

**case 9-334-409**  
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## AT&T and Corporate Political Donations after the Capitol Insurrection

Iyanna MacGregor<sup>1</sup> was scrolling through Twitter on the morning of January 7, 2021, the day after the violent insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. She found herself in a familiar but deeply unsettling shock and awe that became commonplace in 2020, a year roiled by the COVID-19 pandemic and political unrest in the United States.

The attack on the Capitol, as members of Congress voted to certify the 2020 election results, marked the first time in more than two centuries of U.S. history that a peaceful transition of power from one presidential administration to the next was in question. This weighed heavily on MacGregor, as she had spent most of her career in politics, first as a community organizer, then a lawyer, and now as the top aide for AT&T's executive vice president for external and legislative affairs.

MacGregor was committed to her work lobbying elected officials for legislation to enhance telecommunication infrastructure in rural parts of the country and initiatives to improve mobile device access for low-income Americans. Although the nature of her work was usually political, 2020 had brought new scrutiny not just from the public and elected officials but also from employees within AT&T.

MacGregor and her team regularly made strategic political donations to elected officials from AT&T's employee-funded political action committee (PAC) but things were changing (see **Exhibits 1-3** for context).<sup>1</sup> In the late spring of 2020, following the murders of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, which sparked outrage globally, a number of employees at AT&T called for justice and put the political agenda of AT&T under the microscope. MacGregor, deeply sympathetic to the Black Lives Matter movement—even protesting herself—began to scrutinize how and to whom AT&T's PAC contributed. Following employees' advocacy efforts and public outcry, AT&T's CEO at the time, Randall Stephenson, said this during a June interview on CNBC:

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<sup>1</sup> Iyanna MacGregor is a fictional character.

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