

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA

LAURA BELIN,

Plaintiff,

v.

MEGHAN NELSON, in her official
capacity as Chief Clerk of the Iowa
House of Representatives,

Defendant.

Case No. 4:24-cv-00021-SHL-SBJ

JOINT STATUS REPORT

On January 19, 2024, Plaintiff Laura Belin (“Plaintiff”) filed her Verified Complaint for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief. She moved for a Temporary Restraining Order and Preliminary Injunction on the same day. Belin alleged violations of her First Amendment rights based on the Chief Clerk’s work space application policy and denial of press credentials for the 2024 legislative session that would grant her access to the press box on the floor of the Iowa House of Representatives.

Thereafter, Defendant Meghan Nelson (“Defendant”) issued a permanent press pass for the 2024 legislative session to Plaintiff. On February 9, 2024, Plaintiff filed a Notice of Withdrawal of Request for Temporary Restraining Order. The notice advised that as of the date of the motion “Defendant has agreed to provide Plaintiff with the emergency temporary relief she has requested” in the motion.

On March 4, 2024, this Court ordered that the deadlines currently pending in this suit were to be continued until further notice. That Order also instructed the parties to file a joint status report as to the progression of this case by April 1, 2024.

Pursuant to that Order, the Parties inform the Court that the Parties have executed a release and settlement agreement, dated March 20, 2024. That agreement included a settlement of costs and attorney's fees, which is awaiting final approval by the State Appeal Board, whose meeting is scheduled for April 2, 2024. Per the agreement, Plaintiff will dismiss this action with prejudice upon Defendant's payment of the agreed attorneys' fees and costs.

Dated: April 1, 2024

Respectfully submitted.

/s/Courtney Corbello

Courtney Corbello*

Trial Counsel

Charles Miller*

Ohio Bar No. 0073844

Texas Bar No. 24097533

INSTITUTE FOR FREE SPEECH

1150 Connecticut Ave., NW

Suite 801

Washington, D.C. 20036

Tel: (202) 985-1644

Fax: (202) 301-3399

ccorbello@ifs.org

cmiller@ifs.org

**admitted pro hac vice*

Jack Bjornstad

Iowa Bar No. 16147

JACK BJORNSTAD LAW OFFICE

1700 Hill Avenue

Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360
Tel: 712-332-5225
jack@bjornstad.law

Attorneys for Plaintiff

BRENNA BIRD
Attorney General of Iowa

/s/ Daniel Johnston
Daniel Johnston
Assistant Attorney General

Iowa Department of Justice
Hoover State Office Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
(515) 281-5191
(515) 281-4209 (fax)
daniel.johnston@ag.iowa.gov

Attorneys for Defendant