

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND
FOR LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**ADRIAN STANLEY, as the natural
Guardian and parent of N.M., a minor,**

**CASE NO.: 24-CA- 2024 CA 000855
FLA BAR NO.: 0739685**

Plaintiff,

v.

TALLAHASSEE CLASSICAL SCHOOL INC.,

Defendant.

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff, ADRIAN STANLEY, as the natural guardian and parent of N.M., a minor, hereby sues Defendant, TALLAHASSEE CLASSICAL SCHOOL INC. and alleges Defendant discriminated against Plaintiff's son.

NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. This is an action brought under 42 U.S.C. §1981. Attorney's fees are sought under 42 U.S.C. §1983.
2. This is an action involving claims which are, individually, in excess of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00), exclusive of costs and interest.

PARTIES

3. At all times pertinent hereto, Plaintiff, ADRIAN STANLEY, has been the parent of N.M., a minor and they have been resident of the State of Florida. N.M. is a member of a protected class due to his race, African American. Plaintiff is *sui juris*.

4. At all times pertinent hereto, Defendant, TALLAHASSEE CLASSICAL SCHOOL INC., has been organized and existing under the laws of the State of Florida

5. At all times pertinent hereto, Defendant, TALLAHASSEE CLASSICAL SCHOOL INC., has been operating as a non-profit organization that educates student k-12 in the state of Florida. It operates within the jurisdictional boundaries of this court.

CONDITIONS PRECEDENT

6. Plaintiff has satisfied all conditions precedent to bringing this action, if any.

STATEMENT OF THE ULTIMATE FACTS

7. Plaintiff's child, N.M., an African American male, was a student at Defendant's campus located at 4141 Artemis Way, Tallahassee, Fl 32311 and began his schooling there in August 2020. N.M. was in the seventh grade at the time of the incidents complained of herein.

8. The disparate treatment Plaintiff's child, N.M., suffered came at the hands of specifically but not limited to Language Arts teacher Dr. Steve Aggelis, a Caucasian male.

9. Despite N.M.'s stellar work and behavior as a student while attending Defendant, N.M. was subjected to disparate treatment, different terms, and conditions, and was held to a different standard because of his race.

10. In February 2022, N.M. was absent from school. Once N.M. returned to school, Aggelis told N.M., "Welcome back Darcy," in front of the entire class.

11. On other occasions, Aggelis used racial epithets in the classroom, such as "nigger", and also called students derogatory terms, like "imbecile."

12. On March 1, 2022, Plaintiff contacted Aggelis and Dean of Curriculum Hope Carrasquilla, to discuss the incident and Aggelis' use of racial epithets made in the classroom. They met on March 4, 2022.

13. During the meeting, Aggelis admitted that he made the racist comments and attempted to explain why he made them. Plaintiff stated that Aggelis' behavior and comments were unacceptable and would not be tolerated.

14. As of May 6, 2022, Plaintiff has not received notice that Aggelis had received any disciplinary action for his racist comments. According to Defendant's non-discrimination statement, discrimination is prohibited against students "based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA." However Defendant failed to provide any corrective action.

15. Defendant's failure to discipline Aggelis or assure that he was not going to continue his racism in the classroom towards N.M. caused N.M.'s grades to decline.

16. In May 2022, Plaintiff removed N.M. from Defendant and he was enrolled at Fairview Middle School. The transition from a charter school to a public school has negatively impacted N.M.'s development and education.

17. Plaintiff has retained the undersigned to represent her interests in this cause and is obligated to pay a fee for these services. Defendant should be made to pay said fee under the laws referenced above.

COUNT I
RACE DISCRIMINATION

18. Paragraphs 1 through 17 are re-alleged and incorporated herein by reference.

18. This is an action against Defendant for race discrimination.

19. Defendant is liable for the differential treatment and racism towards Plaintiff and its effect on N.M.'s ability to continue his education within Defendant.

20. The racism described above adversely affected the terms and conditions of N.M.'s enrollment within Defendant. Defendant controlled the actions and inactions of the persons

making decisions affecting N.M. or it knew or should have known of these actions and inactions and failed to take prompt and adequate remedial action or took no action at all to prevent the abuses to N.M..

21. In essence, the actions of agents of Defendant, which were each condoned and ratified by Defendant, were race based and in violation of the laws set forth herein.

22. The discrimination complained of herein affected N.M.'s ability to participate in, receive benefits of, and be free from discrimination in N.M.'s continued enrollment with Defendant.

23. Defendant's conduct and omissions constitutes intentional discrimination and unlawful practices based upon race under the laws enumerated herein.

24. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's conduct described above, N.M. has suffered emotional distress, mental pain and suffering, inconvenience, past and future pecuniary losses, mental anguish, loss of enjoyment of life and other non-pecuniary losses, and other benefits. These damages have occurred in the past, are permanent and continuing. N.M. is entitled to compensatory and damages.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against Defendant for the following:

- (a) that process issue and this Court take jurisdiction over this case;
- (b) that this Court grant equitable relief against Defendant under the applicable counts set forth above, mandating Defendant's obedience to the laws enumerated herein and providing other equitable relief to Plaintiff;

- (c) enter judgment against Defendant and for Plaintiff awarding all legally-available general and compensatory damages and economic loss to Plaintiff from Defendant for Defendant's violations of law enumerated herein;
- (d) enter judgment against Defendant and for Plaintiff permanently enjoining Defendant from future violations of law enumerated herein;
- (e) enter judgment against Defendant and for Plaintiff awarding Plaintiff attorney's fees and costs;
- (f) award Plaintiff interest where appropriate; and
- (g) grant such other further relief as being just and proper under the circumstances.

DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY

Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury on all issues herein that are so triable.

DATED this 29th day of May 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Marie A. Mattox
Marie A. Mattox [FBN 0739685]
MARIE A. MATTOX, P. A.
203 North Gadsden Street
Tallahassee, FL 32301
Telephone: (850) 383-4800
Facsimile: (850) 383-4801
Marie@mattoxlaw.com
Secondary emails:
Michelle2@mattoxlaw.com
marlene@mattoxlaw.com
michelle@mattoxlaw.com

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF