

## The Fairness Center

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### Union Sued for Violating Nonmember Public Employees' Rights by Illegally Collecting Union Dues

*Connecticut Union Ignored Recent Supreme Court Ruling, Took "Dues" From Nonmembers*

**September 17, 2019, Hartford, Ct.**—In June 2018, the United States Supreme Court ruled in *Janus v. AFSCME, Council 31* that public employees who are not union members cannot be compelled to pay union dues or fees as a condition of employment. In Connecticut, however, it appears the Supreme Court's decision is being ignored by the Administrative and Residual Employees Union, Local 4200 ("Local 4200").

Phuong Nguyen and Van Nguyen (no relation), Fiscal Administrative Officers for the State of Connecticut, resigned their union memberships in September 2018, soon after the *Janus* decision. Although Local 4200 acknowledged their nonmember status, the union refused to stop taking union dues from their paychecks until February 2019, which was the expiration date of a collective bargaining agreement between Local 4200 and the State.



After having money repeatedly taken from their paychecks after their union membership resignations, Phuong and Van sought legal help from the Fairness Center, a nonprofit public interest law firm. With assistance from the Fairness Center, they have filed a federal lawsuit and are seeking recognition of their rights and a return of the money they allege has been wrongly taken from their paychecks.

“Local 4200 must follow the Supreme Court’s ruling in *Janus*, which clearly stated that a union cannot take money from nonmembers, like Phuong and Van, as a condition of their employment,” commented Nathan McGrath, Vice President and Director of Litigation at the Fairness Center. “Local 4200 continued to take money from Phuong and Van’s paychecks until February 2019, even though they resigned their union membership in September 2018. We’re looking forward to representing them and helping them in their journey to be made whole.”

The case was filed in Federal Court in the District of Connecticut.

## Documents

- [Complaint](#)
- [Backgrounder](#)

Nathan McGrath, Vice President and Director of Litigation at the Fairness Center, is available for comment. Contact Conner Drigotas at 717.409.6964 or [cddrigotas@fairnesscenter.org](mailto:cddrigotas@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).*