



**State of Arkansas  
Bureau of  
Legislative Research**

Marty Garrity, Director  
 Kevin Anderson, Assistant Director  
 for Fiscal Services  
 Tim Carlock, Assistant Director  
 for Information Technology  
 Matthew Miller, Assistant Director  
 for Legal Services  
 Richard Wilson, Assistant Director  
 for Research Services

**State Agency Litigation Notification Form**

**Dear Agency Director:**

*Arkansas Code § 10-3-312 requires that any agency or institution that is not represented by the Attorney General shall notify the Director of the Bureau of Legislative Research of pending litigation so that the appropriate legislative committee may "determine the action that may be deemed necessary to protect the interests of the General Assembly and the State of Arkansas in that matter."*

*In order to submit a report regarding pending litigation pursuant to Arkansas Code § 10-3-312, please complete the following form for each pending lawsuit, along with a cover letter to the Director of the Bureau of Legislative Research, and submit to [williamsa@blr.arkansas.gov](mailto:williamsa@blr.arkansas.gov).*

<b>DATE REPORTING:</b>	
Agency:	Arkansas Department of Education
E-mail:	lori.freno@arkansas.gov
Phone:	501-682-4227 (Legal Unit)
Contact:	Lori Freno, General Counsel
<b>1. STYLE OF THE CASE BEING LITIGATED</b>	
Sandy Becker v. Little Rock School District, et al.	
<b>2. IDENTITY OF THE TRIBUNAL BEFORE WHICH THE MATTER HAS BEEN FILED (COURT)</b>	
Pulaski County Circuit Court	
<b>3. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED</b>	
Ex-employee of the LRSD brings this action against the LRSD among others, alleging a violation of the Administrative Procedures Act and Public School Employee Fair Hearing Act. Plaintiff alleges he was terminated without due process. Commissioner Johnny Key named in his OFFICIAL CAPACITY ONLY because he acts in lieu of the LRSD Board of Directors.	
<b>3A. OTHER DESCRIPTION INFORMATION</b>	
Docket Number	60CV-16-4972
Date Filed	September 2, 2016
Defendant	"Little Rock School Board through Johnny Key"
Defendant Attorney	Lori Freno, ADE General Counsel
Plaintiff	Sandy Becker
Plaintiff Attorney	Pro Se
<b>4. ANY OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION</b>	
LRSD is represented by its Friday Firm counsel. ADE counsel is involved only because Commissioner Key is an official-capacity defendant. Although the possibility of any recovery is extremely remote, there is no possible financial liability to the state.	
<b>4A. OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION</b>	
Case History	Motions to Dismiss filed by both ADE and LRSD counsel. They are pending.
Relief Sought	Reinstatement, back pay.
Current Status	Motions to dismiss pending.



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<b>DATE REPORTING:</b>	
Agency:	Arkansas Department of Education
E-mail:	lori.freno@arkansas.gov
Phone:	501-682-4227 (Legal Unit)
Contact:	Lori Freno, General Counsel
<b>1. STYLE OF THE CASE BEING LITIGATED</b>	
Ryan Chase Gore v. Baker Kurrus, et al.	
<b>2. IDENTITY OF THE TRIBUNAL BEFORE WHICH THE MATTER HAS BEEN FILED (COURT)</b>	
Pulaski County Circuit Court	
<b>3. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED</b>	
Plaintiff is an ex-Little Rock School District teacher whose contract was non-renewed. He alleges violations of the Arkansas Whistle-Blower Act. Commissioner Johnny Key named in his OFFICIAL CAPACITY ONLY because he acts in lieu of the LRSD Board of Directors.	
<b>3A. OTHER DESCRIPTION INFORMATION</b>	
Docket Number	60CV-15-5089
Date Filed	October 20, 2015
Defendant	Commissioner of Education Johnny Key in his official capacity only
Defendant Attorney	Lori Freno, ADE General Counsel
Plaintiff	Ryan Chase Gore
Plaintiff Attorney	Doug Carson
<b>4. ANY OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION</b>	
LRSD defendants are represented by District's Friday Firm counsel. ADE counsel is involved only because Commissioner Key is an official-capacity defendant. Although the possibility of any recovery is extremely remote, there is no possible financial liability to the state.	
<b>4A. OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION</b>	
Case History	Discovery proceeding; awaiting trial date.
Relief Sought	Monetary damages.
Current Status	Discovery proceeding; awaiting trial date.



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<b>DATE REPORTING:</b>	
Agency: Arkansas Department of Education	Phone: 501-682-4227 (Legal Unit)
E-mail: lori.freno@arkansas.gov	Contact: Lori Freno, General Counsel
<b>1. STYLE OF THE CASE BEING LITIGATED</b>	
Beverly Garner-Harris v. Arkansas State Board of Education	
<b>2. IDENTITY OF THE TRIBUNAL BEFORE WHICH THE MATTER HAS BEEN FILED (COURT)</b>	
Pulaski County Circuit Court	
<b>3. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED</b>	
Plaintiff teacher's license was suspended for three years and a fine was imposed by the Professional Licensure Standards Board. The Arkansas State Board of Education upheld the suspension and fine. Plaintiff seeks judicial review of the State Board's decision under the Administrative Procedures Act.	
<b>3A. OTHER DESCRIPTION INFORMATION</b>	
Docket Number	60CV-15-4504
Date Filed	September 20, 2015
Defendant	Arkansas State Board of Education
Defendant Attorney	Courtney Salas-Ford, Deputy General Counsel
Plaintiff	Beverly Garner-Harris
Plaintiff Attorney	Austin Porter
<b>4. ANY OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION</b>	
<b>4A. OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION</b>	
Case History	ADE has filed Response to Petition for Judicial Review and Administrative Record.
Relief Sought	Circuit court overturn State Board's Order.
Current Status	Awaiting scheduling order.