

## **Voter Registrations Voided Because a Deputy Registrar Was Dismissed**

*Johnson v. Helander*

*(Charles R. Norgle, Sr., N.D. Ill. 1:00-cv-6926)*

The mayor of North Chicago's high-school son filed a federal complaint against Lake County's clerk on the Sunday before the 2000 general election, seeking validation of his and some of his classmates' voter registrations.<sup>1</sup> The deputy registrar who had registered them was dismissed for submitting "inaccurate, incomplete and unverifiable" registration applications, so the clerk voided, at the close of the registration period, applications submitted by the dismissed deputy registrar, including the plaintiff's.<sup>2</sup> The complaint sought a temporary restraining order allowing the plaintiff and his classmates to vote.<sup>3</sup>

On the day that the complaint was filed, Judge Charles R. Norgle, Sr., denied class certification and denied immediate injunctive relief.<sup>4</sup>

Assistant Lake County State's Attorney Daniel Jasica argued that a clerk's office employee tried to contact [the plaintiff] by phone well before the [October 10 registration] deadline and that [the plaintiff] had received and signed for a letter on Oct. 8 telling him about the need to register again. Moreover, four of the 14 other students in the same group as [the plaintiff] did formally register to vote.<sup>5</sup>

On January 25, 2001, Judge Norgle granted the parties' stipulated dismissal.<sup>6</sup>

---

1. [Complaint](#), *Johnson v. Helander*, No. 1:00-cv-6926 (N.D. Ill. Nov. 6, 2000), D.E. 1; *see* Dave McKinney, *Teen Sues Lake Clerk to Regain Voting Right*, *Chi. Sun Times*, Nov. 6, 2000, at 21.

2. *See* [Complaint](#), *supra* note 1; McKinney, *supra* note 1; Evan Osnos & Rummana Hussain, *N. Chicago Teens Lose in Bid to Cast Ballots*, *Chi. Trib.*, Nov. 7, 2000, at 1.

3. [Complaint](#), *supra* note 1.

4. [Minutes](#), *Johnson*, No. 1:00-cv-6926 (N.D. Ill. Nov. 6, 2000), D.E. 9; *see* Osnos & Hussain, *supra* note 2.

5. Steve Warmbir, *N. Chicago Teen Loses Suit Over Registration*, *Chi. Sun Times*, Nov. 7, 2000, at 8.

6. [Minutes](#), *Johnson*, No. 1:00-cv-6926 (N.D. Ill. Jan. 24, 2001), D.E. 11; [Docket Sheet](#), *id.* (Nov. 6, 2000) (noting Jan. 8, 2001, dismissal stipulation).