Activist Audio-Visual Media Analyst Anti ...



Archive


<https://archive.org/details/michael-ayele-on...>





Misleading/Inaccurate/Missing Met...




(1 of 408)


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About the Defamation & Wiretap of Jean Seberg from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) - #Michael Ayele (a.k.a) W - #Kristen Stewart

by Michael Ayele (a.k.a) W - Association for the Advancement of Civil Liberties (AACL)

Publication date	2022-07-15
Usage	Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 4.0 International
Topics	#Michael Ayele (a.k.a) W About the Defamation & Wiretap of Jean Seberg, #Kristen Stewart, #Association for the Advancement of Civil Liberties (AACL), #Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), #National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), #Management Directive (MD-715)
Publisher	Michael Ayele (a.k.a) W - Association for the Advancement of Civil Liberties (AACL)
Collection	opensource
Contributor	Michael Ayele (a.k.a) W - Association for the Advancement of Civil Liberties (AACL)
Language	english-handwritten
Rights	When disclosing limited & redacted records about the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Management Directive (MD-715) reporting obligations, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) confirmed never having discussed with the NEH [1] their function in the U.S government as an “independent federal agency created in 1965;” [2] the awards they have granted for “top-rated proposals examined by panels of independent, external reviewers;” [3] the grants they award “typically going to cultural institutions, such as museums, archives, libraries, colleges, universities, public television, radio stations, and to individual scholars;” [4] their decision to define the term “humanities” as “the study and interpretation of language, linguistics, literature, history, jurisprudence, philosophy, archaeology, comparative religion, ethics etc;” [5] Jean Seberg’s membership with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); [6] Jean Seberg’s charitable donations to the NAACP and the Black Panther Party; [7] the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) wiretap of Jean Seberg; [8] the mental health impact of wiretap on Jean Seberg; [9] the mental health impact of libelous articles (published by the Los Angeles Times and Newsweek) on Jean Seberg; [10] the circumstances surrounding the suspicious death of Jean Seberg when she was only 40 years old; [11] the performance of Kristen Stewart in the 2019 movie entitled: “Seberg.”

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The Association for the Advancement of Civil Liberties (AACL) does find it odd that the NEH would publish a summary of Jean Seberg's biography on their website without internally discussing the matter among themselves. The AACL also finds it strange that the NEH would publish a summary of Jean Seberg's biography without contacting [1] the non-profit organizations they say she was close to; [2] the Department of Justice (DOJ) Federal Bureau of Investigation, who they say were responsible for her wiretap; [3] the Los Angeles Times and other news outlets that have gone on to (i) smear her good name, (ii) adversely impact her mental health, (iii) make being an anti-racist seem as if it was a "*bad thing*."

It is the judgment of the AACL that the processing of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, which was assigned by the NEH Case No.: 22 - 26 was very bizarre. Even though the NEH say that they [1] are *an independent federal agency created in 1965*; [2] are responsible for the processing of application of grants submitted to them by museums, archives, libraries, colleges, universities, public television, radio stations, individual scholars etc; [3] have defined the term "*humanities*" as "*the study and interpretations of language, linguistics, literature, history, jurisprudence, philosophy, archaeology, comparative religion, ethics, etc*;" the AACL was unable to independently confirm this. It is the opinion of the AACL that the NEH processing of the FOIA request they have assigned Case No.: 22 - 26 further undermined public confidence in the mission of their agency. The AACL deeply regrets the NEH processing of the FOIA Request assigned Case No.: 22 - 26 as much as it regrets the processing of the FOIA appeal assigned Case No.: 22 - A - 01.

Be well. Take care. Keep yourselves at arms distance.

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Anti-Propaganda Journalist

Notes

When disclosing limited & redacted records about the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Management Directive (MD-715) reporting obligations, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) confirmed never having discussed with the NEH [1] their function in the U.S government as an "independent federal agency created in 1965;" [2] the awards they have granted for "top-rated proposals examined by panels of independent, external reviewers;" [3] the grants they award "typically going to cultural institutions, such as museums, archives, libraries, colleges, universities, public television, radio stations, and to individual scholars;" [4] their decision to define the term "humanities" as "the study and interpretation of language, linguistics, literature, history, jurisprudence, philosophy, archaeology, comparative religion, ethics etc;" [5] Jean Seberg's membership with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); [6] Jean Seberg's charitable donations to the NAACP and the Black Panther Party; [7] the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) wiretap of Jean Seberg; [8] the mental health impact of wiretap on Jean Seberg; [9] the mental health impact of libelous articles (published by the Los Angeles Times and Newsweek) on Jean Seberg; [10] the circumstances surrounding the suspicious death of Jean Seberg when she was only 40 years old; [11] the performance of Kristen Stewart in the 2019 movie entitled: "Seberg."

The Association for the Advancement of Civil Liberties (AACL) does find it odd that the NEH would publish a summary of Jean Seberg's biography on their website without internally discussing the matter among themselves. The AACL also finds it strange that the NEH would publish a summary of Jean Seberg's biography

without contacting [1] the non-profit organizations they say she was close to; [2] the Department of Justice (DOJ) Federal Bureau of Investigation, who they say were responsible for her wiretap; [3] the Los Angeles Times and other news outlets that have gone on to (i) smear her good name, (ii) adversely impact her mental health, (iii) make being an anti-racist seem as if it was a "bad thing."

It is the judgment of the AACL that the processing of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, which was assigned by the NEH Case No.: 22 - 26 was very bizarre. Even though the NEH say that they [1] are an independent federal agency created in 1965; [2] are responsible for the processing of application of grants submitted to them by museums, archives, libraries, colleges, universities, public television, radio stations, individual scholars etc; [3] have defined the term "humanities" as "the study and interpretations of language, linguistics, literature, history, jurisprudence, philosophy, archaeology, comparative religion, ethics, etc;" the AACL was unable to independently confirm this. It is the opinion of the AACL that the NEH processing of the FOIA request they have assigned Case No.: 22 - 26 further undermined public confidence in the mission of their agency. The AACL deeply regrets the NEH processing of the FOIA Request assigned Case No.: 22 - 26 as much as it regrets the processing of the FOIA appeal assigned Case No.: 22 - A - 01.

Be well. Take care. Keep yourselves at arms distance.

Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W
Anti-Racist Human Rights Activist
Audio-Visual Media Analyst
Anti-Propaganda Journalist

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APPENDIX B.

Aol.

michael ayele wiretap

"About the Defamation & Wiretap of Jean Seberg - #Kristen ...
works.bepress.com/michael-ayele/2

Michael Ayele, an anti-racist activist and journalist, criticizes the Los Angeles County Library and the National Endowment for the Humanities for their grant and FOIA request related to Jean Seberg, an actress and civil rights activist. He questions the NEH's summary of Seberg's biography, the LA County Library's subscription to the LA Times, and the AACL's involvement in the case.

Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W - figshare
figshare.com/authors/Michael_A_Ayele_a_k_a_W/...

Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W is a non-profit organization that publishes public records on various topics, including civil liberties, sexual assault, immigration, and disability. One of the publications is about the defamation and wiretap of Jean Seberg, an anti-racist actress and activist.

The Los Angeles County Library Disclose Records Documenting ...

WEB Apr 2, 2022 · The Los Angeles County Library Disclose Records Documenting Their Affiliation With the National Endowment for Humanities (NEH) & the Los Angeles Times ...

SelectedWorks

<https://works.bepress.com/michael-ayeale/3>

"About the Defamation & Wiretap of Jean Seberg - #Kristen ...

WEB Michael Ayele, an anti-racist activist and journalist, criticizes the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) for publishing a biography of Jean Seberg without contacting the FBI ...

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Abstract

When disclosing limited & redacted records about the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Management Directive (MD-715) reporting obligations, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) confirmed never having discussed with the NEH [1] their function in the U.S government as an "independent federal agency created in 1965." [2] the awards they have granted for "top-rated proposals examined by panels of independent, external reviewers;" [3] the grants they award "typically going to cultural institutions, such as museums, archives, libraries, colleges, universities, public television, radio stations, and to individual scholars;" [4] their decision to define the term "humanities" as "the study and interpretation of language, linguistics, literature, history, jurisprudence, philosophy, archaeology, comparative religion, ethics etc.;" [5] Jean Seberg's



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Abstract

In response to a Public Records Act (PRA) request submitted about the defamation and wiretap of Jean Seberg (1938 - 1979), the Los Angeles County Library disclosed records of a grant they were awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) in March 2013 for the amount of \$6,000 (six thousand dollars). The Los Angeles County Library have also disclosed records attesting that they have paid to the Los Angeles Times the amounts of [1] \$28,200 (twenty eight thousand and two hundred dollars) in 2014; [2] \$39, 946 (thirty nine thousand nine hundred and forty six dollars) in 2015; [3] \$39,917 (thirty nine thousand nine hundred and seventeen dollars) in 2016; [4] \$49,577 (forty nine thousand five hundred and seventy seven dollars) in 2017; [5] \$53,927 (fifty three thousand nine hundred and twenty seven dollars) in 2018; [6] \$50,606 (fifty thousand six hundred and six dollars) in 2019; [7] \$40,235 (forty thousand two hundred and thirty five dollars) in 2020; [8] \$17,593 (seventeen thousand five hundred and ninety three dollars) in 2021; [9] \$24,113 (twenty four thousand one hundred and thirteen dollars) in 2022. In sum, the Los Angeles County Library have paid \$344,114 (three hundred forty four thousand one hundred and

fourteen dollars) in fees as a direct consequence of their subscription to the Los Angeles Times between 2014 and 2022.

After a search of the Los Angeles County Public Library online catalog, the Association for the Advancement of Civil Liberties (AACL) was unable to identify any records pertaining to [1] Jean Seberg's membership with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); [2] Jean Seberg's charitable donations to the NAACP and the Black Panther Party; [3] the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) wiretap of Jean Seberg; [4] the mental health impact of wiretap on Jean Seberg; [5] the mental health impact of libelous articles (published by the Los Angeles Times and Newsweek) on Jean Seberg; [6] the circumstances surrounding the suspicious death of Jean Seberg when she was only 40 years old; [7] the performance of Kristen Stewart in the 2019 movie entitled: "Seberg."

The AACL does find it odd that the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) would publish a summary of Jean Seberg's biography on their website without internally discussing the matter among themselves. The AACL also finds it strange that the NEH would publish a summary of Jean Seberg's biography without contacting [1] the non-profit organizations they say she was close to; [2] the Department of Justice (DOJ) Federal Bureau of Investigation, who they say were responsible for her wiretap; [3] the Los Angeles Times and other news outlets that have gone on to (i) smear her good name, (ii) adversely impact her mental health, (iii) make being an anti-racist seem as if it was a "*bad thing*."

It is the judgment of the AACL that the processing of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, which was assigned by the NEH Case No.: 22 - 26 was very bizarre. Even though the NEH say that they [1] are *an independent federal agency created in 1965*; [2] are responsible for the processing of application of grants submitted to them by museums, archives, libraries, colleges, universities, public television, radio stations, individual scholars etc; [3] have defined the term "*humanities*" as "*the study and interpretations of language, linguistics, literature, history, jurisprudence, philosophy, archaeology, comparative religion, ethics, etc;*" the AACL was unable to independently confirm this. It is the opinion of the AACL that the NEH processing of the FOIA request they have assigned Case No.: 22 - 26 further undermined public confidence in the mission of their agency. The AACL deeply regrets the NEH processing of the FOIA Request assigned Case No.: 22 - 26 as much as it regrets the processing of the FOIA appeal assigned Case No.: 22 - A - 01.

Be well. Take care. Keep yourselves at arms distance.

Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W
Anti-Racist Human Rights Activist
Audio-Visual Media Analyst
Anti-Propaganda Journalist

Keywords

#Michael Ayele (a.k.a) W, Defamation & Wiretap of Jean Seberg, #Kristen Stewart,
#Association for the Advancement of Civil Liberties (AACL), #Los Angeles County Library,
#National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), #Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Appeal 22 - A - 01,
#Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request Case No.: 22 - 26, #EEOC Incident Number: 220319 - 000018,
#Josephine Baker, #France 24

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Civil Rights and Discrimination (<http://network.bepress.com/law/civil-rights-and-discrimination>)

Publication Date

Summer June 28, 2023

DOI

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.8089268>

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The Los Angeles County Library disclosed records of a grant they were awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) in March 2013 for the amount of \$6,000 (six thousand dollars). The Los Angeles County Library have also disclosed records attesting that they have paid to the Los Angeles Times the amounts of [1] \$28,200 (twenty eight thousand and two hundred dollars) in 2014; [2] \$39,946 (thirty nine thousand nine hundred and forty six dollars) in 2015; [3] \$39,917 (thirty nine thousand nine hundred and seventeen dollars) in 2016; [4] \$49,577 (forty nine thousand five hundred and seventy seven dollars) in 2017; [5] \$53,927 (fifty three thousand nine hundred and twenty seven dollars) in 2018; [6] \$50,606 (fifty thousand six hundred and six dollars) in 2019; [7] \$40,235 (forty thousand two hundred and thirty five dollars) in 2020; [8] \$17,593 (seventeen thousand five hundred and ninety three dollars) in 2021; [9] \$24,113 (twenty four thousand one hundred and thirteen dollars) in 2022. In sum, the Los Angeles County Library have paid \$344,114 (three hundred thousand one hundred and fourteen dollars) in fees as a direct consequence of their subscription to the Los Angeles Times between 2014 and 2022.

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Anti-Racist Human Rights Activist
Audio-Visual Media Analyst
Anti-Propaganda Journalist

Citation Information

Michael Ayele. "About the Defamation & Wiretap of Jean Seberg - #Kristen Stewart - #Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W - #Los Angeles County Library (California)" *Zenodo* (2023)
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APPENDIX C.

Aol.

Michael Ayele

OSF | Biography of Anti-Racist Jean Seberg in Context and ... osf.io/ubp5a

Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W is a human rights activist, audio-visual media analyst and anti-propaganda journalist who has written about the life and legacy of Jean Seberg, an anti-racist actress and activist. He has also filed Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests and appeals to various government agencies and organizations regarding the defamation and wiretap of Jean Seberg.

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Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W

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Identifier: DOI 10.17605/OSF.IO/UBP5A

Category:  Project

Description:

Despite publishing a brief summary of Jean Seberg's life on their website, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) denied ever holding internal discussions about [1] Jean Seberg's membership with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); [2] Jean Seberg's charitable donations to the NAACP and the Black Panther Party; [3] the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) wiretap of Jean Seberg; [4] the mental health impact of wiretap on Jean Seberg; [5] the mental health impact of libelous articles (published by the Los Angeles Times and Newsweek) on Jean Seberg; [6] the circumstances surrounding the suspicious death of Jean Seberg when she was only 40 years old; [7] the performance of Kristen Stewart in the 2019 movie entitled: "Seberg."

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Be well. Take care. Keep yourselves at arms distance.

Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W

Anti-Racist Human Rights Activist

Audio-Visual Media Analyst

Anti-Propaganda Journalist

License: Other

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...

W (/mcdbe/)

When disclosing very limited records detailing their formal/informal ties with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP),...

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#Association for the Advancement of Civil Liberties (AACL) x


#Biography of Anti-Racist Jean Seberg in Perspective and Context by Michael Ayele (a.k.a) W x

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 Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W (/mcdbe/) created a link to project About the Internet Archive and the Metadata/Texts They Have Labelled "Missing, Inaccurate and/or Misleading." (/p2nx8/)


2023-09-04 12:13 AM

 Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W (/mcdbe/) updated the license of Biography of Anti-Racist Jean Seberg in Context and Perspective - #Kristen Stewart - #Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W (/ubp5a/) to Other


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 Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W (/mcdbe/) created external identifier(s) doi:10.17605/OSF.IO/UBP5A on Biography of Anti-Racist Jean Seberg in Context and Perspective - #Kristen Stewart - #Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W (/ubp5a/)


2023-06-28 11:07 AM

 Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W (/mcdbe/) made Biography of Anti-Racist Jean Seberg in Context and Perspective - #Kristen Stewart - #Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W (/ubp5a/) public

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APPENDIX D.

About: Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W

michaelayeleaaci.wordpress.com

Michael Ayele (a.k.a) W is a non-profit organization that disseminates public records on various issues, including **wiretap**. The web page lists some of the publications related to **wiretap**, such as the impact of **wiretap** on mental health, the defamation and **wiretap** of Jean Seberg, and the forcible administration of psychotropic drugs in mental asylums.

Written Publications

Written Publications - About: Michael A.

Ayele (a.k.a) W

Biography of Anti-Racist Jean Seberg in Context and ...

archive.org/details/michael-ayele-a.k.a-w-jean...

Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W Anti-Racist Human Rights Activist Audio-Visual Media Analyst Anti-Propaganda Journalist. Year. 2022. Despite publishing a brief summary of Jean Seberg's life on their website, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) denied ever holding internal...

WEB Jul 15, 2022 · Michael Ayele, an anti-racist activist and journalist, questions the N Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) for publishing a summary of Jean Seberg's ...



Association for the Advancement of Civil Liberties (AACL)

<https://michaelayeleaacl.wordpress.com>

About: Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W

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the Board of Trustees hereby confers
the degree of

Bachelor of Arts

upon

Michael Atnafu Agele

who, having fulfilled the requirements prescribed by this College for graduation,
is entitled to all rights, privileges, and honors pertaining thereto.

Awarded this thirty-first day of December,
in the year of our Lord two thousand and sixteen.

Hal Oakley

Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Mary D. Foster

Secretary of the Board of Trustees

Benjamin H. Kende

President of the College

Caroline Dwyer

Dean of Faculty

ID : 439590

Name : Micheal Atnafu Ayele

SSN : XXX-XX-9890

Address : 408 N Philadelphia Avenue #1033
Ocean City, MD 21843

WESTMINSTER COLLEGE

501 Westminster Avenue

Fulton, MO 65251-1299

12/19/2014 01:18:21

Undergraduate Division

Advisors : Dr. Rabindra N Bhandari
John Langdon

Course Number	Title	CR Type	Gra Rpt	Alt	Ernd	HGpa	Q.Pts	GPA
Transfer Credit : Fall Semester								

Organization : TRANSFER/ORGANIZATION

ECW-299	Lower Level Elective	TR	TR	3.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ECW-398	Independent Study	TR	TR	3.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
FLG-101	Intro Foreign Language I	TR	TR	4.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
FRE-303	Adv French Convers	TR	TR	3.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
HIS-323	Europe since 1945	TR	TR	3.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
MAT-322	Business Calculus	TR	TR	3.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PED-A99	P.E. Activity Elective	TR	TR	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PHL-101	Intro to Philosophy	TR	TR	3.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Term Totals : 23.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.0000								
Career Totals : 23.00 23.00 0.00 0.00 0.0000								

Baccalaureat General-Centre Addis Abeba, Ethiopia

2009-2010 : Spring Semester								
ECW-212-B	Principles of Microeconomic	LT	B	3.00	3.00	3.00	9.00	
ERG-103-A	Academic Writing-Intro'l Stur	LT	A	1.00	3.00	3.00	12.00	
POL-205-A	Introduction to Political Ther	LT	A	3.00	3.00	3.00	12.00	
PSY-113-B	Psych as a Social Science	LT	B	3.00	3.00	3.00	9.00	
WGS-101-A	Westminster Seminar	LT	A	3.00	3.00	3.00	12.00	
Honor : Dean's List								
Term Totals : 15.00 15.00 15.00 54.00 3.6000								
Career Totals : 38.00 38.00 15.00 54.00 3.6000								

2010-2011 : Fall Semester

CSC-100-B	Microsoft Word-Comprehen	LT	A	2.00	2.00	2.00	8.00	
ECW-211-B	Principles of Macroeconomic	LT	A	1.00	3.00	3.00	12.00	
FRE-290-A	Intro to French Lit	LT	A	3.00	3.00	3.00	12.00	
Page : 1 of 2								

* MEANS REPEAT OF COURSE

) MEANS COURSE CREDIT NOT COUNTED

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Undergraduate Division

Advisors : Dr. Rabindra N Bhandari
John Langdon

Course Number	Title	CR Type	Gra Rpt	Alt	Ernd	HGpa	Q.Pts	GPA
2010-2011 : Fall Semester								

INT-210-A	Model United Nations	LT	A	2.00	2.00	2.00	8.00	
MAT-114-D	Elementary Statistics (LC)	LT	B	3.00	3.00	3.00	9.00	
POL-112-A	Intro Political Science	LT	B	3.00	3.00	3.00	9.00	
POL-212-B	Intro International Pol	LT	A	3.00	3.00	3.00	12.00	
Honor : Dean's List								
Term Totals : 19.00 19.00 18.00 70.00 3.6000								
Career Totals : 57.00 57.00 34.00 124.00 3.6000								

2010-2011 : Spring Semester

BUS-223-A	Business Law	LT	B	3.00	3.00	3.00	9.00	
ECW-332-A	Intermediate Price Theory	LT	B	3.00	3.00	3.00	9.00	
POL-211-A	Amerit Gov & Po	LT	B	3.00	3.00	3.00	9.00	
POL-300-C	Europe : Union	LT	WP	3.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	
POL-316-A	American Jurisprudence	LT	A	3.00	3.00	3.00	12.00	
SPS-103-B	Intro to Speech	LT	B	3.00	3.00	3.00	9.00	
Term Totals : 18.00 18.00 16.00 48.00 3.2000								
Career Totals : 75.00 72.00 49.00 172.00 3.5100								

2011-2012 : Fall Semester

ECW-235-A	Research Meth in Bus/Econ	LT	C	3.00	3.00	3.00	9.00	
ECW-310-A	International Trade & Finan	LT	B	3.00	3.00	3.00	9.00	
ECW-316-A	Public Finance	LT	A	3.00	3.00	3.00	12.00	
ECW-331-A	Intermediate Macroeconomic	LT	B	3.00	3.00	3.00	9.00	
POL-200-A	Legal Advocacy	LT	A	3.00	3.00	3.00	12.00	
POL-308-A	Post-Soviet Politics (WIO)	LT	B	3.00	3.00	3.00	9.00	
Term Totals : 18.00 18.00 18.00 57.00 3.1700								
Career Totals : 93.00 90.00 67.00 229.00 3.4200								

Page : 1 of 2

Payllis Masel, Registrar
Westminster College
Fulton, MO 65251-1299
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12/19/2014 01:18:21

WESTMINSTER COLLEGE
501 Westminster Avenue, XXX-XX-9890
Fulton, MO 65251-1299

ID : 439595
Name : Micheal Atnafu Ayele
SSN : XXX-XX-9890
Address : 408 N Philadelphia Avenue #1033
Ocean City, MD 21843

Undergraduate Division				Undergraduate Division			
Advisors : Dr. Rabindra N Bhandari				Advisors : Dr. Rabindra N Bhandari			
John Langdon				John Langdon			
Course Number	Title	CR Type	Gra Rpt	Att	Emd	HGpa	Q.Pts
2011-2012 : Spring Semester				2012-2013 : Spring Semester			
308-220-A	Fundamental Management	LT	A	3.00	3.00	3.00	12.00
308-318-B	Corporate Financial Manag	LT	A	3.00	3.00	3.00	12.00
308-325-A	Money and Banking	LT	A	3.00	3.00	3.00	12.00
308-331-A	Managerial Economics	LT	A	3.00	3.00	3.00	12.00
308-306-A	West Europe Gymn/Pd	LT	B	3.00	3.00	3.00	9.00
Honor : Dean's List				Term Totals : 15.00 15.00 15.00 57.00 3.0000			
				Career Totals : 108.00 108.00 82.00 286.00 3.4900			
2012-2013 : Fall Semester				2012-2013 : Spring Semester			
308-300-A	Sports Economics	LT	A	3.00	3.00	3.00	12.00
308-105-B	Intro Environ Sciences	LT	WP	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
308-104-B	History of US since 1977	LT	A	3.00	3.00	3.00	12.00
308-302-A	Pd Thought/Modern Soc	LT	B	3.00	3.00	3.00	9.00
308-400-A	Rdgs Comparative & Intl Pc	LT	A	3.00	3.00	3.00	12.00
Honor : Dean's List				Term Totals : 15.00 12.00 12.00 45.00 3.7500			
				Career Totals : 123.00 117.00 94.00 331.00 3.5200			
308-114-B	Biological Processes	LT	WF	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
308-115-C	Biological Processes Lab	LT	WP	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
308-109-A	Introduction to Chemistry	LT	F	3.00	0.00	3.00	0.00
308-425-A -I	Senior Seminar (WI)	LT	C	3.00	3.00	3.00	9.00
308-215-B	Art of the Film	LT	F	3.00	0.00	3.00	0.00
308-103-A	History of US to 1877	LT	C	3.00	3.00	3.00	9.00

Page : 2 of 2

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Phyllis Massek
Phyllis Massek, Registrar
Westminster College
Fulton, MO 65251-1299
REGISTRAR



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From the Previously Published and Accessible Works of Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W...

Biography of Jean Seberg After Defamation and Wiretap - # Kristen Stewart

Copyright Notice

This work details Michael A. Ayele (a.k.a) W's correspondence with National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) about the biography of anti-racist global superstar Jean Seberg (November 13th 1938 – August 30th 1979).

This work re-contextualizes how Jean Seberg's life is officially portrayed and remembered in the 21st Century by the United States federal government.

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MICHAEL A. AYELE (A.K.A) W – ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF CIVIL LIBERTIES (AACL)



APPENDIX A.



U.S. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION
Office of Legal Counsel

131 M St, N. E., Fifth Floor
Washington, D. C. 20507
Free: (833) 827-2920
ASL: (844) 234-5122
FAX: (202) 827-7545
Website: www.eeoc.gov

July 13, 2022

VIA: waac13@gmail.com

Michael Ayele
ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF CIVIL LIBERTIES
P.O. Box 20438
Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA 10013

Re: FOIA No.: **820-2022-005060**
EEOC Communications with NEH and MD-715 Reports

Dear Mr. Ayele:

Your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, received on 02/16/2022, is processed. Our search began on 02/16/2022. All agency records in creation as of 02/16/2022 are within the scope of EEOC's search for responsive records. The paragraph(s) checked below apply.

- ☒ Your request is procedurally denied in part as ☐ it does not reasonably describe the records you wish disclosed, or ☒ no records fitting the description of the records you seek disclosed exist or could be located after a thorough search, or ☐ the responsive records are already publicly available. See the comments below for further explanation.
- ☒ Your request is also partially granted. **Released to you are 20 records totaling 395 pages.** Portions not released are withheld pursuant to the deliberative process privilege of FOIA Exemption 5. The comments below explain the use of this exemption in more detail.
- ☒ Portions of your request contain equities concerning the NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES (NEH). Should you be interested in obtaining the withheld material in the records released to you marked "NEH Equity", please make a FOIA request directly to that agency. The comments below provide additional information.
- ☒ You may contact the EEOC FOIA Public Liaison Michael L. Heise for further assistance or to discuss any aspect of your request. In addition, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer.

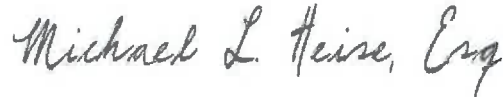
The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, email at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at (202) 741-5770; toll free 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at (202) 741-5769.

The contact information for the FOIA Public Liaison is as follows: Michael L. Heise, EEOC FOIA Public Liaison, Office of Legal Counsel, FOIA Division, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, 131 M. Street, N.E., Fifth Floor, Washington, D.C. 20507, email to FOIA@eeoc.gov, telephone at (202) 921-2542; or fax at (202) 827-7545.

- ☒ If you are not satisfied with the response to this request, you may administratively appeal in writing. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted in 90 days from receipt of this letter to the Office of Legal Counsel, FOIA Division, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, 131 M Street, NE, 5NW02E, Washington, D.C. 20507, email to FOIA@eeoc.gov; online at

<https://eeoc.arkcase.com/foia/portal/login>, or fax at (202) 827-7545. Your appeal will be governed by 29 C.F.R. § 1610.11.

Sincerely,



Michael L. Heise
Assistant Legal Counsel | FOIA Division
foia@eeoc.gov

Applicable Sections of the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b) Used: (b)(5)

Exemption (b)(5) to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5) (2016), as amended by the FOIA Improvement Act of 2016, Pub. L. No. 114-185, 130 Stat. 538, permits withholding documents that reflect the analyses and recommendations of EEOC personnel generated for the purpose of advising the agency or other federal agencies of possible action. This exemption protects the agency's deliberative process and allows nondisclosure of "inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency." 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5). The exemption covers internal communications that are deliberative in nature. *National Labor Relations Board v. Sears, Roebuck & Co.*, 421 U.S. 132 (1975); *Hinckley v. United States*, 140 F.3d 277 (D.C. Cir. 1998); *Mace v. EEOC*, 37 F. Supp. 2d 1144 (E.D. Mo. 1999).

The purpose of the deliberative process privilege is to "allow agencies freely to explore alternative avenues of action and to engage in internal debates without fear of public scrutiny." *Missouri ex. rel. Shorr v. United States Corps of Eng'rs.*, 147 F.3d 708, 710 (8th Cir. 1998). Disclosure of preliminary assessments and opinions would create a chilling effect on the Commission staff's ability to freely and openly deliberate and discuss ideas, strategies, and recommendations, thereby impairing the Commission's ability to effectively and efficiently enforce applicable federal EEO laws by investigating charges and complaints, litigating and adjudicating cases, promulgating regulatory and sub-regulatory guidance, conducting outreach and education activities, and other related activities.

Records may be withheld under this exemption if they were prepared prior to an agency's decision, *Wolfe v. Dep't of Health and Human Services*, 839 F.2d 768, 775, 776 (D.C. Cir. 1988) (*en banc*) and for the purpose of assisting the agency decision maker. *First Eastern Corp. v. Mainwaring*, 21 F.3d 465, 468 (D.C. Cir. 1994). See also, *Greyson v. McKenna & Cuneo and EEOC*, 879 F. Supp. 1065, 1068, 1069 (D. Colo. 1995). Records may also be withheld to the extent they reflect "selective facts" compiled by the agency to assist in the decision-making process. *A. Michael's Piano, Inc. v. Federal Trade Commission*, 18 F.3d 138 (2d Cir. 1994). An agency may also withhold records to the extent that they contain factual information already obtained by a requester through prior disclosure. See *Mapother, Nevas, et al. v. Dep't of Justice*, 3 F.3d 1533 (D.C. Cir. 1993).

INFORMATION WITHHELD PURSUANT TO FOIA EXEMPTION 5:

- Communications between EEOC's Office of Federal Operations (OFO) NEH concerning technical assistance regarding the latter's EEO Program. This includes, draft proposals submitted to OFO as well as feedback concerning those proposals. The table below identifies the document (D) and page (pp) number where these redactions occur.

D2 – pp 3-7	D3 – pp 8-15	D4 – pp 17-42	D6 – pp 46-8	D8 – pp 53-4	D9 – 57-99	D11 – 116-119
D15 – 124-127	D16 – 128, 131-133					

COMMENTS

This office's response to your request is as follows:

- (1) Your request for the communications about the NEH as an "independent federal agency created in 1965;" is procedurally denied. **No records** exist within the EEOC.
- (2) Your request for the communications about the NEH as an independent federal agency, which awards grants for "top-rated proposals examined by panels of independent, external reviewers;" is procedurally denied. **No records** exist within the EEOC.
- (3) Your request for the communications about the NEH grants "typically going to cultural institutions, such as museums, archives, libraries, colleges, universities, public television, radio stations, and to individual scholars;" is procedurally denied. **No records** exist within the EEOC.
- (4) Your request for the communications about the NEH defining the term "humanities" as "the study and interpretation of language, linguistics, literature, history, jurisprudence, philosophy, archaeology, comparative religion, ethics etc;" ii, is procedurally denied. **No records** exist within the EEOC.
- (5) Your request for the applications filed by your library and your post-secondary academic institution with the NEH for the purpose of obtaining a grant; is procedurally denied. **No records** exist within the EEOC.
- (6) Your request for the communications about the NEH as a federal agency, which recognizes that Jean Seberg was a Caucasian woman born on November 13th, 1938 in Marshalltown, Iowa; is procedurally denied. **No records** exist within the EEOC.
- (7) Your request for the communications about the NEH as a federal agency, which recognizes that Jean Seberg "joined the NAACP in 1952, at the age of 14, and championed every cause she crossed paths with;" is procedurally denied. **No records** exist within the EEOC.
- (8) Your request for the communications about the NEH as a federal agency, which recognizes that Jean Seberg "donated generously to several organizations, including the Black Panthers, as did Elizabeth Taylor, Marlon Brando, and other Hollywood celebrities;" is procedurally denied. **No records** exist within the EEOC.
- (9) Your request for the communications about the NEH as a federal agency, which recognizes that "a casual phone call with Black Panther leader Elaine Brown brought" Jean Seberg "to the attention of the FBI;" is procedurally denied. **No records** exist within the EEOC.
- (10) Your request for the communications about the NEH as a federal agency, which recognizes that Jean Seberg "was pregnant with her second child" (...) "when the FBI released a tip to the Los Angeles Times stating that the baby was actually fathered by a Black Panther;" is procedurally denied. **No records** exist within the EEOC.
- (11) Your request for the communications about the NEH as a federal agency, which recognizes that Jean Seberg "had a breakdown and delivered the baby prematurely" as a direct consequence of libelous articles published on the Los Angeles Times and Newsweek; is procedurally denied. **No records** exist within the EEOC.
- (12) Your request for the communications about the NEH as a federal agency, which recognizes that Jean Seberg "sued Newsweek for libel and won \$20,000 in damages;" is procedurally denied. **No records** exist within the EEOC.

- (13) Your request for the communications about the NEH as a federal agency, which recognizes that “shortly after Seberg’s funeral, the FBI’s smear campaign against her came to light, as well as other intrusions Seberg had suspected;”iii, is procedurally denied. **No records** exist within the EEOC.
- (14) Your request for the communications about the decision of the Los Angeles Times to recognize (as a news media organization) their responsibility in the premature birth and death of Jean Seberg’s daughter, Nina Hart Gary; iv, is procedurally denied. **No records** exist within the EEOC.
- (15) Your request for the communications about Kristen Stewart as an actress who portrayed Jean Seberg in the 2019 movie entitled: Seberg;v, is procedurally denied. **No records** exist within the EEOC.
- (16) Your request for the books and the articles offered by your library to representatives of the media and members of the general public wishing to pursue research on the issue of wiretap; is procedurally denied. **No records** exist within the EEOC.
- (17) Your request for the Management Directive (MD-715) report submitted by the NEH to the EEOC for Fiscal Year 2019, 2020 and 2021; is **granted in part and denied in part**.
- I. Your request is **granted** for FY2019 (D19, 133 pages) and FY2020 (D20, 126 pages).
 - II. FY2021 is procedurally denied. **No records** exist at this time because the date for submission of the FY2021 MD-715 report was extended for all agencies.
- (18) Your request for the communications between the EEOC and the NEH about MD-715; is **granted in part and denied in part**. See page 2 *supra*.
- I. With respect to NEH equities as referenced at page 1 *supra*, the table below identifies the document (D) and page (pp) number where these redactions occur.

D5 – pp 43-4	D7 – pp 50-2	D9 – pp 56-7	D11 – pp 101-115	D12 – pp 120
D13 – 121	D14 – pp 122	D15 – 124, 126-7	D16 – 128-130, 133	D17 – 134

Should you wish to receive these records, please submit a FOIA request directly to NEH. As a courtesy, that agency’s FOIA contact information appears below:

NEH FOIA Requester Service Center:

- Principal FOIA Contact
Samuel Roth
(202) 606-8322
gencounsel@neh.gov
- FOIA Public Liaison Officer
Lisette Voyatzis
(202) 606-8322
evoyatzis@neh.gov

- (19) Your request for the academic backgrounds, the professional responsibilities and annual salaries of Julia Nguyen, Talisha Saddler, Margaret Scrymser and Pamela Thompson, is procedurally denied. **No records** exist within the EEOC.

This response was prepared by Tracy L. Smalls, Government Information Specialist, who may be reached at Tracy.Smalls@EEOC.Gov or 202-921-2541.



U.S. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION
Office of Legal Counsel

131 M St, N. E., Fifth Floor
Washington, D. C. 20507
Free: (833) 827-2920
ASL: (844) 234-5122
FAX: (202) 827-7545
Website: www.eeoc.gov

03/16/2022

VIA: waac13@gmail.com

Michael Ayele (aka) W
Association for the Advancement of Civil Liberties
P.O. Box 20438
Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA 10013

Re: FOIA No.: 820-2022-005060
National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) MD-715 reporting

Dear Mr. Ayele (aka) W:

This letter is in response to your request or appeal under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), received by our office on 02/16/2022. As provided in U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(B) (2007), we hereby provide you with the required written notice that we are extending by ten (10) working days the time in which we shall respond. Such extension is necessary because of the following "unusual circumstances":

- [X] (ii) The need to search for, collect, and appropriately examine a voluminous amount of separate and distinct records which are demanded in a single request.
- [X] If you have any questions or wish to discuss reformulation or an alternative time frame for the processing of your request, you may contact Joanne Murray, the FOIA Professional handling your request, at (202) 921-2541. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001; email at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at (202) 741-5770; toll free (877) 684-6448; or facsimile at (202) 741-5769.

We will make every attempt to respond to your request by 03/30/2022.

Sincerely,

/ Joanne Murray / for

Michael L. Heise
Acting Assistant Legal Counsel
foia@eeoc.gov



**U.S. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION
Office of Legal Counsel**

131 M St, N. E., Fifth Floor
Washington, D. C. 20507
Free: (833) 827-2920
TTY: (202) 663-6056
FAX: (202) 827-7545
Website: www.eeoc.gov

02/16/2022

VIA: waac13@gmail.com
Michael Ayele (aka) W
Association for the Advancement of Civil Liberties
P.O.Box 20438
Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA
Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA, ETHIOPIA 10013

Re: FOIA No.: 820-2022-005060

Dear Mr. Ayele (aka) W:

Your request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552, received by the Office of Legal Counsel on 02/16/2022, is assigned to the ☒ Simple ☐ Complex ☐ Expedited track with the above FOIA number. Your request will be processed by Government Information Specialist Joanne Murray who can be reached at (202) 921-2541.

☒ EEOC will make every effort to issue a determination on your request on or before 03/16/2022. FOIA and EEOC regulations provide 20 working days to issue a determination on a request, not including Saturdays, Sundays and federal holidays. In unusual circumstances, EEOC may extend the 20 working days by 10 additional working days or stop processing your request until you respond to our request for fee or clarifying information. Should EEOC take an extension or stop processing your request, notice will be issued prior to the expiration of the 20 working days.

You may contact the FOIA Requester Service Center for status updates on your FOIA request or for FOIA information via toll free at (833) 827-2920, to our non-toll free number at (202) 921-2542, by e-mail to FOIA@eeoc.gov, by facsimile to (202) 653-6034, or by mail to our office address in the letterhead above. Additionally, if your request was filed online through the EEOC FOIA Web Portal, you may monitor its status at <https://eeoc.arkcase.com/foia/portal/login>. You may also contact the Acting EEOC FOIA Public Liaison, Michael L. Heise, for assistance.

Sincerely,

Joy Shealey/for

Michael L. Heise
Acting Assistant Legal Counsel
foia@eeoc.gov



**U.S. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION
Office of Legal Counsel**

131 M St, N. E., Fifth Floor
Washington, D. C. 20507
Free: (877)-869-1802
TTY (202) 663-6056
FAX (202) 827-7545
Website: www.eeoc.gov

02/16/2022


Dear Michael Ayele (aka) W,

Your request has been delivered to the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The request has been assigned tracking # 820-2022-005060, please log into your account and review your submission.

The application address is <https://eeoc.arkcase.com/foia/portal/>

Thank you,

U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

Notice of Confidentiality: The information contained in this transmission may contain privileged and confidential information, including information protected by federal and state privacy laws. It is intended only for the use of the person(s) named above. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any review, dissemination, distribution, or duplication of this communication is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact us at foia@eeoc.gov  and destroy all copies of the original message and attachments.

APPENDIX B.



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

March 24, 2022

W (AACL)
Michael A. Ayele
Association for the Advancement of Civil Liberties
P.O. Box 20438
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia 10013

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

waacl13@gmail.com

Re: Freedom of Information Act Appeal 22-A-01

Dear Mr. W:

I write in my capacity as the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Appeal Official for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). I am in receipt of your letter dated March 19, 2022, appealing NEH's response to your request for records under the FOIA.

As a preliminary note, it appears from your request that you are also seeking records from the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). **Note that NEH and EEOC process FOIA requests separately. For information on the status of your requests to EEOC, please contact EEOC directly.**

NEH received your request on February 16, 2022, and assigned it tracking number 22-26. You requested the following categories of records:

1. "your communications about the NEH as an 'independent federal agency created in 1965;'"¹
2. "your communications about the NEH as an independent federal agency, which awards grants for 'top-rated proposals examined by panels of independent, external reviewers;'"

¹ You originally made these requests of EEOC, then forwarded them to NEH. Therefore, we have interpreted requests beginning "your communications" as requests for EEOC communications in NEH's possession.

It appears that, due to a software limitation, quotation marks in your original request to EEOC changed to question marks when you forwarded the request to NEH. I have reverted the question marks to quotation marks above.

3. “your communications about the NEH grants ‘typically going to cultural institutions, such as museums, archives, libraries, colleges, universities, public television, radio stations, and to individual scholars;”
4. “your communications about the NEH defining the term ‘humanities’ as ‘the study and interpretation of language, linguistics, literature, history, jurisprudence, philosophy, archaeology, comparative religion, ethics etc;”
5. “the applications filed by your library and your post-secondary academic institution with the NEH for the purpose of obtaining a grant;”
6. “your communications about the NEH as a federal agency, which recognizes that Jean Seberg was a Caucasian woman born on November 13th 1938 in Marshalltown, Iowa;”
7. “your communications about the NEH as a federal agency, which recognizes that Jean Seberg ‘joined the NAACP in 1952, at the age of 14, and championed every cause she crossed paths with;”
8. “your communications about the NEH as a federal agency, which recognizes that Jean Seberg ‘donated generously to several organizations, including the Black Panthers, as did Elizabeth Taylor, Marlon Brando, and other Hollywood celebrities;”
9. “your communications about the NEH as a federal agency, which recognizes that ‘a casual phone call with Black Panther leader Elaine Brown brought’ Jean Seberg ‘to the attention of the FBI;”
10. “your communications about the NEH as a federal agency, which recognizes that Jean Seberg ‘was pregnant with her second child’ (?)² ‘when the FBI released a tip to the Los Angeles Times stating that the baby was actually fathered by a Black Panther;”
11. “your communications about the NEH as a federal agency, which recognizes that Jean Seberg ‘had a breakdown and delivered the baby prematurely’ as a direct consequence of libelous articles published on the Los Angeles Times and Newsweek;”
12. “your communications about the NEH as a federal agency, which recognizes that Jean Seberg ‘sued Newsweek for libel and won \$20,000 in damages;”
13. “your communications about the NEH as a federal agency, which recognizes that ‘shortly after Seberg’s funeral, the FBI’s smear campaign against her came to light, as well as other intrusions Seberg had suspected;”
14. “your communications about the decision of the Los Angeles Times to recognize (as a news media organization) their responsibility in the premature birth and death of Jean Seberg’s daughter, Nina Hart Gary;”
15. “your communications about Kristen Stewart as an actress who portrayed Jean Seberg in the 2019 movie entitled: Seberg;”
16. “the books and the articles offered by your library to representatives of the media and members of the general public wishing to pursue research on the issue of wiretap;”
17. “the Management Directive (MD-715) report submitted by the NEH to the EEOC for Fiscal Year 2019, 2020 and 2021;”
18. “the communications between the EEOC and the NEH about MD-715;”

² *Sic.*

19. “the academic backgrounds, the professional responsibilities and annual salaries of Julia Nguyen, Talisha Saddler, Margaret Scrymser and Pamela Thompson.”

NEH responded to your request on March 18, 2022.

- The agency determined that your requests numbered **1, 2, 3 and 4**, which seek EEOC communications about NEH generally as a Federal agency, are overly broad, and do not comport with the requirements of NEH’s FOIA regulations, as they do not provide enough detail to enable personnel to locate records “with a reasonable amount of effort.”³

I have carefully considered the agency’s decision with respect to these requests and find that it complies with FOIA law and policy, and therefore deny your appeal with respect to these requests.

- The agency determined that there are no responsive records to your request numbered **5**, which seeks copies of applications that EEOC filed with NEH for the purpose of obtaining a grant.

EEOC has not applied to NEH for a grant. Accordingly, I find that the agency’s decision with respect to these requests complies with FOIA law and policy, and therefore deny your appeal with respect to this request.

- The agency determined that your requests numbered **6–15**, which seek EEOC communications about NEH in connection with the actress Jean Seberg, are overly broad, and do not comport with the requirements of NEH’s FOIA regulations, as they do not provide enough detail to enable personnel to locate records “with a reasonable amount of effort.”

On review, I find that these requests do provide sufficient detail to enable personnel to locate records with a reasonable amount of effort. Accordingly, I directed the agency’s FOIA personnel to search for agency records responsive to these requests.

The search did not locate any responsive records for these requests.

- The agency determined that there are no responsive records to your request numbered **16**, which seeks information about the holdings of the EEOC’s library on the subject of wiretapping.

NEH does not maintain records of EEOC’s library holdings. Accordingly, I find that the agency’s decision with respect to these requests complies with FOIA law and policy, and therefore deny your appeal with respect to this request.

- In response to your request numbered **17**, which sought “copies of NEH’s MD-715 reports submitted to EEOC for fiscal years 2019-2021,” the agency (i) provided you

³ 45 CFR § 1171.5(a).

with instructions for accessing copies of NEH's MD-715 reports for Fiscal Years 2019 and 2020, which are available on NEH's website, and (ii) determined that there are no responsive records to your request for NEH's MD-715 report for Fiscal Year 2021, because the agency has not yet submitted this report.

I have carefully considered the agency's decision with respect to these requests and find that it complies with FOIA law and policy, and therefore deny your appeal with respect to these requests.

- The agency provided you with responsive records for your request numbered **18**, which sought "the communications between the EEOC and the NEH about MD-715."

Specifically, the agency provided you with copies of three emails between NEH and EEOC regarding the agency's MD-715 report.

I have carefully considered the agency's decision with respect to this request and find that it complies with FOIA law and policy, and therefore deny your appeal with respect to this request.

- The agency provided you with responsive records for your request numbered **19**, which sought "the academic backgrounds, the professional responsibilities and annual salaries of Julia Nguyen, Talisha Saddler, Margaret Scrymser and Pamela Thompson."

Specifically, the agency provided you with (i) copies of these employees' resumes and/or portions of their applications for employment that reflect their academic backgrounds; (ii) copies of the Position Descriptions for these employees' current positions, which reflect their professional responsibilities; and (iii) these employees' current annual salaries.

The agency redacted portions of these records pursuant to FOIA Exemption 6,⁴ which permits a Federal agency to withhold records, or portions of records, that constitute "personnel . . . and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy."

I have reviewed the redacted portions of these records and have determined that the agency properly withheld them pursuant to Exemption 6.

Accordingly, I have carefully considered the agency's decision with respect to this request and find that it complies with FOIA law and policy, and therefore deny your appeal with respect to this request.

In sum, I have denied your appeals with respect to requests **1–5** and **16–19**, and I have granted your appeals with respect to requests **6–15**, but the agency failed to identify any

⁴ 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(6).

responsive records for those requests. Accordingly, NEH will not be releasing any additional records to you in response your appeal.

Again, NEH's response pertains only to NEH agency records. For information on your FOIA requests to EEOC or other Federal agencies, you must contact those agencies directly.

Please be advised that you have the right to judicial review of this determination under the FOIA.⁵

In addition, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) offers mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies. You may contact OGIS at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer.

The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, MD 20740-6001; email at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741- 5770; toll-free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

Sincerely,

/Michael P. McDonald/

Michael P. McDonald
General Counsel and FOIA Appeal Official

⁵ 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(B).



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

March 18, 2022

W (AACL)
Michael A. Ayele
Association for the Advancement of Civil Liberties
P.O. Box 20438
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia 10013

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL
waacl13@gmail.com

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request 22-26

Dear Mr. W:

As the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) official responsible for inquiries under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), I am responding to your request, which NEH received on February 4, 2022, in which you posed a series of questions and requested certain records relating to (i) The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's (EEOC) communications about NEH, among other subjects; (ii) EEOC grant applications submitted to NEH; (iii) books held by EEOC's library on wiretapping; (iv) copies of NEH's MD-715 reports submitted to EEOC for fiscal years 2019-2021 and email communications between EEOC and NEH about MD-715; and (v) academic backgrounds, professional responsibilities, and annual salaries of four NEH employees.

We have conducted a comprehensive search of NEH's files for records responsive to your request. After a thorough review, we have made the following determinations.

Your request for records regarding (i) EEOC's communications about NEH as a federal agency, among other subjects, is overly broad, and it does not comport with the requirements of 45 CFR § 1171.5(a), as it does not provide enough detail to enable personnel to locate records "with a reasonable amount of effort."

We have determined NEH has no responsive records for part (ii) of your request for all EEOC grant applications submitted to NEH.

We have determined NEH has no responsive records for part (iii) of your request for books held in EEOC's library on wiretapping. NEH is a federal grant-making agency that funds projects and programs in the humanities. It does not maintain records of books held by EEOC's library. If you would like to obtain such information, you may wish to contact the EEOC directly.

Additionally, you requested (iv) copies of NEH's MD-715 reports submitted to EEOC for fiscal years 2019-2021 and email communications between EEOC and NEH about MD-715. Information on NEH's Equal Employment Opportunity Related Resources and Data is available on NEH's Equal Employment Opportunity webpage (<https://www.neh.gov/about/equal-employment-opportunity>). To find information on NEH's MD-715 report for FY2019 please visit the our webpage at <https://www.arts.gov/sites/default/files/NEA-2019-Affirmative-Action-Plan.pdf> and for information on NEH's MD-715 report for FY2020 please visit our webpage at <https://www.neh.gov/sites/default/files/inline-files/Affirmative%20Action%20Plan%20-%202020.pdf>. Please note, NEH has not yet submitted its MD-715 FY2021 report to EEOC.

The information you requested for records of email communications between EEOC and NEH about MD-715, as maintained in NEH's records, is attached. There is no fee for this information.

Lastly, you requested information on the (v) academic backgrounds, professional responsibilities, and annual salaries of four NEH employees: Julia Nguyen, Talisha Saddler, Margaret Scrymser, and Pamela Thompson. The information you requested, as maintained in NEH's records, is attached. There is no fee for this information.

Please note that we have redacted certain portions of the attached records in accordance with FOIA Exemption 6. 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6). Exemption 6 permits federal agencies to withhold information about individuals in "personnel...and similar files" where disclosure would result in a "clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy." In addition, we are withholding in their entirety 14 pages of employee application material as they contain non-segregable information protected by FOIA Exemption 6.

For further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your NEH FOIA request, you may contact the analyst who processed your request or our FOIA Public Liaison, at 202-606-8322 or gencounsel@neh.gov. If you contact NEH about this request, please reference the request tracking number, which is 22-26.

You may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services it offers. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, MD 20740-6001; email at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll-free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

If you wish to appeal this determination, please write to Michael McDonald, Office of the General Counsel, National Endowment for the Humanities, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Fourth Floor, Washington, D.C. 20506; or send an email to gencounsel@neh.gov. Your appeal must be in writing and postmarked or electronically transmitted within ninety (90) days of the date of this letter. Your appeal rights are set out in the Code of Federal Regulations, at 45 C.F.R. § 1171.10 and 45 C.F.R. § 1169.8; the FOIA Improvement Act of 2016; and the Privacy Act of 1974.

Sincerely,

/Lisette Voyatzis/

Lisette Voyatzis
Deputy General Counsel

Attachment

NEH FOIA 22-A-01 (appealing FOIA 22-26)

Gencounsel <gencounsel@neh.gov>
To: Michael Ayele <waac13@gmail.com>
Cc: "ogis@nara.gov" <ogis@nara.gov>

Tue, Mar 22, 2022 at 7:46 PM

Dear Mr. W,

I write to confirm that Mr. McDonald, General Counsel and NEH's FOIA Appeal Official, received your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) appeal on March 21, 2022. NEH will process your request consistent with 5 U.S.C. Section 552 and NEH's FOIA regulations. The deadline for NEH to respond is April 19, 2022.

The tracking number for your appeal is 22-A-01. You may use this tracking number to obtain information from NEH's FOIA Requestor Service Center about the status of your request or to ask other questions about your request. The Center's contact information is as follows: 202-606-8322, gencounsel@neh.gov.

Sincerely,

Jessica Graves

Legal Administrative Specialist
Office of the General Counsel
National Endowment for the Humanities
400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20506
Email: gencounsel@neh.gov
Phone: (202) 606-8322

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From: Michael Ayele <waac13@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 19, 2022 7:31 AM
To: Gencounsel <gencounsel@neh.gov>; INFO <info@eeoc.gov>; ogis@nara.gov; FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT <FOIA@eeoc.gov>; FOIA <FOIA@nara.gov>
Cc: Michael Ayele <waac13@gmail.com>; Michael Ayele <waac1313@gmail.com>; Michael Ayele <waac42913@gmail.com>
Subject: FOIA Appeal Case No.: NEH FOIA 22-26

W (AACL) Date: March 19th 2022
Michael A. Ayele
P.O.Box 20438
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
E-mail: waac13@gmail.com ; waac1313@gmail.com ; waac42913@gmail.com

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Appeal Request Case No.: 22 – 26 → Dispute Resolution Services Requested

Hello,

Thank you for your email. I am in receipt of it. I am writing this letter in response to your latest correspondence in which you extended me the opportunity to contact you with any concerns I may have about the FOIA request, which was assigned by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Case No.: 22 – 26.

Please be advised that I have concerns about your correspondence of March 18th 2022 because of the manner in which you have very inaccurately summarized the content of my FOIA request. As you are likely aware, I had contacted the National Endowment for Humanities (NEH) on February 15th 2022 seeking for prompt disclosure records that exist within your possession detailing [1] your communications about the NEH as an "independent federal agency created in 1965;" [2] your communications about the NEH as an independent federal agency, which awards grants for "top-rated proposals examined by panels of independent, external reviewers;" [3] your communications about the NEH grants "typically going to cultural institutions, such as museums, archives, libraries, colleges, universities, public television, radio stations, and to individual scholars;" [4] your communications about the NEH defining the term "humanities" as "the study and interpretation of language, linguistics, literature, history, jurisprudence, philosophy, archaeology, comparative religion, ethics etc;" [5] the applications filed by your library and your post-secondary academic institution with the NEH for the purpose of obtaining a grant; [6] your communications about the NEH as a federal agency, which recognizes that Jean Seberg was a Caucasian woman born on November 13th 1938 in Marshalltown, Iowa; [7] your communications about the NEH as a federal agency, which recognizes that Jean Seberg "joined the NAACP in 1952, at the age of 14, and championed every cause she crossed paths with;" [8] your communications about the NEH as a federal agency, which recognizes that Jean Seberg "donated generously to several organizations, including the Black Panthers, as did Elizabeth Taylor, Marlon Brando, and other Hollywood celebrities;" [9] your communications about the NEH as a federal agency, which recognizes that "a casual phone call with Black Panther leader Elaine Brown brought" Jean Seberg "to the attention of the FBI;" [10] your communications about the NEH as a federal agency, which recognizes that Jean Seberg "was pregnant with her second child" (...) "when the FBI released a tip to the Los Angeles Times stating that the baby was actually fathered by a Black Panther;" [11] your communications about the NEH as a federal agency, which recognizes that Jean Seberg "had a breakdown and delivered the baby prematurely" as a direct consequence of libelous articles published on the Los Angeles Times and Newsweek; [12] your communications about the NEH as a federal agency, which recognizes that Jean Seberg "sued Newsweek for libel and won \$20,000 in damages;" [13] your communications about the NEH as a federal agency, which recognizes that "shortly after Seberg's funeral, the FBI's smear campaign against her came to light, as well as other intrusions Seberg had suspected;" [14] your communications about the decision of the Los Angeles Times to recognize (as a news media organization) their responsibility in the premature birth and death of Jean Seberg's daughter, Nina Hart Gary; [15] your communications about Kristen Stewart as an actress who portrayed Jean Seberg in the 2019 movie entitled: *Seberg*; [16] the

books and the articles offered by your library to representatives of the media and members of the general public wishing to pursue research on the issue of wiretap. [17] the Management Directive (MD-715) report submitted by the NEH to the EEOC for Fiscal Year 2019, 2020 and 2021; [18] the communications between the EEOC and the NEH about MD-715; [19] the academic backgrounds, the professional responsibilities and annual salaries of Julia Nguyen, Talisha Saddler, Margaret Scrymser and Pamela Thompson.

Your March 18th 2022 correspondence fails to address several Items of my records request submitted with the NEH on February 15th 2022. More specifically, your response fails to address the portions of my FOIA request pertaining to [1] the NEH interest on the subject of Jean Seberg's life and death; [2] the decision of the NEH to publish on their website several pieces of information about the life of Jean Seberg including but not limited to (i) her NAACP membership, (ii) her generous support of the NAACP and the Black Panther Party at a time when it would have been frowned upon to do so, (iii) the pain and suffering she endured for supporting causes dear to the NAACP and the Black Panther Party, (iv) the circumstances leading up to her most suspicious and untimely death in France when she was only 40 years old; [4] the formal/informal opinions held by the NEH on the performance of Kristen Stewart in the movie entitled: "Seberg." As a representative of the media and a member of the general public, I request that you address and correct the deficiencies I have listed in this email. I sincerely hope you reconsider your response. Have a good day. Take care.

W (AACL)
Michael A. Ayele
Anti-Racist Human Rights Activist
Audio-Visual Media Analyst
Anti-Propaganda Journalist

Work Cited

[i] About the NEH.: <https://www.neh.gov/about>

[ii] *The Secret Lives of Jean Seberg*, National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).: <https://www.neh.gov/humanities/2016/spring/statement/the-secret-lives-jean-seberg>

[iii] *The sad news was announced Sept. 8, 1979. Ten days after actress Jean Seberg had been reported missing, her decomposing body was found wrapped in a blanket in the back seat of her white Renault in Paris. She was only 40. (...) When the actress returned to Hollywood in 1968 to make "Paint Your Wagon," "Airport" and "Macho Callahan," the FBI became interested in her because not only had she donated money to the Black Panthers, she had begun an affair with a married African American activist. Its smear campaign claimed Seberg was pregnant with a Black Panther's child (L.A. Times' gossip columnist Joyce Haber publicized it in a thinly veiled post), causing her to go into premature labor and give birth to a daughter, Nina Hart Gary. The little girl died two days later and was buried in Marshalltown but not before her coffin was opened to prove the baby was white. The real life Jean Seberg and tragic tale behind Kristen Stewart's "Seberg," Los Angeles Times.: <https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/movies/story/2020-02-26/jean-seberg-real-life-kristen-stewart>*

[iv] *The circumstances of Jean Seberg's death 40 years ago in late August 1979 were squalid and pathetic. The American star's body lay decomposing in a car on a street in Paris for 10 days before the French police discovered it. There was a bottle of barbiturates and a suicide note beside the corpse. As the press reported, her body had "baked in the sun" and the odour was "unimaginably foul". This was the actress who, at the start of her career, was described as "so unimaginably fresh" by her colleagues. (...) "She was so misunderstood. It's not like you need to hero-worship a celebrity, they are just people you want to look at. The fact that people stared at her and fixated on things that were not real, projections: that really ultimately destroyed her," Kristen Stewart, who plays her in the new film, Seberg, commented of the ill-fated actress in a Vanity Fair interview. As an actor who has worked on both big Hollywood productions like Twilight and in independent French arthouse features, Stewart seems perfectly qualified to play her. Seberg, out in UK cinemas this Friday, isn't a straight biopic. Its focus is its subject's deadly entanglement with the FBI. Days after her suicide, the FBI admitted that its agents had plotted to ruin her reputation as part of their counter-intelligence programme, Cointelpro, authorised by FBI founder, J Edgar Hoover himself. Seberg's crime, in Hoover's eyes, was her involvement in political causes and her support of the Black Panther Party. In particular, they were suspicious of her close links with Black Power leader, Hakim Jamal (played in the film by Anthony Mackie). In 1970, the FBI planted the false rumour that Seberg was pregnant by a Black Panther Party member in order to "cause her embarrassment" and "cheapen her image" with the American public. Their plan worked. It was dispiriting but inevitable that some gossip columnists followed the false leads that the FBI dangled in front of them. From the FBI's point of view, she was involved in radical politics, had contributed financially to the Black Panthers and was therefore fair game. The story was picked up by gossip columnist, Joyce Haber, who referred obliquely to it in the Los Angeles Times. Newsweek also wrote about it and named Seberg. How Hollywood Star Jean Seberg was destroyed by the FBI, <https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/films/features/kristen-stewart-new-movie-jean-seberg-suicide-fbi-venice-film-festival-2019-a9080366.html>*

Kristen Stewart on playing actress Jean Seberg and why she loves France, France 24.: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wSuVPetsnI0>

On Fri, Mar 18, 2022 at 6:27 PM Gencounsel <gencounsel@neh.gov> wrote:

Dear Mr. W,

Attached please find NEH's response to your FOIA request.

Sincerely,

Jessica Graves

Legal Administrative Specialist
Office of the General Counsel
National Endowment for the Humanities
400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20506
Email: gencounsel@neh.gov
Phone: (202) 606-8322

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From: Gencounsel
Sent: Tuesday, February 22, 2022 9:38 AM
To: Michael Ayele <waac13@gmail.com>
Subject: NEH FOIA 22-26

Dear Mr. W,

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) received your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request on February 16, 2022. NEH will process your request consistent with FOIA (5 U.S.C. 552) and NEH's FOIA regulations (45 C.F.R. 1171).

We are denying your request for expedited processing. NEH will grant a request for expedited processing only in situations where there is an imminent threat to life or physical safety or when there is an urgency to inform the public about actual or alleged Federal government activity. 45 C.F.R. § 1171.7(e). You requested expedited processing but did not provide reasoning for your expedited processing request. To determine if the "urgency to inform" standard is satisfied, NEH will consider several factors, including whether the requested information concerns a matter of current exigency to the American public, and whether a delay in obtaining the requested information will compromise a significant recognized interest *See, e.g., Al-Fayed v. CIA*, 254 F.3d 300, 310 (D.C. Cir. 2001). We have determined that your request does not establish either of these factors and thus does not meet the standard for expedited processing.

Please be assured that we will process your request as soon as we can, and we estimate that we will finish processing your request by March 17, 2022.

Please note, the tracking number for your request is 22-26. You may use this tracking number to obtain information from NEH's FOIA Requestor Service Center about the status of your request, or to ask other questions about your request. The Center's contact information is as follows: 202-606-8322; gencounsel@neh.gov.

Thank you for your interest in NEH.

Sincerely,

Jessica Graves

Legal Administrative Specialist
Office of the General Counsel
National Endowment for the Humanities
400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20506
Email: gencounsel@neh.gov
Phone: (202) 606-8322

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From: Michael Ayele <waac13@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 5:15 AM
To: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT <foia@eeoc.gov>; foiapublicliaison@eeoc.gov <foiapublicliaison@eeoc.gov>; joanne.murray@eeoc.gov <joanne.murray@eeoc.gov>; ATLAFOIA <atlafoia@eeoc.gov>; BIRMFIOIA <birmfoia@eeoc.gov>; CHARFOIA <charfoia@eeoc.gov>; CHICFOIA <chicfoia@eeoc.gov>; MILWFOIA <milwfoia@eeoc.gov>; MINNFOIA <minnfoia@eeoc.gov>; DALLAS FOIA <dallasfoia@eeoc.gov>; elpafoia@eeoc.gov <elpafoia@eeoc.gov>; SAFOFOIA <safrafoia@eeoc.gov>; HOUSFOIA <housfoia@eeoc.gov>; NEWOFOIA <newofoia@eeoc.gov>; indifoia@eeoc.gov <indifoia@eeoc.gov>; DETRFOIA <detrafoia@eeoc.gov>; LOSAFOIA <losafoia@eeoc.gov>; MEMPFOIA <mempfoia@eeoc.gov>; NEWYFOIA <newyfoia@eeoc.gov>; PHILFOIA <philfoia@eeoc.gov>; PHOENIXFOIA <phoenixfoia@eeoc.gov>; SANFFOIA <sanffoia@eeoc.gov>; STLOFOIA <stlofoia@eeoc.gov>; WASHFOIA <washfoia@eeoc.gov>; INFO <info@eeoc.gov>; Thompson, Pamela <pthompson@neh.gov>; Scrymser, Margaret <mscopymser@neh.gov>; Saddler, Talisha <tsaddler@neh.gov>; Nguyen, Julia <jnguyen@neh.gov>
Cc: Michael Ayele <waac13@gmail.com>; Michael Ayele <waac42913@gmail.com>; Michael Ayele <waac1313@gmail.com>
Subject: FOIA Request 820-2022-005060

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W (AACL) Date. : February 16th 2022
Michael A. Ayele
P.O.Box 20438
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
E-mail : waac13@gmail.com ; waac1313@gmail.com ; waac1313@gmail.com

Request for Records

Hello,

This is Michael A. Ayele sending this message though I now go by W. You may call me W. I am writing this letter to file a request for records with your offices. The basis for this records request is a statement issued by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) on the "*Secret Lives of Jean Seberg*."^[1] Please find attached to this e-mail the content of my records request as well as information explaining my request for a fee waiver and expedited processing. Have a good day. Take care.

W (AACL)
Michael A. Ayele
Anti-Racist Human Rights Activist
Audio-Visual Media Analyst
Anti-Propaganda Journalist

Work Cited

[1] *The Secret Lives of Jean Seberg*, National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).: <https://www.neh.gov/humanities/2016/spring/statement/the-secret-lives-jean-seberg>

From: <eeoc.foia@arkcase.com>
Date: Wed, Feb 16, 2022 at 1:06 PM
Subject: New Request 820-2022-005060
To: <waaci13@gmail.com>



Dear Michael Ayele (aka) W,

Your request has been delivered to the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The request has been assigned tracking # 820-2022-005060, please log into your account and review your submission.

The application address is <https://eeoc.arkcase.com/foia/portal/login>

Thank you,

U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

Notice of Confidentiality: The information contained in this transmission may contain privileged and confidential information, including information protected by federal and state privacy laws. It is intended only for the use of the person(s) named above. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any review, dissemination, distribution, or duplication of this communication is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact us at foia@eeoc.gov and destroy all copies of the original message and attachments.

Request Details

Title

820-2022-005060 - The basis for this records request is a statement issued by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) on the ?Secret Lives of Jean Seberg.? (...) What I am requesting for prompt disclosure are all records within your possession detailing [1] your communications about the NEH as an ?independent federal agency created in 1965;? [2] your communications about the NEH as an independent federal

agency, which awards grants for ?top-rated proposals examined by panels of independent, external reviewers;? [3] your communications about the NEH grants ? typically going to cultural institutions, such as museums, archives, libraries, colleges, universities, public television, radio stations, and to individual scholars;? [4] your communications about the NEH defining the term ?humanities? as ?the study and interpretation of language, linguistics, literature, history, jurisprudence, philosophy, archaeology, comparative religion, ethics etc;? [5] the applications filed by your library and your post-secondary academic institution with the NEH for the purpose of obtaining a grant; [6] your communications about the NEH as a federal agency, which recognizes that Jean Seberg was a Caucasian woman born on November 13th 1938 in Marshalltown, Iowa; [7] your communications about the NEH as a federal agency, which recognizes that Jean Seberg ?joined the NAACP in 1952, at the age of 14, and championed every cause she crossed paths with;? [8] your communications about the NEH as a federal agency, which recognizes that Jean Seberg ?donated generously to several organizations, including the Black Panthers, as did Elizabeth Taylor, Marlon Brando, and other Hollywood celebrities;? [9] your communications about the NEH as a federal agency, which recognizes that ?a casual phone call with Black Panther leader Elaine Brown brought? Jean Seberg ?to the attention of the FBI;? [10] your communications about the NEH as a federal agency, which recognizes that Jean Seberg ?was pregnant with her second child? (?) ?when the FBI released a tip to the Los Angeles Times stating that the baby was actually fathered by a Black Panther;? [11] your communications about the NEH as a federal agency, which recognizes that Jean Seberg ?had a breakdown and delivered the baby prematurely? as a direct consequence of libelous articles published on the Los Angeles Times and Newsweek; [12] your communications about the NEH as a federal agency, which recognizes that Jean Seberg ?sued Newsweek for libel and won \$20,000 in damages;? [13] your communications about the NEH as a federal agency, which recognizes that ?shortly after Seberg?s funeral, the FBI?s smear campaign against her came to light, as well as other intrusions Seberg had suspected;? [14] your communications about the decision of the Los Angeles Times to recognize (as a news media organization) their responsibility in the premature birth and death of Jean Seberg?s daughter, Nina Hart Gary; [15] your communications about Kristen Stewart as an actress who portrayed Jean Seberg in the 2019 movie entitled: Seberg; [16] the books and the articles offered by your library to representatives of the media and members of the general public wishing to pursue research on the issue of wiretap; [17] the Management Directive (MD-715) report submitted by the NEH to the EEOC for Fiscal Year 2019, 2020 and 2021; [18] the communications between the EEOC and the NEH about MD-715; [19] the academic backgrounds, the professional responsibilities and annual salaries of Julia Nguyen, Talisha Saddler, Margaret Scrymser and Pamela Thompson.

Type	New Request	Queue	Intake
Created	02/16/2022 10:06 (UTC)	Received	02/16/2022 10:06 (UTC)
Assignee		Owning Group	HQ_FOIA_PROCESSOR@EEOC.ARKCASE.COM
Due	03/16/2022 21:30(UTC)	Priority	Normal
Modified	02/16/2022 10:06 (UTC)	Modified By	

This is an automated email notification sent from ArkCase.

 **W (AACL) NEH - EEOC February 15th 2022 Records Request.pdf**
520K

 **NEH FOIA 22-26 Response (3-18-2022).pdf**
9318K

FOIA Appeal Case No.: NEH FOIA 22-26 [Incident: 220319-000018]

EEOC - I I G <info@eeoc.gov>

Mon, Mar 21, 2022 at 7:32 PM

Reply-To: EEOC - I I G <info@eeoc.gov>

To: waac13@gmail.com



Recently you requested personal assistance from our on-line support center. Below is a summary of your request and our response. We hope we have answered your questions or referred you to the appropriate place to have your questions answered.

To access your question from our support site, [click here](#)

Subject**FOIA Appeal Case No.: NEH FOIA 22-26****Response By Email (Inquiry) (03/21/2022 11:32 AM)**

Thank you for contacting us.

It appears that you have 'carbon copied' the EEOC with your correspondence to a third person. The information will be stored at the EEOC as a matter of record only. Please feel free to contact us at anytime if you require additional assistance.

Alternatively, you may call us at 1-800-669-4000 (VideoPhone: 1-844-234-5122) to discuss your situation.

Sincerely,

U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

Auto-Response By (Administrator) (03/19/2022 06:33 AM)

Thank you for contacting the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. This automated response confirms receipt of your inquiry and is not intended to address your specific questions. For those of you wishing to file a charge of employment discrimination, please note that there is a time limit of either 180 or 300 days to file a charge, depending on a number of factors. If you want to begin the process, you can use our online assessment tool at [US EEOC](#). You can not file a charge via email. We will respond to your specific questions as quickly as possible.

APPENDIX C.



HUMANITIES

THE MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

Statement

The Secret Lives of Jean Seberg

Iowa

Victoria Cooney

HUMANITIES, Spring 2016, Volume 37, Number 2

It was the biggest talent search for a Hollywood film in the 1950s. More than 18,000 unknown actresses from the United States and Europe auditioned, but a pretty seventeen-year-old girl from Marshalltown, Iowa, won the chance to play Joan of Arc in Otto Preminger's 1957 film, *Saint Joan*.

It had the largest soundstage in Europe, 1,500 extras, and glittering premieres in France, England, and America, but critics panned the movie. The media treated Jean Seberg's portrayal of the French martyr so viciously that many assumed she would return to her quiet life in Iowa as soon as possible. But the actress persevered to become an important figure in the development of modern cinema and the face of Modernism.

Seberg starred in another Preminger film, *Bonjour Tristesse*, in 1958, which redeemed her reputation. She soon became the "it" girl for French New Wave film through *Breathless*, an experimental movie that rejected big budgets and formal techniques for something more raw. While too risqué for Marshalltown, the French adored it and clamored for more of Seberg.

Her celebrity grew as she made films in French and English, championed new directors, and appeared on magazine covers ranging from *Life* to *Vogue*. The Kennedys entertained Seberg and her second husband, the writer and diplomat Romain Gary, at the White House, and girls across France cropped their curls into her signature pixie cut, "à la Seberg."

"It's incredible that in the wake of all that, somehow we've forgotten who Jean Seberg was," says Kelly Rundle, codirector of *Movie Star: The Secret Lives of Jean Seberg*, a documentary funded by Iowa Humanities that

premiered in 2013 and is making the festival circuit.

Rundle and his wife, producer Tammy Rundle, joined forces with fellow Iowa native and project creator, Garry McGee, to bring Seberg back into America's consciousness—detailing her complicated life and examining the forces behind her tragic death.

"This version of her story has not been told before. It's a more personal look and an unabashedly Midwestern perspective of Jean's life," Rundle says. "We were trying to get at something a little deeper."

Seberg was a passionate activist long before she became a star. She joined the NAACP in 1952, at the age of 14, and championed every cause she crossed paths with. As an adult, she donated generously to several organizations, including the Black Panthers, as did Elizabeth Taylor, Marlon Brando, and other Hollywood celebrities.

"She had this need in her to make the world a better place," says Seberg's friend Rabbi Sol Serber. "All you had to say to her was 'people are being hurt.'"

Seberg was drawn to the Black Panthers because of their free breakfast programs for children, but her involvement led to government surveillance, beginning in 1969. A casual phone call with Black Panther leader Elaine Brown brought her to the attention of the FBI.

"They went after her because they found a moment, a weak spot," Brown says in the film. "She wasn't personally targeted, they were all targeted. . . . But she took the first and hardest hit."

Seberg was pregnant with her second child by Gary when the FBI released a tip to the Los Angeles Times stating that the baby was . . . ally fathered by a Black Panther. The false information ran as a thinly veiled "blind item" in May 1970, and was published again that August, with Seberg's name, in *Newsweek*.

Seberg had a breakdown and delivered the baby prematurely. Her daughter, Nina Hart Gary, died two days later and was buried in Marshalltown after an open-casket funeral that clarified her parentage. Seberg and Gary sued *Newsweek* for libel and won, with \$20,000 in damages, but the actress remained in constant fear.

"She came to visit us right after [the funeral]," says Seberg's sister, Mary Ann Seberg. "She was completely distraught, withdrawn. I think she was in utter disbelief, too, that her life could be destroyed by something like this."

Seberg continued acting over the next nine years, but never returned to Hollywood. Her interest turned to writing, and she directed a short film, but the downward spiral continued. She went missing in late August 1979. Nine days later, the police found her body, wrapped in a blanket in the

backseat of her car, three blocks from her Paris apartment. The death was declared a suicide, but conflicting evidence raised the suspicions of family and friends.

Shortly after Seberg's funeral, the FBI's smear campaign against her came to light, as well as other intrusions Seberg had suspected. She had . . . followed and spied on, her phones tapped, her mail opened.

"There's an odd sort of amnesia about Jean Seberg in the United States, which is so puzzling to me," Rundle said. "At her peak, she was on the cover of every magazine . . . but what's the most surprising is how successful the neutralization campaign was."

About the author

Victoria Cooney is a writer in St. Paul, Minnesota.

