

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF FULTON COUNTY  
STATE OF GEORGIA

J. DOE (a pseudonym),  
J. ROE (a pseudonym),  
GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF  
EDUCATORS, and  
ATLANTA ASSOCIATION OF  
EDUCATORS,  
*Petitioners/Plaintiffs,*

v.

ATLANTA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL  
SYSTEM,  
*Respondent/Defendant.*

CIVIL ACTION

2016CV279349

NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE COMPLAINT OMITTING INDIVIDUAL  
PLAINTIFFS' REAL NAMES AND ADDRESSES**

COMES NOW Plaintiffs J. DOE AND R. DOE and moves the Court to allow the individual Plaintiffs to proceed to file a complaint using pseudonyms to preserve their identities. In support of the motion Plaintiffs state:

1.

Plaintiffs, current employees of the Atlanta Independent School System (AISS or APS), will raise claims in their lawsuit against their current employer. As current at-will employees, Plaintiffs may be subjected to retaliatory actions by their employer including adverse employment actions, including demotions, suspensions or termination.

2.

Plaintiffs, along with organizational plaintiffs the Atlanta Association of Educators and the Georgia Association of Educators, challenge APS's actions to convert

existing public schools to charter schools in violation of state law. Further, Plaintiffs will challenge APS's actions to deny to all existing qualified employees access to their rights under the Fair Dismissal Act, O.C.G.A. 20-2-940 *et seq.*

3.

Plaintiffs' identities are not necessary for the prosecution of their claims. Further, Plaintiffs lawsuit is about the Board of Education's policy decisions and wholly unrelated to Plaintiffs identities, duties, responsibilities or their individual performance. There is no risk of unfairness to the opposing party to allow the individual plaintiffs to proceed anonymously. Plaintiffs note that Defendants right to discovery will not be interfered with by the use of a pseudonym and Plaintiffs will permit the use of their real name when required by seeking orders of non-disclosure to balance lawful discovery with Plaintiffs' interest in confidentiality. See *Doe v. Archdiocese of Atlanta*, 328 Ga. App. 324, 332 (2014). See also *Doe v. Frank*, 951 F.2d 320, 323 n.5 (11th Cir. 1992); *Santa Fe Indep. Sch. Dist. v. Doe*, 530 U.S. 290, 294 & n.1 (2000) (Fear from retaliation and harassment sufficient justification to proceed anonymously).

4.

If required to disclose their identity, Plaintiffs will likely suffer harm. Plaintiffs may be at risk of termination. Plaintiffs may be subjected to ridicule and harassment by their employers. More than embarrassment or concern for economic harm, Plaintiffs have communicated a palpable risk of retaliation, harassment that would result in emotional and psychological harm inflicted by their employer should their identities be revealed.

Respectfully submitted this 26<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2016.

**/s/ Craig Goodmark**

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Craig Goodmark  
Georgia Bar No. 301428  
**ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONERS**

Goodmark Law Firm, LLC  
One West Court Square, Suite 410  
Decatur, GA 30030  
404-719-4848  
[cgoodmark@gmail.com](mailto:cgoodmark@gmail.com)

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**ORDER**

This Court hereby GRANTS Petitioner/Plaintiffs' motion for leave to file their  
Complaint anonymously under pseudonym.

Honorable \_\_\_\_\_

PREPARED BY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Craig Goodmark  
Georgia Bar No. 301428  
**ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONERS**  
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One West Court Square, Suite 410  
Decatur, GA 30030  
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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I have on this day served a copy of Plaintiffs' Motion for Leave to File Complaint Anonymously to counsel for Defendant via U.S. Mail, and served electronic copies of the same documents by electronic mail on August 26, 2016, addressed as follows:

D. Glenn Brock  
Nelson Mullins  
201 17th Street NW, Suite 1700  
Atlanta, GA 30363

Respectfully submitted this 26<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2016.

/s/ Craig Goodmark  
Craig Goodmark  
Georgia Bar No. 301428  
**ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONERS**