



BACKGROUND (JULY 2020)

LuAnn Zeigler v. Am. Fed'n of State, Cty., & Mun. Emps., Council 13, et al.

THE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Fairness Center represents LuAnn Zeigler, who works for the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue, in a lawsuit against the American Federation of State, County and Municipal employees, Council 13 (“Council 13”).

Ms. Zeigler resigned her union membership at the beginning of 2020 after becoming dissatisfied with Council 13’s representation, particularly after learning that she was not given the opportunity to vote on the new collective bargaining agreement that governs her terms and conditions of employment, even though union officials told her she would have a chance to vote.

Despite acknowledging Ms. Zeigler’s resignation, Defendant unions continued to have dues withheld from Ms. Zeigler’s paycheck. In 2018, the United States Supreme Court held in *Janus v. AFSCME, Council 31*, 138 S. Ct. 2448 (2018), that nonmember public-sector employees cannot be forced to pay money to unions as a condition of their employment, and must make a knowing and voluntary waiver of their rights before money is taken from them. Because Ms. Zeigler never made a knowing and voluntary waiver of her constitutional rights, she brings this lawsuit to enforce her right not to pay a union against her will. In her lawsuit, she seeks an end to the dues being withheld from her and a refund of the dues taken from her since her resignation, among other relief.

CASE LOGISTICS

Plaintiff

LuAnn Zeigler

Defendants

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Council 13
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, District Council 84
Michael Newsome, in his official capacity as Secretary of Pennsylvania Office of Administration
Brian T. Lyman, in his official capacities as Chief Accounting Officer for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Deputy Secretary for the Office of Comptroller Operations

Court

United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania

Judge

The Honorable David Stewart Cercone

Date Filed

July 2, 2020

THE FAIRNESS CENTER LEGAL TEAM

Nathan J. McGrath is the President and General Counsel at the Fairness Center. A seasoned, federal class action litigator, Nathan provides advice and counsel to clients and directs and manages the firm. 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.

Danielle R.A. Susanj 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, Danielle practiced law as a litigation associate at a large international firm in Washington, D.C., and as a litigator in central Pennsylvania, representing clients in federal district and appellate courts and the United States Supreme Court.

Curtis M. Schube serves as Litigation Counsel at the Fairness Center, where he assists clients and their needs with advice, counsel, and through litigation. Prior to joining the Fairness Center, Curtis served as legal counsel with the Independence Law Center and as an assistant attorney general for the state of Missouri.