

BREAKING: Federal Judge Greenlights Lawsuit Against Western Union for Sharing Customer Data with ICE

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OAKLAND, CA— Today, in a groundbreaking [decision](#), a federal court held that plaintiffs could proceed in a [lawsuit](#) against Western Union for its alleged involvement in a mass surveillance program with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). In a victory for the plaintiffs, a federal judge determined that the plaintiffs have alleged plausible violations of California law protecting the privacy of sensitive financial records.

“This is an important victory for the immigrant community and our plaintiffs, who are holding Western Union accountable for its complicity in this surveillance scheme,” said **Daniel Werner, Senior Staff Attorney with Just Futures Law**. “At the same time, lawmakers must do more to ensure communities have needed protections that give them peace of mind in knowing their personal information is safe from ICE.”

“Our financial transactions reveal an intimate portrait of our lives,” said **Yaman Salahi, a Partner at Edelson PC**. “Western Union knows the sensitivity and the value of that information, and has an obligation to its customers to protect them. Instead, the company has participated in a dragnet surveillance program.”

Western Union, like other money transfer companies, allegedly disclosed customer data *en masse* to the Transaction Record Analysis Center (“TRAC”) in response to customs summons issued by ICE and requests from the Arizona Attorney General that continue to this day. Through TRAC, hundreds of law enforcement agencies had unfettered access to consumer transaction information. Advocates say the program targets immigrants unfairly and intrudes on consumer privacy.

The judge’s order marks the first known instance a court has weighed in on the lawfulness of the TRAC program. The [lawsuit](#), filed in 2022, revealed Western Union and other money transfer companies allegedly provided the federal government access to over 145 million sensitive financial records from plaintiffs’ and others’ money transfers, including the names of the senders and recipients, the amount transferred, social security numbers, driver license and other identification numbers, addresses, and other personal identifying information.

The named plaintiffs seek to represent thousands of affected California consumers, and asked the court to halt the sharing of consumer financial information with the federal government, as well as requesting reimbursement of service fees for California consumers whose personal financial information was shared with the government without following proper legal procedures.

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