In the House of Representatives

October 4, 2017

The Journalism Act of 2017

A newly formed nine-person Federal Integrity Court is created by this Act. It shall be considered organizationally as being another Federal District Court and its offices shall be in St. Louis, Mo. Only the Justice Department may refer cases to this court. No grand jury may be convened. The Federal Integrity Court shall have its judges nominated by the President of the United States and confirmed by the United States Senate. The Senate shall vote on each judge within ninety days of nomination or the nominated judge shall be considered appointed. Judges shall serve a nine-year term (beginning in 2018). Starting in 2027, three judges shall be replaced every three years. Judges must be chosen from the pool of existing federal judges. The President shall determine the retirement sequence of the first nine judges.

Information obtained and/or used by the Federal Integrity Court shall remain sealed for life and is unavailable to any other court except as described below. The Court may not release its finding of guilt or innocence or that an individual or company is being tried. Should the court return a guilty verdict, plaintiff may file to the Appeals Court. In this event, if requested by plaintiff, the court may release sealed information to the Appeals Court.

All organizations and individuals who generate income from journalism in the United States are subject to this Act. This Court only reviews articles deemed by the Justice Department to be of national significance in the fields of business, politics, federal government, science or health.

Organizations and individuals using unnamed sources as an information source in articles the publish must maintain a log of all sources. The logs must include full name of source, complete documentation of information received, all contact dates, times and locations and/or method(s) of delivery pertaining to the article in question.

If subpoenaed by the Federal Integrity Court, the requested information must be delivered to the court by the date specified. The Court may use the information to

subpoena all sources for the expressed purpose of ascertaining the validity of both the source and the information source delivered. If it is determined by this Court that beyond a reasonable shadow of doubt the information is not accurate to the extent that it is purposely and/or intentionally misleading the public, the company and journalist shall be found guilty of delivering false or fake news to the public. Should the organization or individual fail to deliver the required logs, a guilty verdict must be returned by the Court.

Unnamed sources are not a party to a finding by this Court, nor are sources ever to be made public, even during any appeal process.

The punishment for such a guilty finding shall be for organizations: a fine of up to $1,000,000 (minimum $100,000) and up to one year (minimum of three months) in prison for highest ranking official of the organization and writer of article. If guilty finding applies to an individual, a fine of up to $100,000 (minimum $10,000) and up to one year (minimum of one month) in prison for CEO of organization and writer of article.

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