

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

EVAN MILLIGAN, et al.,

*Plaintiffs,*

vs.

JOHN H. MERRILL, et al.,

*Defendants.*

No. 2:21-cv-01530  
THREE-JUDGE COURT

***MILLIGAN* PLAINTIFFS' RESPONSE TO SINGLETON PLAINTIFFS'  
EMERGENCY MOTION**

The *Milligan* Plaintiffs submit this response pursuant to this Court's order dated February 8, 2022 (Doc. 133) requiring all parties to respond to the *Singleton* Plaintiffs' Emergency Motion for a Ruling on their Renewed Motion for a Preliminary Injunction (*Singleton*, Doc. 104). The *Singleton* Plaintiffs ask the Court to grant a preliminary injunction on their racial gerrymandering claim and order the Defendant and Defendant-Intervenors in that action to adopt a new Congressional redistricting plan based on the "whole county" principle.

The *Milligan* Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court defer further action on or consideration of the racial gerrymandering and other constitutional claims asserted in both the *Singleton* and the *Milligan* complaints. The Court's

consideration of the *Singleton* and *Milligan* constitutional claims (as well as further consideration of the *Milligan* Plaintiffs' statutory claims) will be aided by a fuller evidentiary record. Additionally, the avoidance of further interlocutory treatment of individual claims will serve the interest of judicial economy. Accordingly, rather than address the merits further on a preliminary basis and record, this Court should defer action on the *Singleton* Plaintiffs' motion and not address their right to preliminary relief at this time.<sup>1</sup>

If, however, the Court is inclined to consider the *Singleton* Plaintiffs' renewed motion for a preliminary injunction on its merits at this stage, the *Milligan* Plaintiffs request that the Court formally sever the *Singleton* and *Milligan* cases prior to any further consideration of the *Singleton* claims. This Court previously consolidated the two cases solely for purposes of the preliminary injunction proceedings (Doc. 40). If the cases remain consolidated, then extending the preliminary injunction proceedings in the *Singleton* case will impact a variety of issues affecting the *Milligan* case, including the scope and timing of discovery and trial. In addition, binding the *Milligan* Plaintiffs to any findings of fact or legal rulings in further preliminary injunction proceedings in *Singleton*—in which the *Milligan* Plaintiffs do not intend to be involved—would be unfairly prejudicial to the *Milligan* Plaintiffs.

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<sup>1</sup> Additionally, given the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to stay this Court's preliminary injunction on the *Milligan* Plaintiffs' statutory claims, further consideration of the *Singleton* Plaintiffs' constitutional claim at this time is likely futile.

While the racial gerrymandering claims of the *Milligan* and *Singleton* Plaintiffs share some common elements, the claims are (as the Court is aware) materially different in important respects. Accordingly, if the Court intends to grant the *Singleton* Plaintiffs' emergency motion and give further consideration to their motion for a preliminary injunction, the *Milligan* Plaintiffs request that the Court first sever the *Singleton* and *Milligan* cases for all purposes.

Respectfully submitted,

DATED this 14th day of February 2022.

/s/ Deuel Ross

Deuel Ross\*  
NAACP LEGAL DEFENSE &  
EDUCATIONAL FUND, INC.  
700 14th Street N.W. Ste. 600  
Washington, DC 20005  
(202) 682-1300  
dross@naacpldf.org

Leah Aden\*  
Stuart Naifeh\*  
Kathryn Sadasivan (ASB-517-E48T)  
Brittany Carter\*  
NAACP LEGAL DEFENSE &  
EDUCATIONAL FUND, INC.  
40 Rector Street, 5th Floor  
New York, NY 10006  
(212) 965-2200  
laden@naacpldf.org  
snaifeh@naacpldf.org

Shelita M. Stewart\*  
Jessica L. Ellsworth\*  
HOGAN LOVELLS US LLP  
555 Thirteenth Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20004

/s/ Sidney M. Jackson

Sidney M. Jackson (ASB-1462-K40W)  
Nicki Lawsen (ASB-2602-C00K)  
WIGGINS CHILDS PANTAZIS  
FISHER & GOLDFARB, LLC  
301 19th Street North  
Birmingham, AL 35203  
Phone: (205) 341-0498  
sjackson@wigginschilds.com  
nlawsen@wigginschilds.com

/s/ Davin M. Rosborough

Davin M. Rosborough\*  
Julie A. Ebenstein\*  
AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES  
UNION FOUNDATION  
125 Broad St.  
New York, NY 10004  
(212) 549-2500  
drosborough@aclu.org  
jebenstein@aclu.org

/s/ LaTisha Gotell Faulks

LaTisha Gotell Faulks (ASB-1279-I63J)  
Kaitlin Welborn\*  
AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

(202) 637-5600  
shelita.stewart@hoganlovells.com

David Dunn\*  
HOGAN LOVELLS US LLP  
390 Madison Avenue  
New York, NY 10017  
(212) 918-3000  
david.dunn@hoganlovells.com

Michael Turrill\*  
Harmony A. Gbe\*  
HOGAN LOVELLS US LLP  
1999 Avenue of the Stars  
Suite 1400  
Los Angeles, CA 90067  
(310) 785-4600  
michael.turrill@hoganlovells.com  
harmony.gbe@hoganlovells.com

OF ALABAMA  
P.O. Box 6179  
Montgomery, AL 36106-0179  
(334) 265-2754  
tgfaulks@aclualabama.org  
kwelborn@aclualabama.org

Blayne R. Thompson\*  
HOGAN LOVELLS US LLP  
609 Main St., Suite 4200  
Houston, TX 77002  
(713) 632-1400  
blayne.thompson@hoganlovells.com

*Attorneys for Milligan Plaintiffs*

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## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have electronically filed a copy of the foregoing with the Clerk of Court using the CM/ECF system which provides electronic notice of filing to all counsel of record on February 14, 2022.

/s/ Stuart Naifeh

Counsel for Plaintiffs

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