



BACKGROUND
(March 05, 2021)

Yanoski v. SEIU Healthcare Pennsylvania, et al.

THE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Fairness Center represents Donna Yanoski, a Commonwealth employee who resigned from her union, SEIU Healthcare Pennsylvania (“SEIU HCPA”), in October 2020. While SEIU HCPA officials acknowledged that Ms. Yanoski’s resignation made her a nonmember, the Commonwealth and union officials are requiring her to pay union dues until July 2020. And they are saying that requirement comes from a membership application they claim Ms. Yanoski signed, even though Ms. Yanoski alleges that an SEIU HCPA official typed her name onto the application without Ms. Yanoski signing or even seeing it. Ms. Yanoski is a registered nurse for the Department of Corrections, at SCI-Waymart in Wayne County. Although Ms. Yanoski decided that she no longer wanted to be a union member or to financially support the union, the Commonwealth and the union have taken union dues from her paychecks after her resignation. Ms. Yanoski 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

Donna Yanoski

Defendants

SEIU Healthcare Pennsylvania
Michael Newsome, in his official capacity as Secretary of the Office of Administration
Brian T. Lyman, in his official capacities as Chief Accounting Office 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

Hon. Jennifer P. Wilson

Date Filed

March 05, 2021

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.