

LAW OFFICES OF  
**JOSEPH SMALLHOOVER** PLLC

February 24, 2026

**By Email and Certified Mail**

Mr. Theo Chino  
Social Democrats of America  
[info@socialists.us](mailto:info@socialists.us)  
640 Riverside Drive, 10B  
New York, NY 10031

**Re: Unauthorized use of “Democrats Abroad”<sup>®</sup>**

Dear Mr. Chino,

Democrats Abroad has instructed me to represent its interests notably in connection with its rights related to the registered trademark “Democrats Abroad.”<sup>®</sup>

You have published at several places on Mobilize (and perhaps other places) the creation of a branch of your organization, which you describe as “the first salon of the Paris branch, part of the [sic] Democrats Abroad” (see inter alia attached screenshots taken on February 15, 2026:

<https://www.mobilize.us/mobilize/event/788510/1>  
<https://www.mobilize.us/socialists/event/788510/>)

You were informed by Joseph Voelker, Counsel of Democrats Abroad France, on January 12, 2026, that your claim that this “first salon” is “part of the [sic] Democrats Abroad” is incorrect and that your organization is *not* part of Democrats Abroad. I attach a copy of Mr. Voelker’s communication to you.

In fact, Democrats Abroad is the official name of the organization that represents all United States citizens residing outside the U.S. who wish to adhere to the principles and further the aims of the Democratic Party of the United States of America and is recognized by the Democratic National Committee (“DNC”) as the equivalent of a U.S. State Party. Democrats Abroad France is a recognized country committee of Democrats Abroad.

Law Offices of Joseph Smallhoover  
Member of the Pennsylvania and District of Columbia Bars  
and California Bar (inactive)

301 Grant Street, Suite 270 | Pittsburgh PA 15219  
U.S.A.

T: +1.626.379.1995

Cabinet de Maître Joseph Smallhoover  
Avocat à la Cour | Toque DV  
SIRET 403 849 490 00111

41 rue des Acacias | 75001 Paris  
France

T : +33.6.08.37.14.12

[joseph@smallhoover.law](mailto:joseph@smallhoover.law)

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The use of “Democrats Abroad” implies affiliation with Democrats Abroad and its recognized country committee in France, Democrats Abroad France, which is neither accurate nor authorized and is likely to cause confusion among the thousands of members of Democrats Abroad in Paris, throughout France, and more generally among around the world.

Democrats Abroad is the exclusive owner of the "Democrats Abroad"® mark, which was registered with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) Registration No. 6143861, on September 01, 2020. In addition, because of its long and continued use worldwide, “Democrats Abroad”™ is also a notorious mark and protected as such worldwide.

You should note that infringement of the registered mark can lead to significant legal consequences.

You personally and the Social Democrats of America, of which you are representative, are hereby notified that the use of “Democrats Abroad”® infringes on the rights of Democrats Abroad with respect to the registered mark and you are hereby required to cease and desist immediately from all future use of this registered mark in a manner that implies affiliation with Democrats Abroad and its constituent country committees and does not make it clear that it is a different organization that might be of interest to your members.

You personally and Social Democrats of America are hereby required to take all steps necessary to remove the reference to Democrats Abroad cited above in your Mobilize publications in which you claim to be “a part of” Democrats Abroad immediately, as well as from all other uses of the registered mark made by you or Social Democrats of America in which you claim to be a part of or otherwise affiliated with Democrats Abroad and to provide evidence that you have done so.

The foregoing cease and desist demand applies not only to infringements affecting Democrats Abroad and Democrats Abroad France, but it also applies worldwide. In addition, we request that, going forward, you will not use the name Democrats Abroad in any country to imply that you are a part or a branch of this organization without our explicit permission.

You have linked to the Democrats Abroad France pages on the Democrats Abroad website. My client has no objection to this link to the extent that it is clear that Democrats Abroad is not affiliated with Social Democrats of America but is a separate organization that might be of interest to your members. In fact, there is already within Democrats Abroad a caucus, the Progressive Caucus, which offers members of Democrats Abroad a chance to advocate and discuss the types of issues that might be of interest to your members.

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My client, Democrats Abroad expressly reserve all rights and remedies available to it under law, including any rights to seek an injunction, and recovery of legal fees.

We strongly urge you to consult with legal counsel to fully understand the implications of any continued unauthorized use.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have relating to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

DocuSigned by:  
  
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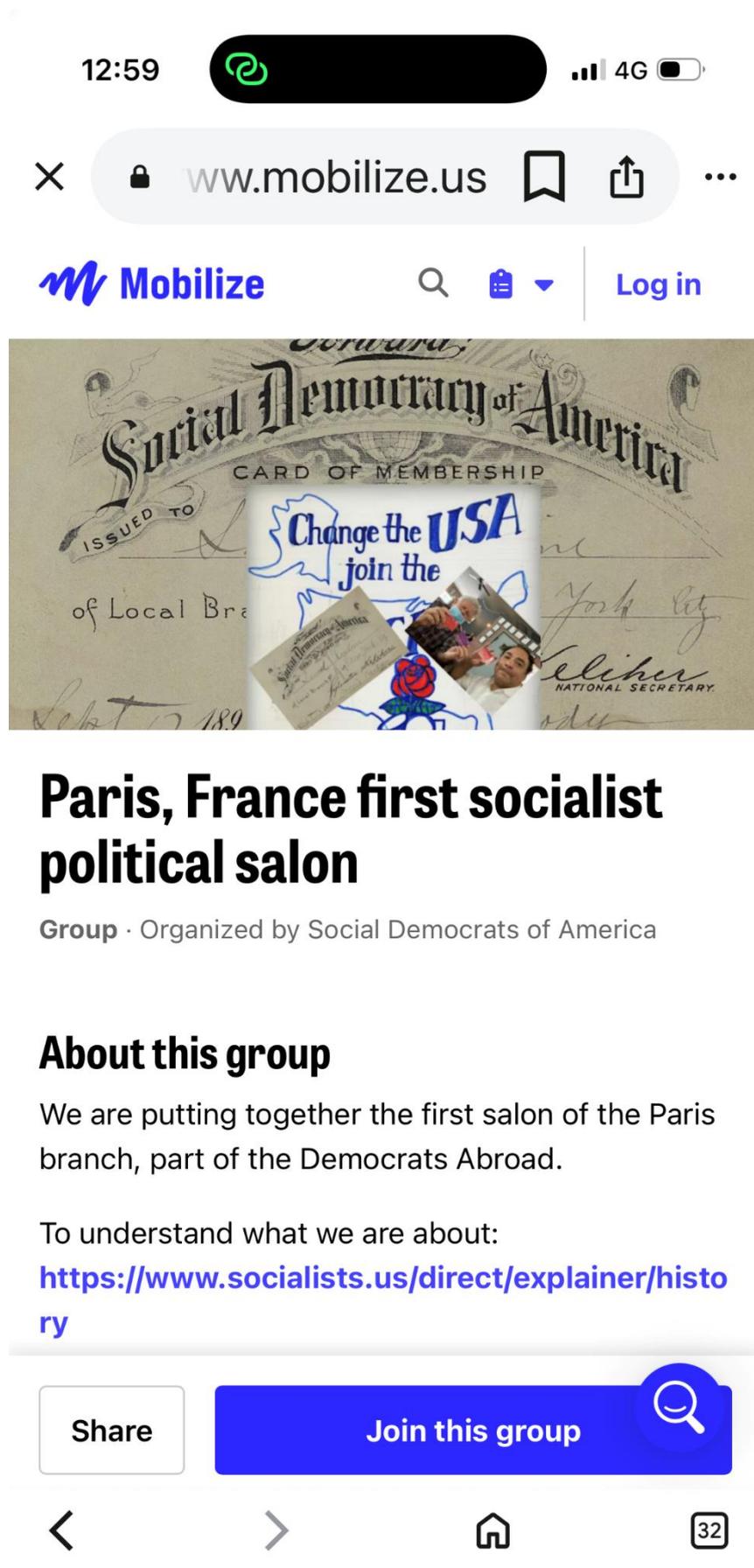
Joseph Smallhoover

Enclosures:

cc : Kate Sawyer  
International Counsel  
Democrats Abroad

Joseph Voelker  
Counsel  
Democrats Abroad France

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# Paris, France first socialist political salon

Group · Organized by Social Democrats of America

## About this group

We are putting together the first salon of the Paris branch, part of the Democrats Abroad.

To understand what we are about:

<https://www.socialists.us/direct/explainer/history>

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## Paris, France first socialist political salon

Group

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To understand what we are about:  
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**Paris, France first socialist political salon**

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**About this group**

We are putting together the first salon of the Paris branch, part of the Democrats Abroad.

To understand what we are about:

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From: Joe Voelker <joseph.voelker@democratsabroad.fr>

Date: Mon, Jan 12, 2026, at 5:16 PM

Subject: Re: Unauthorized use of "Democrats Abroad"

To: info@socialists.us <info@socialists.us>

Cc: Kate Sawyer <counsel@democratsabroad.org>

Dear Mr Chino,

You have published on Mobilize (and perhaps other places) the creation of a branch of your organization, which you describe as "the first salon of the Paris branch, part of the Democrats Abroad".

"The first salon of the Paris branch" is not "part of" "Democrats Abroad". In fact, Democrats Abroad is the official name of the organization that represents all United States citizens residing outside the U.S. who wish to adhere to the principles and further the aims of the Democratic Party of the United States of America and is recognized by the Democratic National Committee ("DNC") as the equivalent of a U.S. State Party.

Democrats Abroad operates under a Charter that provides that the Democratic Party Committee Abroad ("DPCA") is the highest authority of Democrats Abroad and shall have general responsibility for the coordination and furtherance of the work and purposes of Democrats Abroad. This work includes authorizing the formation of Country Committees such as Democrats Abroad France, which is itself governed by its Bylaws and elected leadership.

Your use of "Democrats Abroad" implies affiliation with our organization that is neither accurate nor authorized and is likely to cause confusion among the thousands of members of Democrats Abroad Paris and Democrats Abroad France. We are the exclusive owner of the "Democrats Abroad" mark registered with the United States: U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) Registration No. 6143861, registered on September 01, 2020, the violation of which can lead to significant legal and professional consequences, including potential lawsuits, disciplinary action, and civil or criminal liability.

We request that you immediately cease and desist all further use of the "Democrats Abroad" mark in a manner that implies affiliation and does not make it clear that it is a different organization that might be of interest to your members. Specifically, we ask that you immediately remove the reference to Democrats Abroad cited above in your Mobilize publication. In addition, we request that, going forward, you will not use the name Democrats Abroad in any country to imply that you are a part or a branch of this organization without our explicit permission.

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You have linked to the website of Democrats Abroad France, which is acceptable provided that it is clear that Democrats Abroad is a different organization that might be of interest to your members. In fact, there is already within Democrats Abroad a caucus, the Progressive Caucus, which offers members a chance to advocate and discuss the types of issues that might be of interest to your members.

We will very much appreciate your prompt response to this matter. We expressly reserve all rights and remedies available to us under law, including any rights to seek an injunction, and recovery of legal fees. We strongly urge you to consult with legal counsel to fully understand the implications of any continued unauthorized use.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have relating to this matter. I have copied Kate Sawyer, International Legal Counsel of Democrats Abroad, with whom I have consulted on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph Voelker  
Democrats Abroad France - Counsel

Joseph Voelker  
DA France - Counsel