

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA
SOUTHERN DIVISION**

PEOPLE FIRST OF ALABAMA, et al.,)

)

Plaintiffs,)

)

v.)

CASE No.: 2:20-cv-00619 -AKK

)

JOHN MERRILL, in his official capacity)

as Secretary of State of Alabama, et al.,)

)

Defendants.)

**DEFENDANTS JACQUELINE ANDERSON-SMITH AND KAREN DUNN
BURKS RESPONSE TO PLAINTIFF’S MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY
INJUNCTION**

Defendants, Jacqueline Anderson-Smith, in her official capacity as Circuit Clerk of Jefferson County, Alabama, and Karen Dunn Burks, in her official capacity as Deputy Circuit Clerk of the Bessemer Division of Jefferson County, Alabama (Jefferson County Clerks), respond¹ to Plaintiff’s Motion for Preliminary Injunction and its supporting brief. *See* [Docs. 15, 20-1]. The Jefferson County Clerks in support of this position states the following unto this court:

1. The Jefferson County Clerks view themselves accountable to the rules of law that governs Alabama Circuit Clerks as well as our democratic society.

¹ Jefferson County Clerks file this response reserving all defenses, substantive and procedural, they may have to the underlying suit, including issues of proper parties, standing, immunity, capacity, and joinder.

2. All county clerks that serve in the capacity of Absentee Elections Manager (AEM), or the appointed absentee election manager, thereby appointed by the appointing board, *See* Ala. Code § 17-11-2, are mandated to carry out their duties pursuant to Ala. Code § 17-1-1, *et seq.*

3. The Jefferson County Clerks are entitled to sovereign immunity. As state officers² who do not have responsibility for enforcing the challenged provisions, they cannot be stripped of sovereign immunity. *Summit Med. Assocs. v. Pryor*, 180 F.3d 1326, 1341 (11th Cir. 1999) (citation omitted).

4. Jefferson County Clerks acknowledge the sensitivity surrounding the information that is before this Honorable Court. After great deliberation the Jefferson County Clerks elect to be a nonparticipant in the present preliminary injunction and will abide by all laws of this state as well as all orders rendered by this Honorable Court to ensure the fundamental right to vote for all qualified citizens of Jefferson County.

5. Jefferson County Clerks have a long history of supporting and ensuring the right to vote amongst all citizens of Jefferson County, by providing every possible legal accommodation and assistance to voters.

² *See* Ala. Const. § 160(b).

6. The Jefferson County Clerks recognize that the evolution of fair and equitable voting practices represents the shoulders upon which they stand and will continue to uphold all laws related thereto.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ T. A. Lawson

T.A. Lawson, ASB-3840-L72T
County Attorney

/s/ Donald McKinley Carroll

Donald McKinley Carroll, ASB-8575-A61C

Office of the Jefferson County Attorney
280 Jefferson County Courthouse
716 Richard Arrington Jr. Blvd. North
Birmingham, Alabama 35203
Phone: (205) 325-5688
Fax: (205) 325-5840
Email: carrolld@jccal.org

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 1st day of June, 2020, I provided the foregoing to the parties below through electronic mail and/or through U.S. Mail:

Caren Elaine Short, Esq.
Nancy G Abudu, Esq.
SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER
PO Box 1287
Decatur, GA 30031
Phone: 404-221-5868
Fax: 404-221-5857

Jenny R Ryan, Esq.
William Van Der Pol, Jr, Esq.
ALABAMA DISABILITIES ADVOCACY PROGRAM
Box 870395
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0395
Phone: 205-348-4928
Fax: 205-348-3909

Sara M Zampierin, Esq.
SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER
400 Washington Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36104
Phone: 334-956-8200
Fax: 334-956-8481

Deuel Ross, Esq.
Liliana Zaragoza, Esq.
Natasha Merle, Esq.
NAACP LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATIONAL FUND INC
40 Rector Street 5th Floor
New York, NY 10006
Phone: 212-965-2200
Fax: 212-226-7592

Mahogane D Reed, Esq.
NAACP LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATIONAL FUND INC
700 14th Street NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005
Phone: 202-682-1300
Fax: 202-682-1312

James W Davis, Esq.
Brenton Merrill Smith, Esq.
Jeremy Stone Weber, Esq.
Winfield J Sinclair, Esq.
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
501 Washington Avenue
P O Box 300152
Montgomery, AL 36130-0152

Phone: 334-242-7300

Fax: 334-353-8400

Jay M Ross, Esq.

ADAMS AND REESE LLP

PO Box 1348

11 North Waters Street, Suite 23200

Mobile, AL 36633

Phone: 251-433-3234

Fax: 251-438-7733

Todd David Engelhardt, Esq.

Robert F. Dyar, Esq.

ADAMS AND REESE, LLP

1901 6th Avenue North, Ste. 3000

Birmingham, AL 35203

205-250-5020

Fax: 205-250-5034

Brandon Keith Essig, Esq.

Robert Jackson Sewell, Esq.

LIGHTFOOT FRANKLIN & WHITE

400 20th Street North

Birmingham, AL 35203

Phone: 205-581-0748

Fax: 205-581-0799

Steven M Brom, Esq.

BACHUS & BROM LLC

4908 Cahaba River Road Suite 100

Birmingham, AL 35243

Phone: 205-970-6747

Fax: 205-970-7776

/s/ Donald McKinley Carroll

Assistant County Attorney