

Commonwealth Docket Sheet

Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania

Docket Number: 158 CD 2019

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February 2, 2026



CAPTION

Jane Ladley and Christopher Meier,
Appellants

v.

Pennsylvania State Education Association

CASE INFORMATION

Initiating Document: Notice of Appeal

Case Status: Closed

Case Processing Status: March 8, 2022 Completed

Journal Number: 34-12-2019

Case Category: Civil Case Type(s): Declaratory Judgment

CONSOLIDATED CASES

RELATED CASES

COUNSEL INFORMATION

Appellant Meier, Christopher

Pro Se: No

IFP Status:

Attorney: Osborne, David Randel
Address: Goldstein Law Partners, LLC
11 Church Rd.
Hatfield, PA 19440
Phone No: (610) 949-0444 Fax No: (610) 296-7720

Attorney: McGrath, Nathan John
Law Firm: The Fairness Center
Address: 500 North Third Street
Suite600B
Harrisburg, PA 17101
Phone No: (844) 293-1001 Fax No:

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COUNSEL INFORMATION

Appellant **Ladley, Jane**

Pro Se: No

IFP Status:

Attorney: Osborne, David Randel
 Address: Goldstein Law Partners, LLC
 11 Church Rd.
 Hatfield, PA 19440
 Phone No: (610) 949-0444 Fax No: (610) 296-7720

Attorney: McGrath, Nathan John
 Law Firm: The Fairness Center
 Address: 500 North Third Street
 Suite600B
 Harrisburg, PA 17101
 Phone No: (844) 293-1001 Fax No:

Appellee **Pennsylvania State Education Association**

Pro Se: No

IFP Status:

Attorney: Scott, Thomas W.
 Address: Killian & Gephart, LLP
 218 Pine Street
 PO Box 886
 Harrisburg, PA 17101-1352
 Phone No: (717) 232-1851 Fax No:

FEE INFORMATION

Fee Dt	Fee Name	Fee Amt	Receipt Dt	Receipt No	Receipt Amt
02/14/2019	Transfer	50.00	02/26/2019	2019-CMW-H-000431	50.00
07/23/2019	Petition for Reargument	15.00	07/24/2019	2019-CMW-H-001570	15.00

AGENCY/TRIAL COURT INFORMATION

OrderAppealed From: October 29, 2018 Notice of Appeal Filed: November 28, 2018
 Order Type: Order Dated
 Documents Received: February 13, 2019

Court Below: Lancaster County Court of Common Pleas
 County: Lancaster Division: Lancaster County Civil Division
 Judge: Brown, Leonard G., III OTN:
 Docket Number: CI-14-08552 Judicial District: 02

Court Below:
 County: Division:
 Judge:
 Docket Number: Superior Court No. 1942 MDA 2018 Judicial District:

ORIGINAL RECORD CONTENT

Original Record Item	Filed Date	Content Description
Trial Court Record	February 14, 2019	

Date of Remand of Record: March 8, 2022

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BRIEFING SCHEDULE

Appellant

Ladley, Jane

Amended Brief

Due: August 8, 2019

Filed: August 8, 2019

Brief

Due: March 27, 2019

Filed: March 27, 2019

Reply Brief

Due:

Filed: May 10, 2019

Due: August 8, 2019

Filed: August 8, 2019

Reproduced Record

Due: March 27, 2019

Filed: March 27, 2019

Appellee

Pennsylvania State Education Association

Brief

Due: April 29, 2019

Filed: April 26, 2019

DOCKET ENTRY

Filed Date	Docket Entry / Filer	Representing	Participant Type	Exit Date
November 28, 2018	Notice of Appeal Filed Ladley, Jane & Christopher Meier Ladley, Jane Meier, Christopher		Appellant Appellant Appellant	
January 2, 2019	Order - Transfer to Commonwealth Court Superior Court of Pennsylvania			01/02/2019
February 13, 2019	Transfer from Another Court Commonwealth Court Document Name: Case was transferred from 1942 MDA 2018 Comment: Case was transferred from 1942 MDA 2018			02/13/2019
February 14, 2019	Trial Court Record Received Lancaster County Court of Common Pleas			
February 15, 2019	Notice of Docketing Appeal Exited Commonwealth Court Filing Office			02/15/2019
February 15, 2019	Briefing Schedule Issued Commonwealth Court Filing Office			
February 25, 2019	Docketing Statement Filed Osborne, David Randel Osborne, David Randel	Ladley, Jane Meier, Christopher	Appellant Appellant	
February 25, 2019	Designation of Contents of Reproduced Record Osborne, David Randel Osborne, David Randel	Ladley, Jane Meier, Christopher	Appellant Appellant	

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Filed Date	Docket Entry / Filer	Representing	Participant Type	Exit Date
March 27, 2019	Appellant's Brief Filed Osborne, David Randel Osborne, David Randel Ladley, Jane	Ladley, Jane Meier, Christopher	Appellant Appellant Appellant	
March 27, 2019	Appellant's Reproduced Record Filed Osborne, David Randel Osborne, David Randel	Ladley, Jane Meier, Christopher	Appellant Appellant	
April 26, 2019	Appellee's Brief Filed Pennsylvania State Education Association		Appellee	
May 6, 2019	Application to Strike Scott, Thomas W.	Pennsylvania State Education Assoc	Appellee	
	Document Name: Appellee's Application for Relief in the Nature of a Motion to Strike Portions of Apts' Br. and the			
	Comment: Entirety of "Exhibit A" Attached to Appellants' Brief			
May 6, 2019	Memorandum of Law Filed Scott, Thomas W.	Pennsylvania State Education Assoc	Appellee	
	Document Name: Memo of Law in Support of Motion to Strike Portions of Appellants' Brief			
May 9, 2019	Tentative Session Date Krimmel, Michael			
	Document Name: September 2019 (Harrisburg)			
May 10, 2019	Appellant's Reply Brief Ladley, Jane		Appellant	
May 10, 2019	Answer to Application to Strike Osborne, David Randel Osborne, David Randel Miller, Justin Thomas Miller, Justin Thomas	Ladley, Jane Meier, Christopher Ladley, Jane Meier, Christopher	Appellant Appellant Appellant Appellant	
	Document Name: Response to PA State Education Association's Application to Strike and New Matter			
May 14, 2019	Order Filed Wojcik, Michael H.			05/15/2019
	Document Name: Argument on appellee's motion to strike portions of appellants' brief is set for 6-17-19, 1:30 pm.			
	Comment: The argument shall be conducted by telephone call to the offices of counsel of record and shall originate from the chambers of a designated judge of the Comm. Ct. sitting in HBG. Cell phones may not be used.			
May 30, 2019	Answer Filed Scott, Thomas W.	Pennsylvania State Education Assoc	Appellee	
	Document Name: An Administrative Motion Pursuant to PA. R.A.P. 3305: Appellee's Reply to New Matter Contained in			
	Comment: the Appellants' Answer Application for Relief in the Nature of a Motion to Strike Portions of Appellants' Brief and the Entirety of "Exhibit A" Attached to Appellants' Brief - msp			
June 6, 2019	Order Filed Per Curiam			06/07/2019
	Document Name: Argument on appellee's motion to strike set for 6-17-19 is rescheduled to 6-25-19 at 10:00 am. The			
	Comment: argument shall be conducted by telephone call to the offices of counsel of record and shall originate from the chambers of a designated judge of the Comm. Ct. sitting in HBG. Cell phones may not be used.			

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Filed Date	Docket Entry / Filer	Representing	Participant Type	Exit Date
June 14, 2019	Notice Miller, Justin Thomas Miller, Justin Thomas Miller, Justin Thomas Osborne, David Randel Osborne, David Randel Osborne, David Randel	Ladley, Jane & Christopher Meier Ladley, Jane Meier, Christopher Ladley, Jane Ladley, Jane & Christopher Meier Meier, Christopher	Appellant Appellant Appellant Appellant Appellant Appellant	
	Document Name: Notice of Constitutional Challenge to a Statute			
June 24, 2019	Filed - Other Osborne, David Randel Osborne, David Randel Miller, Justin Thomas Miller, Justin Thomas Miller, Justin Thomas	Ladley, Jane Meier, Christopher Ladley, Jane Meier, Christopher Ladley, Jane & Christopher Meier	Appellant Appellant Appellant Appellant Appellant	
	Document Name: Notice of Change in Status of Authorities			
July 9, 2019	Memorandum and Order Cohn Jubelirer, Renee			07/09/2019
	Document Name: Memorandum and Order (7 pages) : PSEA's motion to strike will be granted in Comment: part and denied in part. The Court will strike the 11 collective bargaining agreements Objectors submitted that are not part of the certified record on appeal, and will strike the arguments made by Objectors that rely upon this extra-record evidence. The collective bargaining agreement for Penn Manor School District, and Objectors' argument that PSEA failed to amend this agreement, will not be stricken. Objectors are hereby directed to file an amended brief and amended reply brief without the stricken documents, or any reference thereto, on or before August 8, 2019.			
July 23, 2019	Application for Reargument Osborne, David Randel Osborne, David Randel Miller, Justin Thomas Miller, Justin Thomas	Ladley, Jane Meier, Christopher Ladley, Jane Meier, Christopher	Appellant Appellant Appellant Appellant	
	Document Name: Of July 9, 2019 Memorandum and Order Judge Cohn Jubelirer			
July 31, 2019	Application for Extension of Time to File Amended Brief Osborne, David Randel Osborne, David Randel	Ladley, Jane Meier, Christopher	Appellant Appellant	
July 31, 2019	Answer to Application for Reargument Scott, Thomas W. Pennsylvania State Education Assoc Appellee			
	Document Name: Appellee's Ans. to Appellants' App for Reargument of Judge Cohn Jubelirer's Order dated July 9, 2019			
August 1, 2019	Order Denying Application for Reargument Per Curiam			08/01/2019
	Document Name: Appellants' App. for Reargument is denied. Appellants' unopposed app. for ext. of time is granted. Comment: Appellants shall have 7 days from the date of this order to file an amended brief and reply brief without the documents or reference to the documents struck from the record by this court's 7-9-19 order.			
August 8, 2019	Amended Brief of Appellant Filed Osborne, David Randel Osborne, David Randel	Ladley, Jane Meier, Christopher	Appellant Appellant	

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Filed Date	Docket Entry / Filer	Representing	Participant Type	Exit Date
August 8, 2019	Appellant's Reply Brief Osborne, David Randel Osborne, David Randel	Ladley, Jane Meier, Christopher	Appellant Appellant	
	Document Name: Amended			
August 12, 2019	Tentative Session Date Krimmel, Michael			
	Document Name: December 2019 (Harrisburg)			
October 23, 2019	Argument Scheduled Krimmel, Michael			10/23/2019
	Document Name: Wednesday, 12-11-19, 9:30 am, En Banc, CR 5001, PJC, HBG. No. 34 on list.			
	Comment: Please file 4 additional copies of appellant's amended brief, appellant's amended reply brief, the RR, and appellee's brief with the court within 10 days of this notice.			
January 23, 2020	Application for Relief Scott, Thomas W.	Pennsylvania State Education Assoc Appellee		
	Document Name: Application of Appellee, PSEA, For Leave to File Post-Submission Communication			
June 1, 2020	Letter Osborne, David Randel Osborne, David Randel	Ladley, Jane Meier, Christopher	Appellant Appellant	
	Document Name: Update of Contact Information			
June 25, 2020	Application for Post-Submission Communication Scott, Thomas W.	Pennsylvania State Education Assoc Appellee		
	Document Name: Application for Leave Pursuant to Pa. R.A.P. 123, filed by Appellee PSEA for leave to File			
	Comment: Post-Submission Communication Pursuant to Pa. R.A.P. 2501(a)			
January 6, 2021	Praecipe for Withdrawal of Appearance Miller, Justin Thomas Miller, Justin Thomas Miller, Justin Thomas	Ladley, Jane & Christopher Meier Ladley, Jane Meier, Christopher	Appellant Appellant Appellant	
January 11, 2021	Entry of Appearance McGrath, Nathan John McGrath, Nathan John	Ladley, Jane Meier, Christopher	Appellant Appellant	
March 9, 2021	Letter McGrath, Nathan John	Ladley, Jane	Appellant	
	Document Name: Change of Address for Nathan J. McGrath			

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DOCKET ENTRY

Filed Date	Docket Entry / Filer	Representing	Participant Type	Exit Date
January 4, 2022	Reversed/Remanded McCullough, Patricia Document Name: Opinion (17 pages)			01/04/2022
<p>Comment: AND NOW, this 4th day of January, 2022, the October 29, 2018 order of the Court of Common Pleas of Lancaster County (trial court) is REVERSED and the matter is REMANDED to the trial court. On remand, the trial court shall determine whether Jane Ladley and Christopher Meier (Teachers) are the prevailing party pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §1988 and, if so, whether they are entitled to reasonable attorney's fees and costs in this action. In making this determination, the trial court shall render a decision with regard to the merits of Teachers' constitutional claims and enter an appropriate order reflecting its findings of fact and conclusions of law.</p> <p>The Application for Leave to File Post-Submission Communication filed by the Pennsylvania State Education Association (PSEA) on January 23, 2020, namely to provide the Court with additional legal authority pursuant to Pa.R.A.P. 2501(a), is hereby GRANTED.</p> <p>The Application for Leave to File Post-Submission Communication filed by PSEA on June 25, 2020, namely to provide the Court with supplemental legal authority pursuant to Pa.R.A.P. 2501(a), is hereby GRANTED.</p> <p>Jurisdiction relinquished.</p>				
<p>March 8, 2022 Remitted Commonwealth Court Filing Office</p>				
<p>March 14, 2022 Acknowledgement of Record Remittal Lancaster County Court of Common Pleas</p>				

SESSION INFORMATION

Journal Number: 34-12-2019
 Consideration Type: En Banc Argument
 Listed/Submitted Date: December 11, 2019

Panel Composition:

The Honorable Mary Hannah Leavitt	President Judge
The Honorable Renee Cohn Jubelirer	Judge
The Honorable Patricia McCullough	Judge
The Honorable Anne E. Covey	Judge
The Honorable Christine Fizzano Cannon	Judge
The Honorable Ellen Ceisler	Judge
The Honorable P. Kevin Brobston	Judge

DISPOSITION INFORMATION

Final Disposition:	Yes	Judgment Date:	
Related Journal No:		Disposition Author:	McCullough, Patricia
Category:	Decided	Disposition Date:	January 4, 2022
Disposition:	Reversed/Remanded		

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Disposition Comment: AND NOW, this 4th day of January, 2022, the October 29, 2018 order of the Court of Common Pleas of Lancaster County (trial court) is REVERSED and the matter is REMANDED to the trial court. On remand, the trial court shall determine whether Jane Ladley and Christopher Meier (Teachers) are the prevailing party pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §1988 and, if so, whether they are entitled to reasonable attorney's fees and costs in this action. In making this determination, the trial court shall render a decision with regard to the merits of Teachers' constitutional claims and enter an appropriate order reflecting its findings of fact and conclusions of law.

The Application for Leave to File Post-Submission Communication filed by the Pennsylvania State Education Association (PSEA) on January 23, 2020, namely to provide the Court with additional legal authority pursuant to Pa.R.A.P. 2501(a), is hereby GRANTED.

The Application for Leave to File Post-Submission Communication filed by PSEA on June 25, 2020, namely to provide the Court with supplemental legal authority pursuant to Pa.R.A.P. 2501(a), is hereby GRANTED.

Jurisdiction relinquished.

Dispositional Filing: **Opinion** Filing Author: McCullough, Patricia
 Filed Date: 1/4/2022 12:00:00AM

Dispositional Filing: **Concurring Statement** Filing Author: Cohn Jubelirer, Renee
 Filed Date: 1/4/2022 12:00:00AM

REARGUMENT / RECONSIDERATION / REMITTAL

Filed Date: July 23, 2019

Disposition:

Disposition Date:

Record Remittal: March 8, 2022

Filed Date: July 23, 2019

Disposition:

Disposition Date:

Record Remittal: March 8, 2022