

## **New Haven Firefighters Win Injunction Against Statewide Union | RELEASE**

### **The Fairness Center**

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### **New Haven Firefighters Win Injunction Against Statewide Union**

*Superior Court Rules in Favor of Local 825, clearing the way for query into UPFFA finances*

**December 11, 2018, New Haven, CT**—As part of granting a temporary injunction motion yesterday, a Connecticut Superior Court judge agreed with the New Haven Firefighters’ local union, International Association of Fire Fighters, Local 825 (Local 825), that it effectively disaffiliated in 2016 from the Uniformed Professional Firefighters Association of Connecticut (UPFFA). This brings to an end a years-long struggle by Local 825 to win their freedom from UPFFA, which insisted that Local 825 had not properly disaffiliated and must remain a member.

Yesterday’s ruling allows the case to move forward on Local 825’s breach of fiduciary duty allegation against UPFFA, which alleges UPFFA’s misuse of Local 825’s legislative only dues. As the lawsuit moves forward, UPFFA’s handling and expenditure of its finances will be closely examined.

The Court noted that Local 825 “will probably be able to prove some of its claim that its dues were misused.” The court also drew attention to “questionable expenditures from the state union . . . suspicious ‘mistakes’ with PAC fund balances and . . . a plainly improper loan the state union took (and repaid) from its charitable affiliate.”

“Injunction motions of this nature are notoriously difficult to win,” commented Nathan McGrath, the Fairness Center’s Vice President and Director of Litigation and attorney for Local 825. “The core of this case was Local 825’s right to disaffiliate from UPFFA, which has now been decided in our client’s favor. We look forward to the next stage of this litigation and having the opportunity to prove that our client’s money was misused by UPFFA, so our client can be made whole.”

#### **Documents:**

- [Case Backgrounder](#)
- [Memorandum of Decision December 10, 2018](#)

Attorney Nathan McGrath is available for comment. Contact Conner Drigotas at 844.293.1001 or [conner@fairnesscenter.org](mailto:conner@fairnesscenter.org) to schedule an interview.

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*The Fairness Center is a nonprofit, public interest law firm offering free legal services to those hurt by public-sector union officials. For more information visit [www.FairnessCenter.org](http://www.FairnessCenter.org)*