



BACKGROUNDER
(July 2020)

Ralph Rhodes v. Am. Fed'n of St., County and Mun. Emp., Council 13 et al.

THE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Fairness Center represents Ralph Rhodes, a youth development aide at the North Central Secure Treatment Unit, in a lawsuit against American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Council 13 (“Council 13”), and David R. Fillman, in his official capacity as Executive Director of Council 13. Mr. Rhodes alleges that he lawfully resigned his union membership in June 2019, yet the defendants failed to acknowledge his resignation and continued having union dues deducted from his paycheck for nearly a full year after his resignation.

Mr. Rhodes claims in his lawsuit that the continued deduction of union dues from his paycheck, even after resigning from union membership, violated his rights under the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution. As a result, Mr. Rhodes is forced to file this lawsuit to vindicate his constitutional rights and seek the return of the union dues deducted from his paychecks for nearly a year after he resigned his Council 13 membership.

THE CASE LOGISTICS

Plaintiff

Ralph Rhodes

Defendants

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Council 13
David Fillman, Executive Director of Council 13

Court

United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania

Judge

TBD

Date Filed

July 29, 2020

THE LEGAL TEAM

Nathan J. McGrath is President and General Counsel at the Fairness Center. He directs the firm's litigation efforts and develops legal strategy to advance the Fairness Center's clients' best interests, while also overseeing and managing the firm's operations. Before joining the Fairness Center, Nathan was a staff attorney with a national nonprofit legal services organization, where he developed a national practice focused on constitutional, labor, and administrative law. Nathan began his legal career as an associate attorney with a general practice firm in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Justin T. Miller serves as Litigation Counsel at the Fairness Center, representing clients in state and federal courts and before administrative boards. Prior to joining the Fairness Center, Justin was a prosecutor for the State Attorney's Office in Florida. He was lead counsel in over 80 jury trials and prosecuted a wide-array of felony offenses before accepting an assignment to the special victims unit. Justin also represented the State of Florida in an appellate capacity.