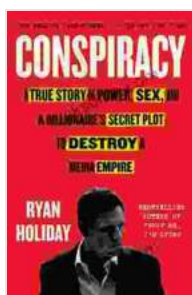


# Peter Thiel, Hulk Hogan, Gawker, and the Anatomy of Intrigue

In 2016, a jury awarded Hulk Hogan \$140 million in damages in a lawsuit against Gawker Media, a popular gossip website. The lawsuit stemmed from the publication of a sex tape featuring Hogan and his then-wife. Hogan claimed that the publication of the tape violated his privacy and caused him emotional distress.

The case was funded by Peter Thiel, a billionaire entrepreneur and venture capitalist. Thiel had a personal vendetta against Gawker, which had previously published articles critical of him. He provided Hogan with financial support and legal advice, and he played a key role in the lawsuit's success.



## Conspiracy: Peter Thiel, Hulk Hogan, Gawker, and the Anatomy of Intrigue by Ryan Holiday

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 1541 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
X-Ray	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 334 pages

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The Hogan-Gawker case has been widely discussed as a case study in the intersection of law, media, and technology. It has raised questions about the limits of free speech, the role of the internet in our lives, and the power of the wealthy to influence the outcome of legal proceedings.

## **The Characters**

**Peter Thiel** is a German-born American entrepreneur, investor, and author. He is the co-founder of PayPal and Palantir Technologies. Thiel is a controversial figure, known for his libertarian views and his support of Donald Trump.

**Hulk Hogan**, born Terry Bollea, is an American professional wrestler, actor, and television personality. He is one of the most recognizable wrestlers in history, and he has been inducted into the WWE Hall of Fame.

**Gawker Media** was a popular American gossip website and blog network. It was founded in 2003 by Nick Denton. Gawker was known for its irreverent and often salacious content, and it frequently published articles critical of celebrities and public figures.

## **The Lawsuit**

In 2012, Gawker published a sex tape featuring Hulk Hogan and his then-wife. Hogan claimed that the publication of the tape violated his privacy and caused him emotional distress. He sued Gawker for invasion of privacy, defamation, and emotional distress.

The lawsuit was funded by Peter Thiel, who had a personal vendetta against Gawker. Thiel had previously been the subject of critical articles

published by Gawker, and he was angry that the website had published the sex tape without Hogan's consent.

The lawsuit was a long and contentious affair. Gawker argued that the publication of the sex tape was protected by the First Amendment. Hogan argued that the publication of the tape was an invasion of his privacy and caused him emotional distress.

In 2016, a jury awarded Hogan \$140 million in damages. Gawker filed for bankruptcy in 2016, and it was acquired by Univision Communications in 2018.

## **The Implications**

The Hogan-Gawker case has had a significant impact on the legal landscape surrounding privacy, free speech, and the internet.

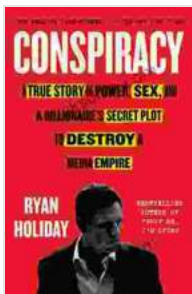
The case has been widely seen as a victory for privacy rights. The jury's decision sent a message that celebrities and public figures have a right to privacy, and that the media cannot publish private information without their consent.

The case has also been seen as a blow to free speech. Gawker argued that the publication of the sex tape was protected by the First Amendment, but the jury did not agree. The case has raised questions about the limits of free speech, and it has made it more difficult for media outlets to publish controversial or salacious content.

The case has also highlighted the power of the wealthy to influence the outcome of legal proceedings. Thiel's financial support and legal advice

played a key role in Hogan's victory. The case has raised questions about the role of money in the legal system, and it has made it more difficult for individuals to sue powerful corporations and individuals.

The Hogan-Gawker case is a complex and fascinating story that has had a significant impact on the legal landscape surrounding privacy, free speech, and the internet. The case has raised important questions about the limits of free speech, the role of the wealthy in the legal system, and the power of the media to shape public opinion.



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