

## Voter Registration for College Students

*Saunders v. Andrews* (4:04-cv-20) and *Lowe v. Davis* (4:04-cv-21) (Raymond A. Jackson, E.D. Va.)

A sophomore at the College of William and Mary who wished to run for city council filed a federal complaint in the Eastern District of Virginia's Newport News courthouse on Thursday, February 26, 2004, challenging the Williamsburg registrar's denial of the sophomore's voter registration.<sup>1</sup> Because the deadline for filing candidacy papers was the following Tuesday,<sup>2</sup> the plaintiff filed with his complaint a motion for a temporary restraining order.<sup>3</sup>

On February 27, another three students filed a similar federal complaint.<sup>4</sup> They also sought a temporary restraining order.<sup>5</sup> Judge Raymond A. Jackson heard the motions on March 1 and 2; he ruled on March 8 that the students had not made a sufficient showing that they were wrongfully regarded as nonresidents.<sup>6</sup> A state judge, however, ruled that one of the second set of plaintiffs should be registered and another should not be.<sup>7</sup>

By the 2004 general election, the original federal plaintiff and the unsuccessful state court plaintiff could register, because they obtained driver's licenses at their Williamsburg addresses.<sup>8</sup> The federal cases settled.<sup>9</sup>

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1. Docket Sheet, *Saunders v. Andrews*, No. 4:04-cv-20 (E.D. Va. Feb. 26, 2004) (D.E. 1) [hereinafter *Saunders* Docket Sheet]; see Andrew Petkofsky, *W&M Student Files Voting Rights Lawsuit*, Richmond Times-Dispatch, Feb. 27, 2004, at B3; Daphne Sashin, *W&M Student Sues to Vote*, Newport News Daily Press, Feb. 27, 2004, at C1.

2. See Sashin, *supra* note 1.

3. *Saunders* Docket Sheet, *supra* note 1 (D.E. 2).

4. Docket Sheet, *Lowe v. Davis*, No. 4:04-cv-21 (E.D. Va. Feb. 27, 2004) (D.E. 1) [hereinafter *Lowe* Docket Sheet]; see Andrew Petkofsky, *Three More W&M Students File Voting Suits*, Richmond Times-Dispatch, Feb. 28, 2004, at B3; Daphne Sashin, *W&M Students Wanting to Vote File Second Suit*, Newport News Daily Press, Feb. 28, 2004, at C4.

5. *Lowe* Docket Sheet, *supra* note 4 (D.E. 2).

6. *Id.* (D.E. 5, 7); *Saunders* Docket Sheet, *supra* note 1 (D.E. 4, 5); see Andrew Petkofsky, *Williamsburg Registrar Upheld on Voter Status*, Richmond Times-Dispatch, Mar. 3, 2004, at B2.

7. See Andrew Petkofsky, *Judge Sides with Student Candidate*, Richmond Times-Dispatch, Mar. 6, 2004, at B1; Patti Rosenberg, *One Wins, One Loses W&M Suit Over Voting*, Newport News Daily Press, Mar. 6, 2004, at C1.

8. See Zinie Chen Sampson, *Students Win Right to Vote in Williamsburg*, *Virginian-Pilot*, Oct. 15, 2004, at B3.

9. *Saunders* Docket Sheet, *supra* note 1 (D.E. 21); see Andrew Petkofsky, *Students' Voting Suit Is Dropped But Lawyer Says System Could Still Deny Others Right to Register Locally*, Richmond Times-Dispatch, Oct. 15, 2004, at B7; Daphne Sashin, *2 W&M Students Can Vote*, Newport News Daily Press, Oct. 15, 2004, at C1.