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the privilege to speak one's mind: new york broadens its anti-slapp statute

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The broad speech protections provided by the First Amendment are emblematic of a "profound national commitment to the principle that debate on public issues should be uninhibited, robust, and wide-open[.]" *New York Times v. Sullivan*, 376 U.S. 254, 269–70 (1964). While this unfettered commitment to free speech may shield a speaker from the chill of liability, practically speaking, it often fails to protect against "the similarly-chilling cost and burden of defending [against] tort claims." *Henry v. Lake Charles Am. Press, L.L.C.*, 566 F.3d 164, 167–68 (5th Cir. 2009). Over the years, plaintiffs have weaponized the filing of meritless lawsuits to intimidate or punish a speaker for exercising their first amendment rights. Such a suit is known as a Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation ("SLAPP")...

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