Daily Trial Briefing for Press
NAACP NC V. Hirsch (NC Photo Voter ID Trial)

Day 1- [Monday, May 6th, 2024]
Hiram H. Ward Building Courtroom 4
251 N Main St, Winston-Salem, NC

Media Contacts

- **Brittany Cheatham**, Forward Justice
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Witnesses Called

- Deborah Dicks Maxwell- President, NC NAACP
- Kate Fellman- Executive Director, You Can Vote
- Iliana Santillan- Executive Director of El Pueblo NC
- Dr. Elma Hairston-President of the High Point NC NAACP

Key Case development, Points and Quotes

- Plaintiffs argue that there is a historical pattern of racial discrimination in NC over the years: whenever we see expansions of the franchise, they are followed by periods of white backlash and restrictive laws. Plaintiffs say SB824 is a continuation of that pattern, especially when you look at it within the context of its predecessor HB589, the state's racial gerrymandering, and the recently enacted SB747. A timeline of legislative and judicial actions leading to the passage of SB824 was also shared.

- Plaintiffs are requesting that the court permanently enjoins the challenged provisions of SB824: the discriminatory ID requirement, the the addition of more poll workers, and the challenge provision.

- Plaintiffs say that SB824 goes beyond what the constitutional amendment called for, especially given the fact that incidents of voter fraud in NC is statistically zero. In addition to the burdensome ID requirement, the addition of more poll workers and the challenge provision in the bill open Black and brown voters up to more instances of harassment and intimidation

- NC NAACP President Deborah Dicks Maxwell emphasized that Sunday marked 6 months until the general election and NC voters are not as excited because of the chilling effect of SB824. She testified that although the NAACP does voter education and outreach on the new law, "education does not overcome the barriers caused by this law." She cited the digital divide, lack of internet and lack of access to rideshare options in rural NC communities as contributing factors and barriers to people in those areas being able to obtain an ID

- Kate Fellman of You Can Vote testified that, "voting is a habit and new barriers are a deterrent from that habit forming." In 2019, Ms. Fellman wrote a letter to the SBOE expressing concerns regarding the upcoming voter ID law and its impact on older voters and Black & Brown voters.

- During the cross examination of Iliana Santillan, legislative defendants asked if she believed non-citizens should be able to vote, Illiana responded, “Absolutely. They pay taxes so they should also have the right to vote.”

A press conference was held on the steps of the courthouse immediately following the first day of trial. A recording of the press conference can be accessed on the Forward Justice Facebook page.

What to expect tomorrow:

The trial will resume tomorrow with plaintiffs and their attorneys calling additional witnesses to the stand to attest to the impact of photo voter ID laws and how the current implementation is disproportionately harmful to Black, brown and poor voters.

Tomorrow the court will hear from:

- Keith Rivers- President, Pasquotank County NC NAACP
- Danell Burney- Directly Impacted Community Member
- Courtney Patterson- President of the Lenoir County NC NAACP, 1st Vice President of the NC NAACP and Community Organizer with Blueprint NC
- Theresa Van Duyn- Former North Carolina Senator

More resources and information on the case are available in our
NC Photo Voter ID Case- Press Toolkit