



**BACKGROUND
(December 2020)**

Biddiscombe v. SEIU, Local 668, et al.

THE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Fairness Center represents Fran Biddiscombe, a Commonwealth employee who resigned from her union, SEIU, Local 668, on July 9, 2020. While Local 668 officials acknowledged her resignation letter, they said they would recognize her as a nonmember only after a 10-day waiting period. And union officials are requiring her to still pay dues for nearly another full year, because she missed the union-imposed window to resign in 2020 by just a month. Ms. Biddiscombe is an income maintenance caseworker for the Department of Human Services, at the Danville Processing Center. Although Ms. Biddiscombe decided that she no longer wanted to be a union member or to financially support the union, the Commonwealth and the union continue taking dues from her paycheck. Ms. Biddiscombe brings this lawsuit to vindicate her constitutional rights not to be forced to be associated with or to financially support a union.

THE CASE LOGISTICS

Plaintiff

Fran Biddiscombe

Defendants

SEIU, Local 668

Michael Newsome, in his official capacity as Secretary of the 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

Federal District Court in the Middle District of Pennsylvania

Judge

TBD

Date Filed

December 30, 2020

THE LEGAL TEAM

Nathan J. McGrath is President & General Counsel at the Fairness Center. Nathan oversees the firm's general operations and litigation to advance the Fairness Center's clients' best interests. 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 Acker Susanj is Senior Litigation Counsel at the Fairness Center, representing clients in state and federal courts and before administrative boards. Prior to joining the Fairness Center, she clerked for a federal appellate judge and practiced law as a litigation associate at a large international firm in Washington, D.C., and as a federal litigator in central Pennsylvania.

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.