

990

Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

OMB No. 1545-

0047 2020

Open to Public Inspection

Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except private foundation): Do not enter social security numbers on this form as it may be made public.

Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.

Form 990 Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service

A For the 2020 calendar year, or tax year beginning 01-01-2020, and ending 12-31-2020

- B Check if applicable: Address change, Name change, Initial return, Final return/terminated, Amended return, Application pending

C Name of organization: CAUSE OF ACTION INSTITUTE, % KARA HARTNETT, Doing business as, 1310 N COURTHOUSE RD STE 700, ARLINGTON, VA 22201

D Employer identification number: 45-2805977, E Telephone number: (571) 290-6811, G Gross receipts \$ 1,114,101

F Name and address of principal officer: JAMES VALVO EXECUTIVE DIR, 1310 N COURTHOUSE RD SUITE, ARLINGTON, VA 22201

H(a) Is this a group return for subordinates? No, H(b) Are all subordinates included? No, H(c) Group exemption number

I Tax-exempt status: 501(c)(3)

J Website: WWW.CAUSEOFACTION.ORG

K Form of organization: Corporation

L Year of formation: 2011, M State of legal domicile: DE

Part I Summary

1 Briefly describe the organization's mission or most significant activities: SEE SCHEDULE O

Table with 2 columns: Description, Amount. Rows 2-7b: 2 Check this box, 3 Number of voting members, 4 Number of independent voting members, 5 Total number of individuals employed, 6 Total number of volunteers, 7a Total unrelated business revenue, 7b Net unrelated business taxable income.

Table with 3 columns: Description, Prior Year, Current Year. Rows 8-12: 8 Contributions and grants, 9 Program service revenue, 10 Investment income, 11 Other revenue, 12 Total revenue.

Table with 3 columns: Description, Prior Year, Current Year. Rows 13-19: 13 Grants and similar amounts paid, 14 Benefits paid to or for members, 15 Salaries, other compensation, 16a Professional fundraising fees, 16b Total fundraising expenses, 17 Other expenses, 18 Total expenses, 19 Revenue less expenses.

Table with 3 columns: Description, Beginning of Current Year, End of Year. Rows 20-22: 20 Total assets, 21 Total liabilities, 22 Net assets or fund balances.

Part II Signature Block

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete.

Sign Here: Signature of officer, Date: 2021-11-15, Name: JAMES VALVO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Paid Preparer Use Only: Print/Type preparer's name, Preparer's signature, Date: 2021-11-15, Check self-employed, PTIN: P00482834, Firm's name: BKD LLP, Firm's EIN, Firm's address: 1201 Walnut Suite 1700, Kansas City, MO 641062246, Phone no. (816) 221-6300

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? (see instructions) Yes No

**Part III Statement of Program Service Accomplishments**

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part III . . . . .

**1** Briefly describe the organization's mission:

SEE SCHEDULE O

**2** Did the organization undertake any significant program services during the year which were not listed on the prior Form 990 or 990-EZ? . . . . .  Yes  No

If "Yes," describe these new services on Schedule O.

**3** Did the organization cease conducting, or make significant changes in how it conducts, any program services? . . . . .  Yes  No

If "Yes," describe these changes on Schedule O.

**4** Describe the organization's program service accomplishments for each of its three largest program services, as measured by expenses. Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations are required to report the amount of grants and allocations to others, the total expenses, and revenue, if any, for each program service reported.

**4a** (Code: ) (Expenses \$ **856,385** including grants of \$ **0**) (Revenue \$ **0**)  
CAUSE OF ACTION INSTITUTE USES RESEARCH UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT AND LEGAL ADMINISTRATIVE FILINGS TO STIMULATE PUBLIC EDUCATION AND REFORM CONCERNING (1) GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY, TRANSPARENCY, AND FEDERAL SPENDING OVERSIGHT, (2) GOVERNMENT OVERREACH AND REGULATORY ABUSE, AND (3) CRONYISM. SEE SCHEDULE O FOR CONTINUATION.















**4b** (Code: ) (Expenses \$ including grants of \$ ) (Revenue \$ )

**4c** (Code: ) (Expenses \$ including grants of \$ ) (Revenue \$ )

**4d** Other program services (Describe in Schedule O.)  
(Expenses \$ including grants of \$ ) (Revenue \$ )

**4e** Total program service expenses **856,385**

**Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules**

		Yes	No
<b>1</b>	Is the organization described in section 501(c)(3) or 4947(a)(1) (other than a private foundation)? If "Yes," complete Schedule A 	Yes	
<b>2</b>	Is the organization required to complete Schedule B, Schedule of Contributors (see instructions)? 	Yes	
<b>3</b>	Did the organization engage in direct or indirect political campaign activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part I . . . . .		No
<b>4</b>	<b>Section 501(c)(3) organizations.</b> Did the organization engage in lobbying activities, or have a section 501(h) election in effect during the tax year? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part II . . . . .		No
<b>5</b>	Is the organization a section 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), or 501(c)(6) organization that receives membership dues, assessments, or similar amounts as defined in Revenue Procedure 98-19? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part III . . . . .		No
<b>6</b>	Did the organization maintain any donor advised funds or any similar funds or accounts for which donors have the right to provide advice on the distribution or investment of amounts in such funds or accounts? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part I 		No
<b>7</b>	Did the organization receive or hold a conservation easement, including easements to preserve open space, the environment, historic land areas, or historic structures? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part II 		No
<b>8</b>	Did the organization maintain collections of works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part III 		No
<b>9</b>	Did the organization report an amount in Part X, line 21 for escrow or custodial account liability; serve as a custodian for amounts not listed in Part X; or provide credit counseling, debt management, credit repair, or debt negotiation services? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IV 		No
<b>10</b>	Did the organization, directly or through a related organization, hold assets in temporarily restricted endowments, permanent endowments, or quasi endowments? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part V 		No
<b>11</b>	If the organization's answer to any of the following questions is "Yes," then complete Schedule D, Parts VI, VII, VIII, IX, or X as applicable.		
<b>a</b>	Did the organization report an amount for land, buildings, and equipment in Part X, line 10? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VI. 	Yes	
<b>b</b>	Did the organization report an amount for investments—other securities in Part X, line 12 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VII 		No
<b>c</b>	Did the organization report an amount for investments—program related in Part X, line 13 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VIII 		No
<b>d</b>	Did the organization report an amount for other assets in Part X, line 15 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IX 		No
<b>e</b>	Did the organization report an amount for other liabilities in Part X, line 25? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X 		No
<b>f</b>	Did the organization's separate or consolidated financial statements for the tax year include a footnote that addresses the organization's liability for uncertain tax positions under FIN 48 (ASC 740)?		No
<b>12a</b>	If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Parts XI and XII 		No
<b>b</b>	Was the organization included in consolidated, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? If "Yes," and if the organization answered "No" to line 12a, then completing Schedule D, Parts XI and XII is optional 		No
<b>13</b>	Is the organization a school described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? If "Yes," complete Schedule E		No
<b>14a</b>	Did the organization maintain an office, employees, or agents outside of the United States? . . . . .		No
<b>b</b>	Did the organization have aggregate revenues or expenses of more than \$10,000 from grantmaking, fundraising, business, investment, and program service activities outside the United States, or aggregate foreign investments valued at \$100,000 or more? If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts I and IV		No
<b>15</b>	Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to or for any foreign organization? If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts II and IV . . . . .		No
<b>16</b>	Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of aggregate grants or other assistance to or for foreign individuals? If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts III and IV . . . . .		No
<b>17</b>	Did the organization report a total of more than \$15,000 of expenses for professional fundraising services on Part IX, column (A), lines 6 and 11e? If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part I (see instructions) . . . . .		No
<b>18</b>	Did the organization report more than \$15,000 total of fundraising event gross income and contributions on Part VIII, lines 1c and 8a? If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part II . . . . .		No
<b>19</b>	Did the organization report more than \$15,000 of gross income from gaming activities on Part VIII, line 9a? If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part III . . . . .		No
<b>20a</b>	Did the organization operate one or more hospital facilities? If "Yes," complete Schedule H . . . . .		No
<b>b</b>	If "Yes" to line 20a, did the organization attach a copy of its audited financial statements to this return?		
<b>21</b>	Did the organization report more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to any domestic organization or domestic government on Part IX, column (A), line 1? If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and II		No

Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules (continued)

Table with 3 columns: Question ID, Question Text, and Yes/No columns. Rows include questions 22 through 38 regarding tax-exempt bond issues, excess benefit transactions, and related party transactions.

Part V Statements Regarding Other IRS Filings and Tax Compliance

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part V [ ]

Table with 3 columns: Question ID, Question Text, and Yes/No columns. Rows include questions 1a, 1b, and 1c regarding Form 1096, Forms W-2G, and gaming winnings.

Part V Statements Regarding Other IRS Filings and Tax Compliance (continued)

Main form area containing questions 2a through 16, with various input fields and checkboxes. Includes sub-sections for Organizations that may receive deductible contributions under section 170(c), Sponsoring organizations maintaining donor advised funds, and Section 501(c)(7) and 501(c)(12) organizations.

Part VI Governance, Management, and Disclosure For each "Yes" response to lines 2 through 7b below, and for a "No" response to lines 8a, 8b, or 10b below, describe the circumstances, processes, or changes in Schedule O. See instructions. Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VI



Section A. Governing Body and Management

Table with 3 columns: Question, Yes, No. Rows include: 1a Enter the number of voting members... 1b Enter the number of voting members... 2 Did any officer, director, trustee... 3 Did the organization delegate control... 4 Did the organization make any significant changes... 5 Did the organization become aware... 6 Did the organization have members... 7a Did the organization have members... 7b Are any governance decisions... 8 Did the organization contemporaneously document... 8a The governing body? 8b Each committee... 9 Is there any officer, director, trustee...

Section B. Policies (This Section B requests information about policies not required by the Internal Revenue Code.)

Table with 3 columns: Question, Yes, No. Rows include: 10a Did the organization have local chapters... 10b If "Yes," did the organization have written policies... 11a Has the organization provided a complete copy... 11b Describe in Schedule O the process... 12a Did the organization have a written conflict of interest policy... 12b Were officers, directors, or trustees... 12c Did the organization regularly and consistently monitor... 13 Did the organization have a written whistleblower policy... 14 Did the organization have a written document retention... 15 Did the process for determining compensation... 15a The organization's CEO... 15b Other officers or key employees... 16a Did the organization invest in, contribute assets to... 16b If "Yes," did the organization follow a written policy...

Section C. Disclosure

Table with 2 columns: Question, Answer. Rows include: 17 List the states with which a copy of this Form 990 is required... 18 Section 6104 requires an organization to make its Form 1023... 19 Describe in Schedule O whether (and if so, how) the organization made its governing documents... 20 State the name, address, and telephone number of the person who possesses the organization's books and records: KARA HARTNETT 1320 N COURTHOUSE ROAD STE 300 ARLINGTON, VA 22201 (571) 290-6811





**Part VIII Statement of Revenue**

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VIII

		(A) Total revenue	(B) Related or exempt function revenue	(C) Unrelated business revenue	(D) Revenue excluded from tax under sections 512 - 514
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<b>Contributions, Gifts, Grants and Other Similar Amounts</b>	<b>1a</b> Federated campaigns . . .	<b>1a</b>			
	<b>b</b> Membership dues . . .	<b>1b</b>			
	<b>c</b> Fundraising events . . .	<b>1c</b>			
	<b>d</b> Related organizations	<b>1d</b>			
	<b>e</b> Government grants (contributions)	<b>1e</b>			
	<b>f</b> All other contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts not included above	<b>1f</b>	1,100,000		
<b>g</b> Noncash contributions included in lines 1a - 1f:\$	<b>1g</b>				
<b>h Total.</b> Add lines 1a-1f . . . . .			1,100,000		

<b>Program Service Revenue</b>		Business Code			
		<b>2a</b>			
<b>b</b>					
<b>c</b>					
<b>d</b>					
<b>e</b>					
<b>f</b>	All other program service revenue.				
<b>g Total.</b> Add lines 2a-2f. . . . .			0		

<b>Other Revenue</b>	<b>3</b> Investment income (including dividends, interest, and other similar amounts)		602		602	
	<b>4</b> Income from investment of tax-exempt bond proceeds		0			
	<b>5</b> Royalties . . . . .		0			
	<b>6a</b> Gross rents	(i) Real				
		(ii) Personal				
		<b>6b</b> Less: rental expenses				
		<b>6c</b> Rental income or (loss)	0	0		
	<b>d</b> Net rental income or (loss) . . . . .		0			
	<b>7a</b> Gross amount from sales of assets other than inventory	(i) Securities				
		(ii) Other				
		<b>7b</b> Less: cost or other basis and sales expenses				
		<b>7c</b> Gain or (loss)				
	<b>d</b> Net gain or (loss) . . . . .		0			
	<b>8a</b> Gross income from fundraising events (not including \$ _____ of contributions reported on line 1c). See Part IV, line 18 . . . . .	<b>8a</b>		0		
		<b>8b</b> Less: direct expenses		0		
<b>c</b> Net income or (loss) from fundraising events . . . . .			0			
<b>9a</b> Gross income from gaming activities. See Part IV, line 19 . . . . .	<b>9a</b>		0			
	<b>9b</b> Less: direct expenses		0			
	<b>c</b> Net income or (loss) from gaming activities . . . . .		0			
<b>10a</b> Gross sales of inventory, less						

returns and allowances . . .	<b>10a</b>	0			
<b>b</b> Less: cost of goods sold	<b>10b</b>	0			
<b>c</b> Net income or (loss) from sales of inventory . . .			0		
Miscellaneous Revenue	Business Code				
<b>11a</b> OTHER INCOME			13,499		13,499
<b>b</b>					
<b>c</b>					
<b>d</b> All other revenue . . . . .					
<b>e Total.</b> Add lines 11a-11d . . . . .			13,499		
<b>12 Total revenue.</b> See instructions . . . . .			1,114,101		14,101

**Part IX Statement of Functional Expenses**

Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations must complete all columns. All other organizations must complete column (A).  
 Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part IX

<b>Do not include amounts reported on lines 6b, 7b, 8b, 9b, and 10b of Part VIII.</b>	<b>(A)</b> Total expenses	<b>(B)</b> Program service expenses	<b>(C)</b> Management and general expenses	<b>(D)</b> Fundraising expenses
<b>1</b> Grants and other assistance to domestic organizations and domestic governments. See Part IV, line 21	0			
<b>2</b> Grants and other assistance to domestic individuals. See Part IV, line 22	0			
<b>3</b> Grants and other assistance to foreign organizations, foreign governments, and foreign individuals. See Part IV, lines 15 and 16.	0			
<b>4</b> Benefits paid to or for members	0			
<b>5</b> Compensation of current officers, directors, trustees, and key employees	0			
<b>6</b> Compensation not included above, to disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)) and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B)	0			
<b>7</b> Other salaries and wages	0			
<b>8</b> Pension plan accruals and contributions (include section 401(k) and 403(b) employer contributions)	0			
<b>9</b> Other employee benefits	0			
<b>10</b> Payroll taxes	0			
<b>11</b> Fees for services (non-employees):				
<b>a</b> Management	0			
<b>b</b> Legal	89,507	89,507		
<b>c</b> Accounting	11,883	11	11,872	
<b>d</b> Lobbying	0			
<b>e</b> Professional fundraising services. See Part IV, line 17	0			
<b>f</b> Investment management fees	0			
<b>g</b> Other (If line 11g amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 11g expenses on Schedule O)	81,063	81,063		
<b>12</b> Advertising and promotion	25,595	25,595		
<b>13</b> Office expenses	1,022	1,022		
<b>14</b> Information technology	0			
<b>15</b> Royalties	0			
<b>16</b> Occupancy	590,200	542,984	47,216	
<b>17</b> Travel	728	728		
<b>18</b> Payments of travel or entertainment expenses for any federal, state, or local public officials	0			
<b>19</b> Conferences, conventions, and meetings	185	10	175	
<b>20</b> Interest	0			
<b>21</b> Payments to affiliates	0			
<b>22</b> Depreciation, depletion, and amortization	40,873		40,873	
<b>23</b> Insurance	715		715	
<b>24</b> Other expenses. Itemize expenses not covered above (List miscellaneous expenses in line 24e. If line 24e amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 24e expenses on Schedule O.)				
<b>a</b> DUES & SUBSCRIPTIONS	79,502	79,502		
<b>b</b> EQUIPMENT RENTAL	22,147	22,147		
<b>c</b> TELECOMMUNICATIONS	13,816	13,816		
<b>d</b>				
<b>e</b> All other expenses				
<b>25</b> <b>Total functional expenses.</b> Add lines 1 through 24e	957,236	856,385	100,851	0
<b>26</b> <b>Joint costs.</b> Complete this line only if the organization reported in column (B) joint costs from a combined educational campaign and fundraising solicitation. Check here <input type="checkbox"/> if following SOP 98-2 (ASC 958-720).				

**Part X Balance Sheet**

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part IX

		(A) Beginning of year		(B) End of year
<b>Assets</b>	<b>1</b> Cash-non-interest-bearing . . . . .	182,528	<b>1</b>	140,006
	<b>2</b> Savings and temporary cash investments	261,162	<b>2</b>	183,764
	<b>3</b> Pledges and grants receivable, net . . . . .	0	<b>3</b>	0
	<b>4</b> Accounts receivable, net . . . . .	13,230	<b>4</b>	0
	<b>5</b> Loans and other payables to any current or former officer, director, trustee, key employee, creator or founder, substantial contributor, or 35% controlled entity or family member of any of these persons	0	<b>5</b>	0
	<b>6</b> Loans and other receivables from other disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)), and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B)	0	<b>6</b>	0
	<b>7</b> Notes and loans receivable, net . . . . .	0	<b>7</b>	0
	<b>8</b> Inventories for sale or use . . . . .	0	<b>8</b>	0
	<b>9</b> Prepaid expenses and deferred charges . . . . .	61,921	<b>9</b>	61,623
	<b>10a</b> Land, buildings, and equipment: cost or other basis. Complete Part VI of Schedule D	<b>10a</b> 193,448		
	<b>b</b> Less: accumulated depreciation	<b>10b</b> 185,816	48,504	<b>10c</b> 7,632
	<b>11</b> Investments—publicly traded securities . . . . .	0	<b>11</b>	0
	<b>12</b> Investments—other securities. See Part IV, line 11 . . . . .	0	<b>12</b>	0
	<b>13</b> Investments—program-related. See Part IV, line 11 . . . . .	0	<b>13</b>	0
	<b>14</b> Intangible assets . . . . .	0	<b>14</b>	0
	<b>15</b> Other assets. See Part IV, line 11	0	<b>15</b>	0
<b>16 Total assets:</b> Add lines 1 through 15 (must equal line 33) . . . . .	567,345	<b>16</b>	393,025	
<b>Liabilities</b>	<b>17</b> Accounts payable and accrued expenses . . . . .	441,410	<b>17</b>	110,225
	<b>18</b> Grants payable . . . . .	0	<b>18</b>	0
	<b>19</b> Deferred revenue . . . . .	0	<b>19</b>	0
	<b>20</b> Tax-exempt bond liabilities . . . . .	0	<b>20</b>	0
	<b>21</b> Escrow or custodial account liability. Complete Part IV of Schedule D	0	<b>21</b>	0
	<b>22</b> Loans and other payables to any current or former officer, director, trustee, key employee, creator or founder, substantial contributor, or 35% controlled entity or family member of any of these persons	0	<b>22</b>	0
	<b>23</b> Secured mortgages and notes payable to unrelated third parties . . . . .	0	<b>23</b>	0
	<b>24</b> Unsecured notes and loans payable to unrelated third parties . . . . .	0	<b>24</b>	0
	<b>25</b> Other liabilities (including federal income tax, payables to related third parties, and other liabilities not included on lines 17 - 24). Complete Part X of Schedule D	0	<b>25</b>	0
	<b>26 Total liabilities.</b> Add lines 17 through 25 . . . . .	441,410	<b>26</b>	110,225
<b>Net Assets or Fund Balances</b>	<b>Organizations that follow FASB ASC 958, check here <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> and complete lines 27, 28, 32, and 33.</b>			
	<b>27</b> Net assets without donor restrictions . . . . .	125,935	<b>27</b>	282,800
	<b>28</b> Net assets with donor restrictions	0	<b>28</b>	0
	<b>Organizations that do not follow FASB ASC 958, check here <input type="checkbox"/> and complete lines 29 through 33.</b>			
	<b>29</b> Capital stock or trust principal, or current funds . . . . .		<b>29</b>	
	<b>30</b> Paid-in or capital surplus, or land, building or equipment fund . . . . .		<b>30</b>	
	<b>31</b> Retained earnings, endowment, accumulated income, or other funds		<b>31</b>	
	<b>32</b> Total net assets or fund balances	125,935	<b>32</b>	282,800
<b>33</b> Total liabilities and net assets/fund balances	567,345	<b>33</b>	393,025	

**Part XI Reconciliation of Net Assets**

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part XI

<b>1</b>	Total revenue (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	<b>1</b>	1,114,101
<b>2</b>	Total expenses (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	<b>2</b>	957,236
<b>3</b>	Revenue less expenses. Subtract line 2 from line 1	<b>3</b>	156,865
<b>4</b>	Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (must equal Part X, line 32, column (A))	<b>4</b>	125,935
<b>5</b>	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	<b>5</b>	
<b>6</b>	Donated services and use of facilities	<b>6</b>	
<b>7</b>	Investment expenses	<b>7</b>	
<b>8</b>	Prior period adjustments	<b>8</b>	
<b>9</b>	Other changes in net assets or fund balances (explain in Schedule O)	<b>9</b>	
<b>10</b>	Net assets or fund balances at end of year. Combine lines 3 through 9 (must equal Part X, line 32, column (A))	<b>10</b>	282,800

**Part XII Financial Statements and Reporting**

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part XII

		Yes	No
<b>1</b>	Accounting method used to prepare the Form 990: <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accrual <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ If the organization changed its method of accounting from a prior year or checked "Other," explain in Schedule O.		
<b>2a</b>	Were the organization's financial statements compiled or reviewed by an independent accountant? If 'Yes,' check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were compiled or reviewed on a separate basis, consolidated basis, or both: <input type="checkbox"/> Separate basis <input type="checkbox"/> Consolidated basis <input type="checkbox"/> Both consolidated and separate basis		No
<b>2b</b>	Were the organization's financial statements audited by an independent accountant? If 'Yes,' check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were audited on a separate basis, consolidated basis, or both: <input type="checkbox"/> Separate basis <input type="checkbox"/> Consolidated basis <input type="checkbox"/> Both consolidated and separate basis		No
<b>2c</b>	If "Yes," to line 2a or 2b, does the organization have a committee that assumes responsibility for oversight of the audit, review, or compilation of its financial statements and selection of an independent accountant? If the organization changed either its oversight process or selection process during the tax year, explain in Schedule O.		
<b>3a</b>	As a result of a federal award, was the organization required to undergo an audit or audits as set forth in the Single Audit Act and OMB Circular A-133?		No
<b>3b</b>	If "Yes," did the organization undergo the required audit or audits? If the organization did not undergo the required audit or audits, explain why in Schedule O and describe any steps taken to undergo such audits.		

**Additional Data**

**Return to Form**

**Software ID:**

**Software Version:**

**Form 990, Special Condition Description:**

**Special Condition Description**

2020

Open to Public Inspection

**SCHEDULE A**  
**(Form 990 or 990EZ)**

**Public Charity Status and Public Support**

Complete if the organization is a section 501(c)(3) organization or a section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trust.  
▶ Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.  
▶ Go to [www.irs.gov/Form990](http://www.irs.gov/Form990) for instructions and the latest information.

Department of the Treasury

Internal Revenue Service  
**Name of the organization**  
CAUSE OF ACTION INSTITUTE

**Employer identification number**

45-2805977

**Part I Reason for Public Charity Status** (All organizations must complete this part.) See instructions.

The organization is not a private foundation because it is: (For lines 1 through 12, check only one box.)

- 1  A church, convention of churches, or association of churches described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(i)**.
- 2  A school described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)**. (Attach Schedule E (Form 990 or 990-EZ).)
- 3  A hospital or a cooperative hospital service organization described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii)**.
- 4  A medical research organization operated in conjunction with a hospital described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii)**. Enter the hospital's name, city, and state:
- 5  An organization operated for the benefit of a college or university owned or operated by a governmental unit described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iv)**. (Complete Part II.)
- 6  A federal, state, or local government or governmental unit described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(v)**.
- 7  An organization that normally receives a substantial part of its support from a governmental unit or from the general public described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)**. (Complete Part II.)
- 8  A community trust described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)**. (Complete Part II.)
- 9  An agricultural research organization described in **170(b)(1)(A)(ix)** operated in conjunction with a land-grant college or university or a non-land grant college of agriculture. See instructions. Enter the name, city, and state of the college or university:
- 10  An organization that normally receives: (1) more than 33 1/3% of its support from contributions, membership fees, and gross receipts from activities related to its exempt functions—subject to certain exceptions, and (2) no more than 33 1/3% of its support from gross investment income and unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 tax) from businesses acquired by the organization after June 30, 1975. See **section 509(a)(2)**. (Complete Part III.)
- 11  An organization organized and operated exclusively to test for public safety. See **section 509(a)(4)**.
- 12  An organization organized and operated exclusively for the benefit of, to perform the functions of, or to carry out the purposes of one or more publicly supported organizations described in **section 509(a)(1)** or **section 509(a)(2)**. See **section 509(a)(3)**. Check the box in lines 12a through 12d that describes the type of supporting organization and complete lines 12e, 12f, and 12g.
  - a  **Type I.** A supporting organization operated, supervised, or controlled by its supported organization(s), typically by giving the supported organization(s) the power to regularly appoint or elect a majority of the directors or trustees of the supporting organization. **You must complete Part IV, Sections A and B.**
  - b  **Type II.** A supporting organization supervised or controlled in connection with its supported organization(s), by having control or management of the supporting organization vested in the same persons that control or manage the supported organization(s). **You must complete Part IV, Sections A and C.**
  - c  **Type III functionally integrated.** A supporting organization operated in connection with, and functionally integrated with, its supported organization(s) (see instructions). **You must complete Part IV, Sections A, D, and E.**
  - d  **Type III non-functionally integrated.** A supporting organization operated in connection with its supported organization(s) that is not functionally integrated. The organization generally must satisfy a distribution requirement and an attentiveness requirement (see instructions). **You must complete Part IV, Sections A and D, and Part V.**
  - e  Check this box if the organization received a written determination from the IRS that it is a Type I, Type II, Type III functionally integrated, or Type III non-functionally integrated supporting organization.
  - f Enter the number of supported organizations . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
  - g Provide the following information about the supported organization(s).

(i) Name of supported organization	(ii) EIN	(iii) Type of organization (described on lines 1- 10 above (see instructions))	(iv) Is the organization listed in your governing document?		(v) Amount of monetary support (see instructions)	(vi) Amount of other support (see instructions)
			Yes	No		
<b>Total</b>						

Part II Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Sections 170(b)(1)(A)(iv) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)
(Complete only if you checked the box on line 5, 7, or 8 of Part I or if the organization failed to qualify under Part III. If the organization failed to qualify under the tests listed below, please complete Part III.)

Section A. Public Support

Table with 7 columns: Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in), (a) 2016, (b) 2017, (c) 2018, (d) 2019, (e) 2020, (f) Total. Rows include: 1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received; 2 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit; 3 Value of services or facilities furnished; 4 Total; 5 Portion of total contributions exceeding 2%; 6 Public support.

Section B. Total Support

Table with 7 columns: Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in), (a) 2016, (b) 2017, (c) 2018, (d) 2019, (e) 2020, (f) Total. Rows include: 7 Amounts from line 4; 8 Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties and income from similar sources; 9 Net income from unrelated business activities; 10 Other income; 11 Total support.

12 Gross receipts from related activities, etc. (see instructions)
13 First 5 years. If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and stop here

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage

Table with 2 columns: Line number, Percentage. Row 14: Public support percentage for 2020 (line 6, column (f) divided by line 11, column (f)) 95.593%. Row 15: Public support percentage for 2019 Schedule A, Part II, line 14 97.027%.

16a 33 1/3% support test—2020. If the organization did not check the box on line 13, and line 14 is 33 1/3% or more, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization.
b 33 1/3% support test—2019. If the organization did not check a box on line 13 or 16a, and line 15 is 33 1/3% or more, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization.
17a 10%-facts-and-circumstances test—2020. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, or 16b, and line 14 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test, check this box and stop here. Explain in Part VI how the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization.
b 10%-facts-and-circumstances test—2019. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, or 17a, and line 15 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test, check this box and stop here. Explain in Part VI how the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization.
18 Private foundation. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, 17a, or 17b, check this box and see instructions.

**Part III Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Section 509(a)(2)**

(Complete only if you checked the box on line 10 of Part I or if the organization failed to qualify under Part II. If the organization fails to qualify under the tests listed below, please complete Part II.)

**Section A. Public Support**

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ►	(a) 2016	(b) 2017	(c) 2018	(d) 2019	(e) 2020	(f) Total
<b>1</b> Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received. (Do not include any "unusual grants.") .						
<b>2</b> Gross receipts from admissions, merchandise sold or services performed, or facilities furnished in any activity that is related to the organization's tax-exempt purpose						
<b>3</b> Gross receipts from activities that are not an unrelated trade or business under section 513 . . . . .						
<b>4</b> Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf . . . .						
<b>5</b> The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge						
<b>6 Total.</b> Add lines 1 through 5						
<b>7a</b> Amounts included on lines 1, 2, and 3 received from disqualified persons						
<b>b</b> Amounts included on lines 2 and 3 received from other than disqualified persons that exceed the greater of \$5,000 or 1% of the amount on line 13 for the year.						
<b>c</b> Add lines 7a and 7b. .						
<b>8 Public support.</b> (Subtract line 7c from line 6.)						

**Section B. Total Support**

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ►	(a) 2016	(b) 2017	(c) 2018	(d) 2019	(e) 2020	(f) Total
<b>9</b> Amounts from line 6. . . . .						
<b>10a</b> Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties and income from similar sources . .						
<b>b</b> Unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 taxes) from businesses acquired after June 30, 1975.						
<b>c</b> Add lines 10a and 10b.						
<b>11</b> Net income from unrelated business activities not included in line 10b, whether or not the business is regularly carried on.						
<b>12</b> Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part VI.) . . .						
<b>13 Total support.</b> (Add lines 9, 10c, 11, and 12.) . . . . .						
<b>14 First 5 years.</b> If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and <b>stop here.</b> . . . . . <input type="checkbox"/>						

**Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage**

<b>15</b> Public support percentage for 2020 (line 8, column (f) divided by line 13, column (f)) . . . . .	<b>15</b>	
<b>16</b> Public support percentage from 2019 Schedule A, Part III, line 15 . . . . .	<b>16</b>	

**Section D. Computation of Investment Income Percentage**

<b>17</b> Investment income percentage for <b>2020</b> (line 10c, column (f) divided by line 13, column (f)) . . . . .	<b>17</b>	
<b>18</b> Investment income percentage from <b>2019</b> Schedule A, Part III, line 17 . . . . .	<b>18</b>	

**19a 33 1/3% support tests—2020.** If the organization did not check the box on line 14, and line 15 is more than 33 1/3%, and line 17 is not more than 33 1/3%, check this box and **stop here.** The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization . . . . .

**b 33 1/3% support tests—2019.** If the organization did not check a box on line 14 or line 19a, and line 16 is more than 33 1/3% and line 18 is not more than 33 1/3%, check this box and **stop here.** The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization . . . . .

**20 Private foundation.** If the organization did not check a box on line 14, 19a, or 19b, check this box and see instructions . . . . .

**Part IV Supporting Organizations**

(Complete only if you checked a box on line 12 of Part I. If you checked box 12a, of Part I, complete Sections A and B. If you checked box 12b, of Part I, complete Sections A and C. If you checked box 12c, of Part I, complete Sections A, D, and E. If you checked box 12d, of Part I, complete Sections A and D, and complete Part V.)

**Section A. All Supporting Organizations**

		Yes	No
<b>1</b>	Are all of the organization's supported organizations listed by name in the organization's governing documents? <i>If "No," describe in Part VI how the supported organizations are designated. If designated by class or purpose, describe the designation. If historic and continuing relationship, explain.</i>		
<b>2</b>	Did the organization have any supported organization that does not have an IRS determination of status under section 509(a)(1) or (2)? <i>If "Yes," explain in Part VI how the organization determined that the supported organization was described in section 509(a)(1) or (2).</i>		
<b>3a</b>	Did the organization have a supported organization described in section 501(c)(4), (5), or (6)? <i>If "Yes," answer lines 3b and 3c below.</i>		
<b>b</b>	Did the organization confirm that each supported organization qualified under section 501(c)(4), (5), or (6) and satisfied the public support tests under section 509(a)(2)? <i>If "Yes," describe in Part VI when and how the organization made the determination.</i>		
<b>c</b>	Did the organization ensure that all support to such organizations was used exclusively for section 170(c)(2)(B) purposes? <i>If "Yes," explain in Part VI what controls the organization put in place to ensure such use.</i>		
<b>4a</b>	Was any supported organization not organized in the United States ("foreign supported organization")? <i>If "Yes" and if you checked box 12a or 12b in Part I, answer lines 4b and 4c below.</i>		
<b>b</b>	Did the organization have ultimate control and discretion in deciding whether to make grants to the foreign supported organization? <i>If "Yes," describe in Part VI how the organization had such control and discretion despite being controlled or supervised by or in connection with its supported organizations.</i>		
<b>c</b>	Did the organization support any foreign supported organization that does not have an IRS determination under sections 501(c)(3) and 509(a)(1) or (2)? <i>If "Yes," explain in Part VI what controls the organization used to ensure that all support to the foreign supported organization was used exclusively for section 170(c)(2)(B) purposes.</i>		
<b>5a</b>	Did the organization add, substitute, or remove any supported organizations during the tax year? <i>If "Yes," answer lines 5b and 5c below (if applicable). Also, provide detail in Part VI, including (i) the names and EIN numbers of the supported organizations added, substituted, or removed; (ii) the reasons for each such action; (iii) the authority under the organization's organizing document authorizing such action; and (iv) how the action was accomplished (such as by amendment to the organizing document).</i>		
<b>b</b>	<b>Type I or Type II only.</b> Was any added or substituted supported organization part of a class already designated in the organization's organizing document?		
<b>c</b>	<b>Substitutions only.</b> Was the substitution the result of an event beyond the organization's control?		
<b>6</b>	Did the organization provide support (whether in the form of grants or the provision of services or facilities) to anyone other than (i) its supported organizations, (ii) individuals that are part of the charitable class benefited by one or more of its supported organizations, or (iii) other supporting organizations that also support or benefit one or more of the filing organization's supported organizations? <i>If "Yes," provide detail in Part VI.</i>		
<b>7</b>	Did the organization provide a grant, loan, compensation, or other similar payment to a substantial contributor (defined in section 4958(c)(3)(C)), a family member of a substantial contributor, or a 35% controlled entity with regard to a substantial contributor? <i>If "Yes," complete Part I of Schedule L (Form 990 or 990-EZ) .</i>		
<b>8</b>	Did the organization make a loan to a disqualified person (as defined in section 4958) not described in line 7? <i>If "Yes," complete Part I of Schedule L (Form 990 or 990-EZ).</i>		
<b>9a</b>	Was the organization controlled directly or indirectly at any time during the tax year by one or more disqualified persons, as defined in section 4946 (other than foundation managers and organizations described in section 509(a)(1) or (2))? <i>If "Yes," provide detail in Part VI.</i>		
<b>b</b>	Did one or more disqualified persons (as defined in line 9a) hold a controlling interest in any entity in which the supporting organization had an interest? <i>If "Yes," provide detail in Part VI.</i>		
<b>c</b>	Did a disqualified person (as defined in line 9a) have an ownership interest in, or derive any personal benefit from, assets in which the supporting organization also had an interest? <i>If "Yes," provide detail in Part VI.</i>		
<b>10a</b>	Was the organization subject to the excess business holdings rules of section 4943 because of section 4943(f) (regarding certain Type II supporting organizations, and all Type III non-functionally integrated supporting organizations)? <i>If "Yes," answer line 10b below.</i>		
<b>b</b>	Did the organization have any excess business holdings in the tax year? <i>(Use Schedule C, Form 4720, to determine whether the organization had excess business holdings).</i>		

**Part IV Supporting Organizations** (continued)

- 11** Has the organization accepted a gift or contribution from any of the following persons?
 

	Yes	No
<b>a</b> A person who directly or indirectly controls, either alone or together with persons described in lines 11b and 11c below, the governing body of a supported organization?		
<b>b</b> A family member of a person described in 11a above?		
<b>c</b> A 35% controlled entity of a person described in line 11a or 11b above? <i>If "Yes" to 11a, 11b, or 11c, provide detail in Part VI.</i>		

**Section B. Type I Supporting Organizations**

- 1** Did the officers, directors, trustees, or membership of one or more supported organizations have the power to regularly appoint or elect at least a majority of the organization's directors or trustees at all times during the tax year? *If "No," describe in Part VI how the supported organization(s) effectively operated, supervised, or controlled the organization's activities. If the organization had more than one supported organization, describe how the powers to appoint and/or remove directors or trustees were allocated among the supported organizations and what conditions or restrictions, if any, applied to such powers during the tax year.*

	Yes	No
<b>1</b>		
- 2** Did the organization operate for the benefit of any supported organization other than the supported organization(s) that operated, supervised, or controlled the supporting organization? *If "Yes," explain in Part VI how providing such benefit carried out the purposes of the supported organization(s) that operated, supervised or controlled the supporting organization.*

	Yes	No
<b>2</b>		

**Section C. Type II Supporting Organizations**

- 1** Were a majority of the organization's directors or trustees during the tax year also a majority of the directors or trustees of each of the organization's supported organization(s)? *If "No," describe in Part VI how control or management of the supporting organization was vested in the same persons that controlled or managed the supported organization(s).*

	Yes	No
<b>1</b>		

**Section D. All Type III Supporting Organizations**

- 1** Did the organization provide to each of its supported organizations, by the last day of the fifth month of the organization's tax year, (i) a written notice describing the type and amount of support provided during the prior tax year, (ii) a copy of the Form 990 that was most recently filed as of the date of notification, and (iii) copies of the organization's governing documents in effect on the date of notification, to the extent not previously provided?
 

	Yes	No
<b>1</b>		
- 2** Were any of the organization's officers, directors, or trustees either (i) appointed or elected by the supported organization(s) or (ii) serving on the governing body of a supported organization? *If "No," explain in Part VI how the organization maintained a close and continuous working relationship with the supported organization(s).*

	Yes	No
<b>2</b>		
- 3** By reason of the relationship described in line 2 above, did the organization's supported organizations have a significant voice in the organization's investment policies and in directing the use of the organization's income or assets at all times during the tax year? *If "Yes," describe in Part VI the role the organization's supported organizations played in this regard.*

	Yes	No
<b>3</b>		

**Section E. Type III Functionally-Integrated Supporting Organizations**

**1** Check the box next to the method that the organization used to satisfy the Integral Part Test during the year (**see instructions**):

- a**  The organization satisfied the Activities Test. Complete **line 2** below.
- b**  The organization is the parent of each of its supported organizations. Complete **line 3** below.
- c**  The organization supported a governmental entity. Describe in **Part VI** how you supported a government entity (see instructions)

**2** Activities Test. **Answer lines 2a and 2b below.**

- a** Did substantially all of the organization's activities during the tax year directly further the exempt purposes of the supported organization(s) to which the organization was responsive? *If "Yes," then in Part VI identify those supported organizations and explain how these activities directly furthered their exempt purposes, how the organization was responsive to those supported organizations, and how the organization determined that these activities constituted substantially all of its activities.*

	Yes	No
<b>2a</b>		
- b** Did the activities described in line 2a constitute activities that, but for the organization's involvement, one or more of the organization's supported organization(s) would have been engaged in? *If "Yes," explain in Part VI the reasons for the organization's position that its supported organization(s) would have engaged in these activities but for the organization's involvement.*

	Yes	No
<b>2b</b>		

**3** Parent of Supported Organizations. **Answer lines 3a and 3b below.**

- a** Did the organization have the power to regularly appoint or elect a majority of the officers, directors, or trustees of each of the supported organizations? *If "Yes" or "No" provide details in Part VI.*

	Yes	No
<b>3a</b>		
- b** Did the organization exercise a substantial degree of direction over the policies, programs and activities of each of its supported organizations? *If "Yes," describe in Part VI. the role played by the organization in this regard.*

	Yes	No
<b>3b</b>		

**Part V** Type III Non-Functionally Integrated 509(a)(3) Supporting Organizations

- 1**  Check here if the organization satisfied the Integral Part Test as a qualifying trust on Nov. 20, 1970 (explain in **Part VI**). See instructions. All other Type III non-functionally integrated supporting organizations must complete Sections A through E.

**Section A - Adjusted Net Income**

(A) Prior Year

(B) Current Year  
(optional)

<b>1</b> Net short-term capital gain	<b>1</b>		
<b>2</b> Recoveries of prior-year distributions	<b>2</b>		
<b>3</b> Other gross income (see instructions)	<b>3</b>		
<b>4</b> Add lines 1 through 3	<b>4</b>		
<b>5</b> Depreciation and depletion	<b>5</b>		
<b>6</b> Portion of operating expenses paid or incurred for production or collection of gross income or for management, conservation, or maintenance of property held for production of income (see instructions)	<b>6</b>		
<b>7</b> Other expenses (see instructions)	<b>7</b>		
<b>8 Adjusted Net Income</b> (subtract lines 5, 6 and 7 from line 4)	<b>8</b>		

**Section B - Minimum Asset Amount**

(A) Prior Year

(B) Current Year  
(optional)

<b>1</b> Aggregate fair market value of all non-exempt-use assets (see instructions for short tax year or assets held for part of year):	<b>1</b>		
<b>a</b> Average monthly value of securities	<b>1a</b>		
<b>b</b> Average monthly cash balances	<b>1b</b>		
<b>c</b> Fair market value of other non-exempt-use assets	<b>1c</b>		
<b>d Total</b> (add lines 1a, 1b, and 1c)	<b>1d</b>		
<b>e Discount</b> claimed for blockage or other factors (explain in detail in <b>Part VI</b> ):			
<b>2</b> Acquisition indebtedness applicable to non-exempt use assets	<b>2</b>		
<b>3</b> Subtract line 2 from line 1d	<b>3</b>		
<b>4</b> Cash deemed held for exempt use. Enter 0.015 of line 3 (for greater amount, see instructions).	<b>4</b>		
<b>5</b> Net value of non-exempt-use assets (subtract line 4 from line 3)	<b>5</b>		
<b>6</b> Multiply line 5 by 0.035	<b>6</b>		
<b>7</b> Recoveries of prior-year distributions	<b>7</b>		
<b>8 Minimum Asset Amount</b> (add line 7 to line 6)	<b>8</b>		

**Section C - Distributable Amount**

Current Year

<b>1</b> Adjusted net income for prior year (from Section A, line 8, Column A)	<b>1</b>	
<b>2</b> Enter 85% of line 1	<b>2</b>	
<b>3</b> Minimum asset amount for prior year (from Section B, line 8, Column A)	<b>3</b>	
<b>4</b> Enter greater of line 2 or line 3	<b>4</b>	
<b>5</b> Income tax imposed in prior year	<b>5</b>	
<b>6 Distributable Amount.</b> Subtract line 5 from line 4, unless subject to emergency temporary reduction (see instructions)	<b>6</b>	

- 7**  Check here if the current year is the organization's first as a non-functionally-integrated Type III supporting organization (see instructions)

**Part V Type III Non-Functionally Integrated 509(a)(3) Supporting Organizations**

(continued)

Section D - Distributions		Current Year
<b>1</b> Amounts paid to supported organizations to accomplish exempt purposes	<b>1</b>	
<b>2</b> Amounts paid to perform activity that directly furthers exempt purposes of supported organizations, in excess of income from activity	<b>2</b>	
<b>3</b> Administrative expenses paid to accomplish exempt purposes of supported organizations	<b>3</b>	
<b>4</b> Amounts paid to acquire exempt-use assets	<b>4</b>	
<b>5</b> Qualified set-aside amounts (prior IRS approval required - provide details in <b>Part VI</b> )	<b>5</b>	
<b>6</b> Other distributions (describe in <b>Part VI</b> ). See instructions	<b>6</b>	
<b>7 Total annual distributions.</b> Add lines 1 through 6.	<b>7</b>	
<b>8</b> Distributions to attentive supported organizations to which the organization is responsive (provide details in <b>Part VI</b> ). See instructions	<b>8</b>	
<b>9</b> Distributable amount for 2020 from Section C, line 6	<b>9</b>	
<b>10</b> Line 8 amount divided by Line 9 amount	<b>10</b>	

Section E - Distribution Allocations (see instructions)	(i) Excess Distributions	(ii) Underdistributions Pre-2020	(iii) Distributable Amount for 2020
<b>1</b> Distributable amount for 2020 from Section C, line 6			
<b>2</b> Underdistributions, if any, for years prior to 2020 (reasonable cause required-- explain in <b>Part VI</b> ). See instructions.			
<b>3</b> Excess distributions carryover, if any, to 2020:			
<b>a</b> From 2015. . . . .			
<b>b</b> From 2016. . . . .			
<b>c</b> From 2017. . . . .			
<b>d</b> From 2018. . . . .			
<b>e</b> From 2019. . . . .			
<b>f Total</b> of lines 3a through e			
<b>g</b> Applied to underdistributions of prior years			
<b>h</b> Applied to 2020 distributable amount			
<b>i</b> Carryover from 2015 not applied (see instructions)			
<b>j</b> Remainder. Subtract lines 3g, 3h, and 3i from line 3f.			
<b>4</b> Distributions for 2020 from Section D, line 7: \$			
<b>a</b> Applied to underdistributions of prior years			
<b>b</b> Applied to 2020 distributable amount			
<b>c</b> Remainder. Subtract lines 4a and 4b from line 4.			
<b>5</b> Remaining underdistributions for years prior to 2020, if any. Subtract lines 3g and 4a from line 2. If the amount is greater than zero, explain in <b>Part VI</b> . See instructions.			
<b>6</b> Remaining underdistributions for 2020. Subtract lines 3h and 4b from line 1. If the amount is greater than zero, explain in <b>Part VI</b> . See instructions.			
<b>7 Excess distributions carryover to 2021.</b> Add lines 3j and 4c.			
<b>8</b> Breakdown of line 7:			
<b>a</b> Excess from 2016. . . . .			
<b>b</b> Excess from 2017. . . . .			
<b>c</b> Excess from 2018. . . . .			
<b>d</b> Excess from 2019. . . . .			
<b>e</b> Excess from 2020. . . . .			

**Part VI Supplemental Information.** Provide the explanations required by Part II, line 10; Part II, line 17a or 17b; Part III, line 12; Part IV, Section A, lines 1, 2, 3b, 3c, 4b, 4c, 5a, 6, 9a, 9b, 9c, 11a, 11b, and 11c; Part IV, Section B, lines 1 and 2; Part IV, Section C, line 1; Part IV, Section D, lines 2 and 3; Part IV, Section E, lines 1c, 2a, 2b, 3a and 3b; Part V, line 1; Part V, Section B, line 1e; Part V Section D, lines 5, 6, and 8; and Part V, Section E, lines 2, 5, and 6. Also complete this part for any additional information. (See instructions).

### Facts And Circumstances Test

Return Reference	Explanation

## **Additional Data**

**Return to Form**

**Software ID:**

**Software Version:**

Name of the organization CAUSE OF ACTION INSTITUTE	<b>Employer identification number</b> 45-2805977
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**Organization type** (check one):

**Filers of:**

**Section:**

- Form 990 or 990-EZ
  - 501(c)( ) (enter number) organization
  - 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trust **not** treated as a private foundation
  - 527 political organization
- Form 990-PF
  - 501(c)(3) exempt private foundation
  - 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trust treated as a private foundation
  - 501(c)(3) taxable private foundation

Check if your organization is covered by the **General Rule** or a **Special Rule**.  
**Note:** Only a section 501(c)(7), (8), or (10) organization can check boxes for both the General Rule and a Special Rule. See instructions.

**General Rule**

- For an organization filing Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF that received, during the year, contributions totaling \$5,000 or more (in money or other property) from any one contributor. Complete Parts I and II. See instructions for determining a contributor's total contributions.

**Special Rules**

- For an organization described in section 501(c)(3) filing Form 990 or 990-EZ that met the 33<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub>% support test of the regulations under sections 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi), that checked Schedule A (Form 990 or 990-EZ), Part II, line 13, 16a, or 16b, and that received from any one contributor, during the year, total contributions of the greater of **(1)** \$5,000 or **(2)** 2% of the amount on (i) Form 990, Part VIII, line 1h, or (ii) Form 990-EZ, line 1. Complete Parts I and II.
- For an organization described in section 501(c)(7), (8), or (10) filing Form 990 or 990-EZ that received from any one contributor, during the year, total contributions of more than \$1,000 *exclusively* for religious, charitable, scientific, literary, or educational purposes, or for the prevention of cruelty to children or animals. Complete Parts I, II, and III.
- For an organization described in section 501(c)(7), (8), or (10) filing Form 990 or 990-EZ that received from any one contributor, during the year, contributions *exclusively* for religious, charitable, etc., purposes, but no such contributions totaled more than \$1,000. If this box is checked, enter here the total contributions that were received during the year for an *exclusively* religious, charitable, etc., purpose. Don't complete any of the parts unless the **General Rule** applies to this organization because it received *nonexclusively* religious, charitable, etc., contributions totaling \$5,000 or more during the year . . . . . ▶ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Caution:** An organization that isn't covered by the General Rule and/or the Special Rules doesn't file Schedule B (Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF), but it **must** answer "No" on Part IV, line 2, of its Form 990; or check the box on line H of its Form 990-EZ or on its Form 990PF, Part I, line 2, to certify that it doesn't meet the filing requirements of Schedule B (Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF).

Name of organization  
CAUSE OF ACTION INSTITUTE

Employer identification number  
45-2805977

**Part I**  
**Contributors** (see instructions). Use duplicate copies of Part I if additional space is needed.

(a) No.	(b) Name, address, and ZIP + 4	(c) Total contributions	(d) Type of contribution
RESTRICTED		\$ RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> Person <input type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
		\$	<input type="checkbox"/> Person <input type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
		\$	<input type="checkbox"/> Person <input type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
		\$	<input type="checkbox"/> Person <input type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
		\$	<input type="checkbox"/> Person <input type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)
		\$	<input type="checkbox"/> Person <input type="checkbox"/> Payroll <input type="checkbox"/> Noncash (Complete Part II for noncash contributions.)

Name of organization  
 CAUSE OF ACTION INSTITUTE

**Employer identification number**  
 45-2805977

**Part II** **Noncash Property** (see instructions). Use duplicate copies of Part II if additional space is needed.

(a) No. from Part I	(b) Description of noncash property given	(c) FMV (or estimate) (See instructions)	(d) Date received
-	_____ _____ _____	_____ \$	_____
-	_____ _____ _____	_____ \$	_____
-	_____ _____ _____	_____ \$	_____
-	_____ _____ _____	_____ \$	_____
-	_____ _____ _____	_____ \$	_____
-	_____ _____ _____	_____ \$	_____
-	_____ _____ _____	_____ \$	_____
-	_____ _____ _____	_____ \$	_____
-	_____ _____ _____	_____ \$	_____
-	_____ _____ _____	_____ \$	_____

Name of organization CAUSE OF ACTION INSTITUTE	Employer identification number 45-2805977
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**Part III** Exclusively religious, charitable, etc., contributions to organizations described in section 501(c)(7), (8), or (10) that total more than \$1,000 for the year from any one contributor. Complete columns (a) through (e) and the following line entry. For organizations completing Part III, enter the total of exclusively religious, charitable, etc., contributions of \$1,000 or less for the year. (Enter this information once. See instructions.) ► \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Use duplicate copies of Part III if additional space is needed.

(a) No. from Part I	(b) Purpose of gift	(c) Use of gift	(d) Description of how gift is held
	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
(e) Transfer of gift			
Transferee's name, address, and ZIP 4		Relationship of transferor to transferee	
_____		_____	
_____		_____	
(a) No. from Part I	(b) Purpose of gift	(c) Use of gift	(d) Description of how gift is held
	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
(e) Transfer of gift			
Transferee's name, address, and ZIP 4		Relationship of transferor to transferee	
_____		_____	
_____		_____	
(a) No. from Part I	(b) Purpose of gift	(c) Use of gift	(d) Description of how gift is held
	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
(e) Transfer of gift			
Transferee's name, address, and ZIP 4		Relationship of transferor to transferee	
_____		_____	
_____		_____	
(a) No. from Part I	(b) Purpose of gift	(c) Use of gift	(d) Description of how gift is held
	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
(e) Transfer of gift			
Transferee's name, address, and ZIP 4		Relationship of transferor to transferee	
_____		_____	
_____		_____	

## **Additional Data**

**Return to Form**

**Software ID:**

**Software Version:**

**SCHEDULE D**  
**(Form 990)**

**Supplemental Financial Statements**

OMB No. 1545-0047

**2020**

**Open to Public Inspection**

▶ **Complete if the organization answered "Yes," on Form 990, Part IV, line 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11a, 11b, 11c, 11d, 11e, 11f, 12a, or 12b.**

▶ **Attach to Form 990.**

▶ **Go to [www.irs.gov/Form990](http://www.irs.gov/Form990) for instructions and the latest information.**

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

**Name of the organization**  
CAUSE OF ACTION INSTITUTE

**Employer identification number**

45-2805977

**Part I Organizations Maintaining Donor Advised Funds or Other Similar Funds or Accounts.**

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 6.

	(a) Donor advised funds	(b) Funds and other accounts
<b>1</b> Total number at end of year . . . . .		
<b>2</b> Aggregate value of contributions to (during year)		
<b>3</b> Aggregate value of grants from (during year)		
<b>4</b> Aggregate value at end of year . . . . .		

**5** Did the organization inform all donors and donor advisors in writing that the assets held in donor advised funds are the organization's property, subject to the organization's exclusive legal control? . . . . .  **Yes**  **No**

**6** Did the organization inform all grantees, donors, and donor advisors in writing that grant funds can be used only for charitable purposes and not for the benefit of the donor or donor advisor, or for any other purpose conferring impermissible private benefit? . . . . .  **Yes**  **No**

**Part II Conservation Easements.**

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 7.

**1** Purpose(s) of conservation easements held by the organization (check all that apply).

Preservation of land for public use (e.g., recreation or education)  Preservation of an historically important land area

Protection of natural habitat  Preservation of a certified historic structure

Preservation of open space

**2** Complete lines 2a through 2d if the organization held a qualified conservation contribution in the form of a conservation easement on the last day of the tax year.

	Held at the End of the Year
<b>a</b> Total number of conservation easements . . . . .	<b>2a</b>
<b>b</b> Total acreage restricted by conservation easements . . . . .	<b>2b</b>
<b>c</b> Number of conservation easements on a certified historic structure included in (a) . . . . .	<b>2c</b>
<b>d</b> Number of conservation easements included in (c) acquired after 7/25/06, and not on a historic structure listed in the National Register . . . . .	<b>2d</b>

**3** Number of conservation easements modified, transferred, released, extinguished, or terminated by the organization during the tax year ▶ \_\_\_\_\_

**4** Number of states where property subject to conservation easement is located ▶ \_\_\_\_\_

**5** Does the organization have a written policy regarding the periodic monitoring, inspection, handling of violations, and enforcement of the conservation easements it holds? . . . . .  **Yes**  **No**

**6** Staff and volunteer hours devoted to monitoring, inspecting, handling of violations, and enforcing conservation easements during the year  
▶ \_\_\_\_\_

**7** Amount of expenses incurred in monitoring, inspecting, handling of violations, and enforcing conservation easements during the year  
▶ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**8** Does each conservation easement reported on line 2(d) above satisfy the requirements of section 170(h)(4)(B)(i) and section 170(h)(4)(B)(ii)? . . . . .  **Yes**  **No**

**9** In Part XIII, describe how the organization reports conservation easements in its revenue and expense statement, and balance sheet, and include, if applicable, the text of the footnote to the organization's financial statements that describes the organization's accounting for conservation easements.

**Part III Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets.**

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 8.

**1a** If the organization elected, as permitted under FASB ASC 958, not to report in its revenue statement and balance sheet works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets held for public exhibition, education, or research in furtherance of public service, provide, in Part XIII, the text of the footnote to its financial statements that describes these items.

**b** If the organization elected, as permitted under FASB ASC 958, to report in its revenue statement and balance sheet works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets held for public exhibition, education, or research in furtherance of public service, provide the following amounts relating to these items:

(i) Revenue included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 1 . . . . . ▶ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(ii) Assets included in Form 990, Part X . . . . . ▶ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**2** If the organization received or held works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets for financial gain, provide the following amounts required to be reported under FASB ASC 958 relating to these items:

**a** Revenue included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 1 . . . . . ▶ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**b** Assets included in Form 990, Part X . . . . . ▶ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Part III Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets** (continued)

- 3** Using the organization's acquisition, accession, and other records, check any of the following that are a significant use of its collection items (check all that apply):
- a**  Public exhibition
  - b**  Scholarly research
  - c**  Preservation for future generations
  - d**  Loan or exchange programs
  - e**  Other .....
- 4** Provide a description of the organization's collections and explain how they further the organization's exempt purpose in Part XIII.
- 5** During the year, did the organization solicit or receive donations of art, historical treasures or other similar assets to be sold to raise funds rather than to be maintained as part of the organization's collection? . . .  **Yes**  **No**

**Part IV Escrow and Custodial Arrangements.**

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 9, or reported an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21.

- 1a** Is the organization an agent, trustee, custodian or other intermediary for contributions or other assets not included on Form 990, Part X? . . . . .  **Yes**  **No**
- b** If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIII and complete the following table:
- |  | Amount    |
|--|-----------|
| <b>c</b> Beginning balance . . . . .             | <b>1c</b> |
| <b>d</b> Additions during the year . . . . .     | <b>1d</b> |
| <b>e</b> Distributions during the year . . . . . | <b>1e</b> |
| <b>f</b> Ending balance . . . . .                | <b>1f</b> |
- 2a** Did the organization include an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21, for escrow or custodial account liability?  **Yes**  **No**
- b** If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIII. Check here if the explanation has been provided in Part XIII . . . .

**Part V Endowment Funds.**

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 10.

	(a) Current year	(b) Prior year	(c) Two years back	(d) Three years back	(e) Four years back
<b>1a</b> Beginning of year balance . . . . .					
<b>b</b> Contributions . . . . .					
<b>c</b> Net investment earnings, gains, and losses					
<b>d</b> Grants or scholarships . . . . .					
<b>e</b> Other expenditures for facilities and programs . . . . .					
<b>f</b> Administrative expenses . . . . .					
<b>g</b> End of year balance . . . . .					

- 2** Provide the estimated percentage of the current year end balance (line 1g, column (a)) held as:
- a** Board designated or quasi-endowment ▶ .....
  - b** Permanent endowment ▶ .....
  - c** Term endowment ▶ .....
- The percentages on lines 2a, 2b, and 2c should equal 100%.

**3a** Are there endowment funds not in the possession of the organization that are held and administered for the organization by:

- (i)** Unrelated organizations . . . . .
- (ii)** Related organizations . . . . .

	Yes	No
<b>3a(i)</b>		
<b>3a(ii)</b>		
<b>3b</b>		

- b** If "Yes" on 3a(ii), are the related organizations listed as required on Schedule R? . . . . .
- 4** Describe in Part XIII the intended uses of the organization's endowment funds.

**Part VI Land, Buildings, and Equipment.**

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 11a. See Form 990, Part X, line 10.

Description of property	(a) Cost or other basis (investment)	(b) Cost or other basis (other)	(c) Accumulated depreciation	(d) Book value
<b>1a</b> Land . . . . .				
<b>b</b> Buildings . . . . .				
<b>c</b> Leasehold improvements		193,448	185,816	7,632
<b>d</b> Equipment . . . . .				
<b>e</b> Other . . . . .				
<b>Total.</b> Add lines 1a through 1e. (Column (d) must equal Form 990, Part X, column (B), line 10(c.) . . . ▶				7,632

**Part VII Investments—Other Securities.**

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 11b. See Form 990, Part X, line 12.

(a) Description of security or category (including name of security)	(b) Book value	(c) Method of valuation: Cost or end-of-year market value
(1) Financial derivatives . . . . .		
(2) Closely-held equity interests . . . . .		
(3) Other _____		
(B)		
(C)		
(D)		
(E)		
(F)		
(G)		
(H)		
(I)		
<b>Total.</b> (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col. (B) line 12.)		

**Part VIII Investments—Program Related.**

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 11c. See Form 990, Part X, line 13.

(a) Description of investment	(b) Book value	(c) Method of valuation: Cost or end-of-year market value
(2)		
(3)		
(4)		
(5)		
(6)		
(7)		
(8)		
(9)		
(10)		
<b>Total.</b> (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col.(B) line 13.)		

**Part IX Other Assets.**

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 11d. See Form 990, Part X, line 15.

(a) Description	(b) Book value
(2)	
(3)	
(4)	
(5)	
(6)	
(7)	
(8)	
(9)	
(10)	
<b>Total.</b> (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col.(B) line 15.)	

**Part X Other Liabilities.**

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 11e or 11f. See Form 990, Part X, line 25.

1. (a) Description of liability	(b) Book value
(1) Federal income taxes	
(2)	
(3)	
(4)	
(5)	
(6)	
(7)	
(8)	
(9)	
<b>Total.</b> (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col.(B) line 25.)	

**2.** Liability for uncertain tax positions. In Part XIII, provide the text of the footnote to the organization's financial statements that reports the organization's liability for uncertain tax positions under FIN 48 (ASC 740). Check here if the text of the footnote has been provided in Part XIII

**Part XI Reconciliation of Revenue per Audited Financial Statements With Revenue per Return.**

Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' on Form 990, Part IV, line 12a.

<b>1</b>	Total revenue, gains, and other support per audited financial statements . . . . .		<b>1</b>	
<b>2</b>	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12:			
<b>a</b>	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments . . . . .	<b>2a</b>		
<b>b</b>	Donated services and use of facilities . . . . .	<b>2b</b>		
<b>c</b>	Recoveries of prior year grants . . . . .	<b>2c</b>		
<b>d</b>	Other (Describe in Part XIII.) . . . . .	<b>2d</b>		
<b>e</b>	Add lines <b>2a</b> through <b>2d</b> . . . . .		<b>2e</b>	
<b>3</b>	Subtract line <b>2e</b> from line <b>1</b> . . . . .		<b>3</b>	
<b>4</b>	Amounts included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12, but not on line 1:			
<b>a</b>	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b . . . . .	<b>4a</b>		
<b>b</b>	Other (Describe in Part XIII.) . . . . .	<b>4b</b>		
<b>c</b>	Add lines <b>4a</b> and <b>4b</b> . . . . .		<b>4c</b>	
<b>5</b>	Total revenue. Add lines <b>3</b> and <b>4c</b> . (This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 12.) . . . . .		<b>5</b>	

**Part XII Reconciliation of Expenses per Audited Financial Statements With Expenses per Return.**

Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' on Form 990, Part IV, line 12a.

<b>1</b>	Total expenses and losses per audited financial statements . . . . .		<b>1</b>	
<b>2</b>	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part IX, line 25:			
<b>a</b>	Donated services and use of facilities . . . . .	<b>2a</b>		
<b>b</b>	Prior year adjustments . . . . .	<b>2b</b>		
<b>c</b>	Other losses . . . . .	<b>2c</b>		
<b>d</b>	Other (Describe in Part XIII.) . . . . .	<b>2d</b>		
<b>e</b>	Add lines <b>2a</b> through <b>2d</b> . . . . .		<b>2e</b>	
<b>3</b>	Subtract line <b>2e</b> from line <b>1</b> . . . . .		<b>3</b>	
<b>4</b>	Amounts included on Form 990, Part IX, line 25, but not on line 1:			
<b>a</b>	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b . . . . .	<b>4a</b>		
<b>b</b>	Other (Describe in Part XIII.) . . . . .	<b>4b</b>		
<b>c</b>	Add lines <b>4a</b> and <b>4b</b> . . . . .		<b>4c</b>	
<b>5</b>	Total expenses. Add lines <b>3</b> and <b>4c</b> . (This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 18.) . . . . .		<b>5</b>	

**Part XIII Supplemental Information**

Provide the descriptions required for Part II, lines 3, 5, and 9; Part III, lines 1a and 4; Part IV, lines 1b and 2b; Part V, line 4; Part X, line 2; Part XI, lines 2d and 4b; and Part XII, lines 2d and 4b. Also complete this part to provide any additional information.

Return Reference	Explanation

## **Additional Data**

[\*\*Return to Form\*\*](#)

**Software ID:**

**Software Version:**

**SCHEDULE O**  
**(Form 990 or 990-**  
**EZ)****Supplemental Information to Form 990 or 990-EZ**

Complete to provide information for responses to specific questions on  
Form 990 or 990-EZ or to provide any additional information.  
▶ Attach to Form 990 or 990-EZ.

▶ Go to [www.irs.gov/Form990](http://www.irs.gov/Form990) for the latest information.

**2020****Open to Public  
Inspection**

Department of the Treasury

Name of the organization  
CAUSE OF ACTION INSTITUTE

Employer identification number

45-2805977

Return Reference	Explanation
FORM 990, PART I, LINE 1 & PART III, LINE 1	CAUSE OF ACTION INSTITUTE (COA INSTITUTE) CARRIES OUT ITS MISSION THROUGH VARIOUS STRATEGIC LITIGATION, EDUCATION, AND TRAINING. IN ADVANCING ITS 501(C)(3) PURPOSES, COA INSTITUTE REPRESENTS ITSELF IN FIRST-PARTY LITIGATION AND INVESTAGTIONS ON COMPLEX CONSTITUTIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE LAW QUESTIONS ARISING UNDER THE U.S. CONSTITUTION, THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT, THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACT, AND GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT STATUTES. IT ALSO PROVIDES PRO BONO REPRESENTATION TO INDIVIDUALS AND SMALL BUSINESSES IN THIRD PARTY FEDERAL LITIGATION AND INVESTIGATIONS. ITS EFFORTS FOCUS ON THREE KEY AREAS: (1) LAW ENFORCEMENT ABUSE; (2) DISCRETIONARY DECISION-MAKING ABUSE; AND (3) INFORMATION ACCESS ABUSE. THE FOREGOING ACTIVITIES HELP DEFEND HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS SECURED BY LAW, ARE MATTERS OF SIGNIFICANT BROAD PUBLIC INTEREST, AND HAVE SUBSTANTIAL IMPACT BEYOND THE INTEREST OF THE LITIGANTS. COA INSTITUTE EDUCATES AND STIMULATES DISCUSSION TO THE PUBLIC THROUGH FILINGS AND BRIEFING IN FEDERAL COURT AND POLICY-FOCUSED REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION, AGENCY COMPLAINTS, STATEMENTS FOR THE RECORD, INVESTIGATIVE REPORTS, POLICY ANALYSIS, AND COMMUNICATIONS MATERIALS.
FORM 990, PART III, LINE 4A	THE INFORMATION BELOW IS A PARTIAL LISTING OF CASES COA INSTITUTE LITIGATED DURING THE JANUARY 1, 2020 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020 PERIOD. FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION V. D-LINK SYSTEMS INC., FOLLOWING A THREE-YEAR INVESTIGATION OF D-LINK SYSTEMS INC. ("DLS"), THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION ("FTC") BROUGHT SUIT IN THE U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CLAIMING VIOLATION OF THE FTC ACT BECAUSE DLS'S ROUTERS ALLEGEDLY DID NOT USE "REASONABLE AND APPROPRIATE" DATA SECURITY. ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2017, THE COURT DISMISSED HALF THE FTC'S CLAIMS BECAUSE THERE WAS NO SUBSTANTIAL HARM OR PROSPECT OF HARM IN THE FUTURE. IN AUGUST 2019, THE PARTIES SETTLED THE DISPUTE. FTC AND FLORIDA V. VYLAH TEC, LLC ET. AL. BEFORE COA INSTITUTE BECAME INVOLVED IN THIS CASE, THE GOVERNMENT HAD SECURED ORDERS FREEZING SUBSTANTIALLY ALL ASSETS, INCLUDING THOSE OF THE PRINCIPALS, OF A SMALL FAMILY-OWNED COMPANY THAT PROVIDES COMPUTER TECHNICAL SUPPORT SERVICES. THE COMPANY ALSO HAD BEEN PUT INTO THE HANDS OF A RECIEVER. IN AUGUST 2017, COA INSTITUTE MADE AN APPEARANCE IN THE 11TH CIRCUIT ON BEHALF OF THE DEFENDANTS AND MOVED FOR STAY OF THOSE ORDERS. IN MARCH 2018, THE CIRCUIT VACATED PART OF THE ORDER WHICH APPLIED TO TWO DEFENDANTS AND A NON-DEFENDANT. THE CASE WENT TO TRIAL IN MARCH 2019 AND IN MAY 2019, THE COURT DENIED ALL OF THE FTC'S DAMAGES CLAIMS, SECURING A MAJOR VICTORY FOR VYLAH TEC AND ITS FAMILY OWNERSHIP. TABOR FOUNDATION V. COLORADO DEPT OF HEALTH CARE POLICY AND FINANCING COLORADO'S TAXPAYER BILL OF RIGHTS ("TABOR") LIMITS AND CONDITIONS THE IMPOSITION OF NEW TAXES. THE STATE LEGISLATURE OFTEN SKIRTS ITS PROVISION BY STRUCTURING NEW REVENUE-GENERATING LEGISLATION AS A "FEE" RATHER THAN A TAX. COA INSTITUTE IS REPRESENTING THE TABOR FOUNDATION, A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO DEFENDING TABOR, IN A LAWSUIT CHALLENGING THE HEALTH CARE PROVIDER "FEES" AS A VIOLATION OF TABOR. THE CASE IS ON A PETITION FOR CERT TO THE COLORADO SUPREME COURT. CAUSE OF ACTION INST. V. WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF MGMT. & BUDGET THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ("OMB") MAINTAINS A GUIDANCE DOCUMENT, WHICH OTHER AGENCIES ARE REQUIRED TO FOLLOW, RELATED TO FOIA FEES THAT CONFLICTS WITH THE FOIA STATUTE AND HAS NOT BEEN UPDATED SINCE 1987. COA INSTITUTE FILED A PETITION FOR RULEMAKING ASKING OMB TO UPDATE ITS GUIDANCE AND FILED SUIT UNDER THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACT. IN RESPONSE, OMB HAS CONCEDED IT MUST UPDATE THE GUIDANCE AND THE CASE IS STAYED PENDING OMB'S RULEMAKING. CAUSE OF ACTION INST. V. INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE IN DECEMBER 2015, THE IRS OFFICE OF CHIEF COUNSEL ISSUED GUIDANCE THAT INTRODUCED PROVISIONS TO THE INTERNAL REVENUE MANUAL TO TREAT ALL JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION-RELATED RECORDS AS "CONGRESSIONAL RECORDS SUBJECT TO FOIA. COA INSTITUTE SUBMITTED FOIA REQUESTS TO THE IRS IN 2016 TO CHALLENGE THE OVERBROAD DIRECTIVES AND BROUGHT SUIT AFTER THE IRS REFUSED TO PROCESS THE REQUESTS. AFTER SUMMARY JUDGMENT BRIEFING, COA INSTITUTE PREVAILED AND THE IRS IS CONDUCTING A SEARCH FOR RESPONSIVE RECORDS. CAUSE OF ACTION INST. V. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE COA INSTITUTE CURRENTLY HAS TWO LAWSUITS SEEKING ACCESS UNDER THE FOIA TO THE SECRETARIAL REPORTS CREATED BY THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE IN SUPPORT OF IMPOSING TARIFFS UNDER SECTION 232 ON AUTOMOBILES AND URANIUM. DESPITE A STATUTORY REQUIREMENT IN SECTION 232 THAT THE ADMINISTRATION PUBLISH SUCH REPORTS IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER, THE AGENCY REFUSES TO DO SO. THE CASES HAVE SPANNED SIGNIFICANT INTEREST FROM MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND AN OPINION FROM THE OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL.
FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION B, LINE 11B	AN INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTING FIRM PREPARED AND REVIEWED THE FORM 990. A FULL DRAFT OF THE 990 ALONG WITH ALL REQUIRED SCHEDULES IS THEN PROVIDED TO INTERNAL MANAGEMENT FOR REVIEW. ALL QUESTIONS ARE ADDRESSED AND ANY MODIFICATIONS ARE MADE, IF NECESSARY. THE FINAL FORM 990 ALONG WITH ALL REQUIRED SCHEDULES IS THEN PROVIDED TO THE BOARD.
FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION B, LINE 12C	THE BOARD IS COVERED BY A CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY AND, AS NECESSARY, THE BOARD AND LEGAL COUNSEL MAY MEET PERIODICALLY TO DISCUSS THE POLICY AND ANY POTENTIAL CONFLICTS.
FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION C, LINE 19	THE ORGANIZATION MAKES ALL REQUIRED DISCLOSURES AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC UNDER IRS REGULATIONS.
FORM 990, PART VII, SECTION A	DAVID WILLIAMS WAS COMPENSATED ON IRS FORM 1099-NEC FOR INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR CONSULTING SERVICES PERFORMED ON BEHALF THE ORGANIZATION PURSUANT TO A WRITTEN CONTRACT.
FORM 990, PART VII, SECTION B, LINE 1	THREE INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR NAMES AND ADDRESSES ARE OMITTED FROM PART VII, SECTION B, QUESTION 1, WHICH ASKS FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING THE ORGANIZATION'S FIVE HIGHEST PAID INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS. SUCH NAMES AND ADDRESSES ARE OMITTED PER THE ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE. THE TOTAL DOLLAR AMOUNT PAID TO THE THREE SERVICE PROVIDERS HAVE BEEN AGGREGATED FOR SIMILAR PURPOSES. ALL SERVICES WERE PROVIDED TO ADVANCE THE ORGANIZATION'S MISSION AND PROGRAMMATIC ACTIVITIES AND ALL SERVICES WERE PROVIDED ON ARM'S LENGTH TERMS.

## **Additional Data**

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