

## ACLU filing #2 based on Contempt of Court charges brought against me 2-4-23

### Complete description of the situation.

I was charged with Contempt of Court because I was not willing to sign a "Mutual Release & Hold Harmless" agreement the attorney for the opposition drafted. I drafted an alternate version that I did sign. Judge Allen held a hearing on January 9, 2023. I was being threatened with a \$2500 fine. Judge Allen reviewed both versions of the document, and indicated she found I must sign the version I was not comfortable with. The version I was being forced to sign had within it a provision stating I was signing: "voluntarily, free of any undue duress or coercion". How I could be forced to sign a document against my free will that states that it is of my free will was very troubling, so I refused to sign. A 2nd hearing was scheduled for 2-1-23. The fine was now up to \$5000. On 1-20-23 I gave up and signed. I also included an honest note indicating that I did NOT sign of my own free will. My unaltered signed release was not accepted, and I was again charged with Contempt of Court.

### How do you feel the ACLU can assist you?

Although I signed the release they demanded, I was informed (via a deputy) that I will still in Contempt, and that I would have to go to jail until I complied with their demand, which was unspecified. I was flummoxed since I had signed the release they had demanded. My lawyer determined that they said I had to sign again, update the date, and submit that again, but with no note indicating that I was not signing against my free will, even though that was still included on the document I was being forced to sign. The bizarre and harsh reality of what was occurring left me aghast - I felt like I was suddenly living in Red China. I was being threatened with jail time for Contempt when I had done as I was told, but also exercised my 1st Amendment rights to point out the dismay I had with the absurd demand they made on me, and also my discontent with the entire process. They trampled my 1st Amendment rights like an elephant out for a walk on newly planted grass. I was and am disgusted.

### Provide information about the lawsuit.

The lawsuit was based on a dispute I had with the conduct of the Trustees who are supervising my sister's special needs Trust. I requested they be removed as Trustees. The Judge never allowed me to speak to her, **so I settled** under duress. (I was being threatened with having to pay the legal fees of my brother, which here huge (like 70 grand) vs my own, which were under 7 grand.) The Judge issued the directive that if I didn't agree to settle, the loser would have to pay the winner's legal fees. It was not a fair fight, as they were spending Trust money flagrantly, and could continue to do so, so I was forced to stand down. (I issued a complaint to the ACLU regarding that balderdash.) After the suit was settled in mediation, I was required to sign a "mutual hold harmless" agreement, but it wasn't mutual, the Judge directed I must sign the version my brother's layer drafted, which gave my brother full immunity for all money he plundered from my sister's Trust, which I had hoped to contest.

Submitted by Halsey Wolff