

DISTRICT COURT, DENVER COUNTY, STATE OF COLORADO 1437 Bannock Street Denver, Colorado 80202	DATE FILED October 10, 2025 8:53 AM FILING ID: 2A51708AF2094 CASE NUMBER: 2025CV33628
THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF COLORADO, by and through the chairperson of the Libertarian Party of Colorado, HANNAH GOODMAN, Plaintiff, v. CARYN ANN HARLOS, KEITH LAUBE, DOUGLAS JONES, JEFFORY ORROK, DANIEL LUTZ, BETTE ROSE RYAN, MARC MONTONI, W. J. BENNETT RUTLEDGE, JANET TURNER, JOSEPH JOHNSON, SEAN VADNEY, MICHELE POAGUE, CLAYTON CASCIATO, DARREN HILL, JOHN HJERSMAN, and DOES 1-28, in their individual capacities, Defendants.	▲ COURT USE ONLY ▲
Counsel for Plaintiff: Gary D. Fielder, #19757 2325 West 72 nd Avenue Denver, CO 80221 Phone: (303) 650-1505 Fax: (303) 650-1705 garyfielder@proton.me	Case Number: Division: Courtroom:
VERIFIED EX PARTE MOTION FOR TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER and REQUEST FOR EXPEDITED HEARING FOR PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION WITH NOTICE TO DEFENDANTS	

COMES NOW, Plaintiff, by and through counsel, and hereby moves this Honorable Court for a temporary restraining order, prohibiting the Defendants from misrepresenting any political meetings, distributions, or decisions as official party business and from acts including but not limited to: utilizing official party email servers and phone numbers; official party logos; use of party websites; distribution of press releases in the party's name, and use of official party database pursuant to the Judicial Committee decision issued against Defendants on September 2, 2025, and the setting of an expedited hearing for a preliminary injunction after notice to the Defendants.

As grounds therefore, Plaintiff states as follows:

1. This is an action pursuant to under C.R.S. §1-3-106, to enforce the Judicial Committee (JC) decision issued against Defendants on September 2, 2025, a final order to resolve internal party disputes authorized by the Libertarian Party of Colorado (LPCO) Bylaws, and for declaratory and injunctive relief to prohibit the Defendants from continuing to ignore this JC decision in violation of the Bylaws and Colorado law.

2. LPCO is a nonprofit corporation and political party committee, governed and operating under the law of the State of Colorado.

3. As a nonprofit corporation, the LPCO operates under bylaws adopted April 1-2, 2023, hereinafter referred to as the "Bylaws."

4. All active members of the LPCO agree to abide by the Bylaws.

5. Provisions of LPCO Bylaws "constitute[] a contract between the [member] and the [entity]." *P.F.P. Fam. Holdings, L.P. v. Stan Lee Media, Inc.*, 252 P.3d 1, 7 (Colo. App. 2010);

(“In construing corporate bylaws, we apply the same rules used to interpret statutes, contracts, and other written instruments.”) (citations omitted). This applies with equal force to nonprofit organizations. *Bloom v. Nat’l Collegiate Athletic Ass’n*, 93 P.3d 621, 625 (Colo. App. 2004) (referring to bylaws of nonprofit as contract between entity and its members).

6. Failure to comply with the LPCO Bylaws constitutes a breach of contract.

7. Colorado law recognizes the LPCO board as the only body (outside the Libertarian Party’s annual meeting) qualified to resolve all controversies over the “regularity of the organization of that party.” Colo. Rev. Stat. § 1-3-106.

8. Article X and Article XI of the Bylaws explicitly outlines the type of meetings which may properly occur under the Bylaws, and the procedure with which all members of the LPCO agree to call them.

9. LPCO Board noticed but canceled the 2025 State Convention scheduled for June 28, 2025, in Holyoke, Colorado, due to failure of a former officer to publish newspaper notices as required by LPCO Bylaws Article XI, Section 1(d), Article X(a), and C.R.S. § 1-4-1301(1)(h).

10. Despite cancellation notices via email, website, and in-person warnings the day of, Defendants held an unauthorized annual meeting on June 28, 2025.

11. At this June 28, 2025 annual meeting, the members elected pro tem officers, passed resolutions and amended bylaws. They also passed a resolution forming the EBOC with purported powers to expend funds, access membership lists, and calling for a continuation of the June 28, 2025 annual meeting.

12. On July 7 and 8, 2025, Laube demanded LPCO resources and website postings for an invalid August 23, 2025 continuation meeting (from June 28, 2025).

13. Defendants mailed misleading letters to members (postmarked July 9, 2025, failing the 45-day notice requirement before August 23, 2025), casting doubt on the Board's legitimate October 18, 2025 convention.

14. Goodman filed the JC Appeal on July 15, 2025, seeking to invalidate all actions from the June 28, 2025 annual meeting. The Judicial Committee, under LPCO Bylaws Article IX, has authority over such disputes.

15. Defendants proceeded with the second invalid annual meeting on August 23, 2025, at APWU Hall in Aurora, Colorado, purporting to elect new board members and conduct other business under EBOC authority.

16. This second convention was noticed by both mail and newspaper publication in a manner intended to represent the authority of the LPCO cast doubt on the properly called and noticed October 18, 2025 meeting.

17. On September 2, 2025, the Judicial Committee issued its decision, declaring the June 28, 2025 annual meeting and all derivative actions null and void, including the EBOC formation, resolutions, bylaws amendments, elections, demands, and the purported August 23, 2025 continuation.

18. Instead of complying with JC decision under both C.R.S. §1-3-106 and the LPCO Bylaws, Defendants have refused to recognize the JC decision making bizarre accusations such as the chair of the JC is not a registered Libertarian voter. The chair of the JC responded

informing them that his voter registration was purposely hidden from public records for the safety of him and his family. They subsequently recognized their own JC instead (allegedly elected at the August 23, 2025 meeting).

19. On September 22, 2025, a response to a records request to the Colorado Secretary of State's office demonstrated that this group of members on August 25, 2025 submitted paperwork to this office presenting themselves as the legitimately elected board. Keith Laube presented himself as the LPCO Chair (allegedly elected at the August 23, 2025 meeting).

20. A properly called and noticed annual meeting of LPCO members is being held on October 18, 2025.

21. Laube sent a letter and an email dissuading LPCO members from attending the October 18, 2025 annual meeting.

22. Laube also submitted Bylaw changes for the consideration of the October 18 annual meeting and sent out emails reversing a previous position and requesting attendance and support at the upcoming meeting.

23. Upon information and belief, at no time has Laube in communication with LPCO officers, members or the public has recalled their submission presenting himself and his group of members as the LPCO board or recognized the authority of the JC decision of September 2, 2025.

24. Upon information and belief, Defendants plan to participate in the properly called October 18, 2025 annual meeting and if they do not win election to internal office there remains a question of the validity of any of the annual meetings held.

25. There is a danger of real, immediate, and irreparable injury which may be prevented by this request for injunctive relief.

26. The Plaintiff will be irreparably harmed if Defendants continue to misrepresent themselves as the legitimately elected LPCO board.

27. There is no plain, speedy, and adequate remedy at law.

28. Plaintiff has filed this action pursuant to C.R.S. §1-3-106.

29. However, that rarely used statute does not have an effective, immediate remedy to stop rogue members from ignoring a final order of the internal dispute mechanism of a political party.

30. The granting of a preliminary injunction will not disserve the public interest.

31. In fact, stopping the recounts at this juncture, followed by an expedited hearing on a preliminary injunction will greatly serve the public interest in supporting a functional democracy and protecting the accuracy of information about the leadership of the LPCO.

32. The balance of equities favors the injunction.

33. The people of the state of Colorado deserve to have political parties that operate in legal compliance.

34. LPCO Bylaws provide a mechanism to resolve internal disputes called the Judicial Committee (JC).

35. As is articulated in Plaintiff's complaint, there is no mechanism to *enforce* the final order or decision of the JC.

36. However, this request for a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction, at this stage, is being filed to require the Defendants to follow the existing Colorado law with regard to a final order of the party's dispute resolution process namely the JC decision.

37. As such, a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction will preserve the status quo pending a trial on the merits.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff hereby respectfully requests that this Honorable Court issue a temporary restraining order, prohibiting the Defendants from Respectfully submitted this 10th day of October, 2025.

By: /s/ Gary D. Fielder, Esq.
Gary D. Fielder, #19757

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VERIFICATION

Hannah Goodman
310 S Morlan Ave.
Holyoke, CO 80734

I, Hannah Goodman, declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States and Colorado that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Hannah Goodman

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORD TO ME this 8th day of October, 2025, by
Hannah Goodman.

Witness my hand and official seal:



My Commission Expires: 8-19-26

