

**From:** [Renner, Jamie](#)  
**To:** [danschwartz300@gmail.com](mailto:danschwartz300@gmail.com)  
**Cc:** [Mishaan, Jessica](#)  
**Subject:** Your Public Records Request  
**Date:** Monday, March 30, 2020 7:26:05 PM  
**Attachments:** [PRA RESPONSE - Schwartz 3-30-20.pdf](#)

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Dear Mr. Schwartz:

Attached please find the response to your recent public records request. Thank you for reaching out to our Office.

Regards,  
Jamie

Jamie Renner  
Assistant Attorney General  
Office of the Vermont Attorney General  
109 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05609  
Dir: 802-828-5947

**THOMAS J. DONOVAN, JR.**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

**JOSHUA R. DIAMOND**  
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

**SARAH E.B. LONDON**  
CHIEF ASST. ATTORNEY GENERAL



TEL: (802) 828-3171

<http://www.ago.vermont.gov>

**STATE OF VERMONT  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
109 STATE STREET  
MONTPELIER, VT  
05609-1001**

March 30, 2020

Mr. Dan Schwartz

SENT BY ELECTONIC MAIL:  
[danschwartz300@gmail.com](mailto:danschwartz300@gmail.com)

Dear Mr. Schwartz:

Thank you for your public records request of March 23, 2020.

You requested: "any and all records related to reports, correspondences including emails or memos or written messages, complaints, investigations, or any other documentation concerning the American Society of Dowsers, a Vermont nonprofit corporation, that the Vermont Attorney Generals Office produced or obtained between January 18, 2019, to the date this request is fulfilled."

Attached please find responsive records related to your request. Information contained in internal communications of the Attorney General's Office that contains work product or attorney client communication has been redacted pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 317(c)(3) and (4).

If you feel information has been withheld in error, you may appeal to Deputy Attorney General Joshua Diamond.

Thank you for reaching out to our Office.

Sincerely,

Jamie Renner  
Assistant Attorney General

**From:** [Jennifer Black](#)  
**To:** [Renner, Jamie](#)  
**Cc:** [Charlie Bucknam](#); [Deborah Bucknam](#)  
**Subject:** RE: ASD  
**Date:** Monday, January 6, 2020 9:21:32 AM

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Good morning, Jamie, I just left you a message. Yes, I am still representing ASD. Feel free to give me a call at (781)608-6727 or (877)525-5529.

Happy New Year!

Best regards,

Jen



Jennifer B. Black, Esquire (licensed in Vermont and Massachusetts)  
Bucknam Law, P.C.  
434 Eastman Road  
Walden, VT 05836  
(802) 748-5525  
(802) 748-4888 (fax)  
[www.vtlegalhelp.com](http://www.vtlegalhelp.com)

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**From:** Renner, Jamie [mailto:[Jamie.Renner@vermont.gov](mailto:Jamie.Renner@vermont.gov)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 26, 2019 12:04 PM  
**To:** Jennifer Black  
**Subject:** ASD

Jennifer:

Are you still representing the American Society for the Dowsers? I was interested in checking in about the organization.

-Jamie

Jamie Renner

Assistant Attorney General  
Office of the Vermont Attorney General  
109 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05609  
Dir: 802-828-5947

**From:** [Curtis, Christopher](#)  
**To:** [Clark, Charity](#)  
**Cc:** [Renner, Jamie](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Media query: American Society of Dowsers  
**Date:** Monday, March 9, 2020 12:03:33 PM

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Sure thing. [REDACTED]. Thanks.

CC

Christopher J. Curtis  
Chief, Public Protection Division  
Office of the Attorney General  
State of Vermont  
109 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05609  
802-828-5586

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**From:** Clark, Charity <Charity.Clark@vermont.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2020 10:48 AM  
**To:** Curtis, Christopher <Christopher.Curtis@vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Media query: American Society of Dowsers

Let's discuss this afternoon if you have time.  
Charity

---

**From:** Dan Schwartz <[danschwartz300@gmail.com](mailto:danschwartz300@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2020 9:28 AM  
**To:** Clark, Charity <[Charity.Clark@vermont.gov](mailto:Charity.Clark@vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** Media query: American Society of Dowsers

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Hi, Charity.

Thanks for the call back. Here are the questions I promised a while ago on the American Society of Dowsers, or ASD:

-- Does the AGO have an active investigation going into the ASD? I learned that it did after obtaining the records your office provided last year to Jennifer Black, with Buckman Law PC?

-- If the AGO closed the investigation, what actions did it bring, if any?

-- Did the AGO or any other office, federal or state, to your office's knowledge, confirm any financial crimes, such as embezzlement, had occurred at ASD?

Best,  
Dan

--

Dan Schwartz | Journalist

cell: 774-644-2207

[@Vtdanschwarz](#)

[danschwartz.com](http://danschwartz.com)

National Writers Union member

my latest, in VICE Magazine: <https://bit.ly/2Oklvff>

**From:** [Curtis, Christopher](#)  
**To:** [Clark, Charity](#)  
**Cc:** [Renner, Jamie](#)  
**Subject:** RE: PRESS CALL - Dan Schwartz - freelance reporter in Vermont - (774) 644-2207 (cell phone) - danschwartz300@gmail.com  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 26, 2020 10:17:50 AM

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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]. Obviously, if he wants to reach out to interested parties they may or may not have a comment. Feel free to give a call if you want to discuss further. Thanks.

CC

Christopher J. Curtis  
Chief, Public Protection Division  
Office of the Attorney General  
State of Vermont  
109 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05609  
802-828-5586

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**From:** Clark, Charity <Charity.Clark@vermont.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2020 10:15 AM  
**To:** Curtis, Christopher <Christopher.Curtis@vermont.gov>  
**Cc:** Renner, Jamie <Jamie.Renner@vermont.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: PRESS CALL - Dan Schwartz - freelance reporter in Vermont - (774) 644-2207 (cell phone) - danschwartz300@gmail.com  
**Importance:** High

Hi, Chris,

Dan Schwartz is a freelancer who has done work for VTDigger in the past. He called to see if we have an investigation, open or closed, about the American Society of Dowsers. He directed me to the PRA request of an attorney named Jennifer Black (see 12/10/2018 entry here: <https://ago.vermont.gov/open-government/2018-vermont-attorney-generals-office-public-record-act-requests-responses/>). He plans to send me specific questions, and I will get those to you as well.

[REDACTED]

Thanks,  
Charity

---

**From:** Matthews, Deborah

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 25, 2020 4:18 PM

**To:** Clark, Charity <[Charity.Clark@vermont.gov](mailto:Charity.Clark@vermont.gov)>; Diamond, Joshua

<[Joshua.Diamond@vermont.gov](mailto:Joshua.Diamond@vermont.gov)>; Jandl, Lauren <[Lauren.Jandl@vermont.gov](mailto:Lauren.Jandl@vermont.gov)>

**Subject:** PRESS CALL - Dan Schwartz - freelance reporter in Vermont - (774) 644-2207 (cell phone) - [danschwartz300@gmail.com](mailto:danschwartz300@gmail.com)

**Importance:** High

RE: American Society of Dowsers, Danville, VT – he is freelancing right now and is thinking of doing an article (which he will then pitch to a national publication) on the probe the AGO did on the American Society of Dowsers in Danville, VT. He asked specifically for Michael Powers. He said he's in Vermont even though he has a Massachusetts number.

DEADLINE: 5pm Friday 2-28-2020

CALL REC'D: 2-25-2020 at 4:11pm

## *Deb Matthews*

Administrative Assistant

Office of the Attorney General | GCAL

109 State Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

Montpelier, VT 05609

Phone | 802-828-3689

E-Mail \ [deborah.matthews@vermont.gov](mailto:deborah.matthews@vermont.gov)

**From:** [Curtis, Christopher](#)  
**To:** [Clark, Charity](#)  
**Cc:** [Renner, Jamie](#)  
**Subject:** RE: VTDigger Inquiry- Call to Michael Powers - FYI  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 26, 2020 10:00:26 AM

---

Hi Charity,

Let's talk. Thanks.

CC

Christopher J. Curtis  
Chief, Public Protection Division  
Office of the Attorney General  
State of Vermont  
109 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05609  
802-828-5586

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**From:** Clark, Charity <[Charity.Clark@vermont.gov](mailto:Charity.Clark@vermont.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2020 9:57 AM  
**To:** Thompson, Julio <[julio.thompson@vermont.gov](mailto:julio.thompson@vermont.gov)>; Adams, Emily <[Emily.Adams@vermont.gov](mailto:Emily.Adams@vermont.gov)>  
**Cc:** Francis, Jennifer <[Jennifer.Francis@vermont.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Francis@vermont.gov)>; Curtis, Christopher <[Christopher.Curtis@vermont.gov](mailto:Christopher.Curtis@vermont.gov)>; Mishaan, Jessica <[Jessica.Mishaan@vermont.gov](mailto:Jessica.Mishaan@vermont.gov)>; Matthews, Deborah <[Deborah.Matthews@vermont.gov](mailto:Deborah.Matthews@vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: VTDigger Inquiry- Call to Michael Powers - FYI

Thanks. An individual not affiliated with Digger called yesterday asking for Michael Powers. The individual is from the American Society of Dowsers and described himself as a freelance reporter looking to pitch an article to a national publication. I will reach out to Digger about this.

Thanks,  
Charity

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**From:** Thompson, Julio  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2020 9:52 AM  
**To:** Clark, Charity <[Charity.Clark@vermont.gov](mailto:Charity.Clark@vermont.gov)>; Adams, Emily <[Emily.Adams@vermont.gov](mailto:Emily.Adams@vermont.gov)>  
**Cc:** Francis, Jennifer <[Jennifer.Francis@vermont.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Francis@vermont.gov)>; Curtis, Christopher <[Christopher.Curtis@vermont.gov](mailto:Christopher.Curtis@vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: VTDigger Inquiry- Call to Michael Powers - FYI

[REDACTED]

Julio A. Thompson  
Assistant Attorney General  
Director, Civil Rights Unit  
Office of the Vermont Attorney General

---

**From:** Adams, Emily <[Emily.Adams@vermont.gov](mailto:Emily.Adams@vermont.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2020 3:26:30 PM  
**To:** Clark, Charity <[Charity.Clark@vermont.gov](mailto:Charity.Clark@vermont.gov)>  
**Cc:** Thompson, Julio <[julio.thompson@vermont.gov](mailto:julio.thompson@vermont.gov)>; Francis, Jennifer <[Jennifer.Francis@vermont.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Francis@vermont.gov)>; Curtis, Christopher <[Christopher.Curtis@vermont.gov](mailto:Christopher.Curtis@vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** VTDigger Inquiry- Call to Michael Powers - FYI

Hi All-

I am writing to let you know that Michael Powers (retired investigator) just called to inform me that he received a phone call from a VT Digger reporter regarding [REDACTED]. The reporter indicated he had been through the public records process already. Michael referred him back to our office and did not provide any info. Michael also indicated he left a message for Chris as an FYI.

I am not familiar with [REDACTED] whether we have in fact responded to a public records request, but will look into it now. I wanted to give you all the heads up in case we receive further contact from Digger.

Let me know if you need anything further.

Best,  
Emily

**Emily Chamberlain Adams**  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Unit  
Vermont Attorney General's Office  
109 State Street  
Montpelier, Vermont 05609  
802-828-3177  
[emily.adams@vermont.gov](mailto:emily.adams@vermont.gov)

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## Curtis, Christopher

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**From:** Curtis, Christopher  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 24, 2020 10:18 AM  
**To:** Mishaan, Jessica  
**Subject:** Re: Public records request: American Society of Dowsers

Yes. We're just trying to ascertain if there is anything new in the relevant timeframe.

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 24, 2020, at 10:15 AM, Mishaan, Jessica <[Jessica.Mishaan@vermont.gov](mailto:Jessica.Mishaan@vermont.gov)> wrote:

Just FYI, we had a similar request on 12/10/18: <https://ago.vermont.gov/open-government/2018-vermont-attorney-generals-office-public-record-act-requests-responses/>

---

**From:** Curtis, Christopher <[Christopher.Curtis@vermont.gov](mailto:Christopher.Curtis@vermont.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 24, 2020 9:52 AM  
**To:** Clark, Charity <[Charity.Clark@vermont.gov](mailto:Charity.Clark@vermont.gov)>  
**Cc:** Mishaan, Jessica <[Jessica.Mishaan@vermont.gov](mailto:Jessica.Mishaan@vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Public records request: American Society of Dowsers

I've forwarded to Jamie. Will let you know when we have a response prepared, or if we need an extension of time.

CC

---

**From:** Clark, Charity <[Charity.Clark@vermont.gov](mailto:Charity.Clark@vermont.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 24, 2020 8:43 AM  
**To:** Matthews, Deborah <[Deborah.Matthews@vermont.gov](mailto:Deborah.Matthews@vermont.gov)>; Diamond, Joshua <[Joshua.Diamond@vermont.gov](mailto:Joshua.Diamond@vermont.gov)>; Curtis, Christopher <[Christopher.Curtis@vermont.gov](mailto:Christopher.Curtis@vermont.gov)>  
**Cc:** Mishaan, Jessica <[Jessica.Mishaan@vermont.gov](mailto:Jessica.Mishaan@vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Public records request: American Society of Dowsers

Hi, Chris,  
Please see PRA below.  
Thanks,  
Charity

---

**From:** Matthews, Deborah <[Deborah.Matthews@vermont.gov](mailto:Deborah.Matthews@vermont.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 24, 2020 8:31 AM  
**To:** Clark, Charity <[Charity.Clark@vermont.gov](mailto:Charity.Clark@vermont.gov)>; Diamond, Joshua <[Joshua.Diamond@vermont.gov](mailto:Joshua.Diamond@vermont.gov)>  
**Cc:** Mishaan, Jessica <[Jessica.Mishaan@vermont.gov](mailto:Jessica.Mishaan@vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Public records request: American Society of Dowsers  
**Importance:** High

*Deb Matthews*

Administrative Assistant  
Office of the Attorney General | GCAL  
109 State Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Montpelier, VT 05609  
Phone | 802-828-3689  
E-Mail \ [deborah.matthews@vermont.gov](mailto:deborah.matthews@vermont.gov)

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**From:** Dan Schwartz <[danschwartz300@gmail.com](mailto:danschwartz300@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2020 5:30 PM  
**To:** AGO - Info <[AGO.Info@vermont.gov](mailto:AGO.Info@vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** Public records request: American Society of Dowsers

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

To whom this may concern:

I am an independent journalist based in Vermont and I am requesting, through the Vermont Public Records Law (V.S.A. § 315-320), the following:

-- any and all records related to reports, correspondences including emails or memos or written messages, complaints, investigations, or any other documentation concerning the American Society of Dowsers, a Vermont nonprofit corporation, that the Vermont Attorney Generals Office produced or obtained between January 18, 2019, to the date this request is fulfilled.

Under the Public Records Law, the requested documents are to be made available within three business days of receiving my request. If they are in active use or in storage, a records custodian shall set a time within seven days of the AGO receiving my request to provide access to the records.

If any fees are assessed for copying, please alert me so that I may inspect the records on sight instead, which I understand is free based on a 2011 ruling by Washington Superior Court Judge Geoffrey Crawford in VSEA v. the state. Please also alert me to any other assessed fees before processing my request.

Also, should any information be redacted, please provide me a Vaughn Index summarizing the information that was withheld and the statutory justification for withholding it, per V.S.A. § 318(e).

If more information is needed or you believe my request can be narrowed, please feel free to contact me by phone or email.

Best,  
Dan

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Dan Schwartz | Journalist  
cell: 774-644-2207

[@Vtdanschwartz](https://twitter.com/Vtdanschwartz)  
[danschwartz.com](http://danschwartz.com)

National Writers Union member

recently, in the Virginia Quarterly Review: <https://bit.ly/2U98IDO>