

LATHAM & WATKINS LLP
Marvin S. Putnam (SBN 212839)
marvin.putnam@lw.com
Amy C. Quartarolo (SBN 222144)
amy.quartarolo@lw.com
Adam S. Sieff (SBN 302030)
adam.sieff@lw.com
Harrison J. White (SBN 307790)
harrison.white@lw.com
355 South Grand Avenue, Suite 100
Los Angeles, California 90071-1560
Telephone: +1.213.485.1234
Facsimile: +1.213.891.8763

National Center for Lesbian Rights
Shannon P. Minter (SBN 168907)
sminter@nclrights.org
Amy Whelan (SBN 2155675)
awhelan@nclrights.org
870 Market Street, Suite 360
San Francisco, CA 94102
Telephone: +1.415.392.6257
Facsimile: +1.415.392.8442

GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders
Jennifer Levi (*pro hac vice* forthcoming)
jlevi@glad.org
Mary L. Bonauto (*pro hac vice* forthcoming)
mbonauto@glad.org
30 Winter Street, Suite 800
Boston, MA 02108
Telephone: +1.617.426.1350
Facsimile: +1.617.426.3594

*Attorneys for Plaintiffs Aiden Stockman, Nicolas
Talbot, Tamasyne Reeves, Jaquice Tate, John
Does 1-2, Jane Doe, and Equality California*

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

AIDEN STOCKMAN; NICOLAS
TALBOTT; TAMASYN REEVES;
JAQUICE TATE; JOHN DOES 1-2;
JANE DOE; and EQUALITY
CALIFORNIA,

Plaintiffs,

v.

DONALD J. TRUMP, et al.

Defendants.

CASE NO. 5:17-cv-01799-JGB-KKx

**DECLARATION OF AIDEN
STOCKMAN IN SUPPORT OF
PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR
PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION**

1 I, Aiden Stockman, declare as follows:

2 1. I am 20 years old and I live in a small town called Yucca Valley, in
3 California. My dream has been and continues to be serving my country through a
4 career in the United States Air Force. I am transgender.

5 **Early Interest in the Military**

6 2. Growing up, I heard stories from family friends about their service in
7 the Marines and Coast Guard. One of my friends would tell me stories of his time
8 serving in Afghanistan. I respected their service, and I felt connected to them and
9 their stories.

10 **Coming Out and Transitioning**

11 3. I always felt different inside. Even as a child, I preferred the clothes
12 that most boys liked and the toys that most boys liked. Living as girl felt
13 uncomfortable, and I struggled during my early teen years with depression.

14 4. During my sophomore year, I learned the term transgender. I quickly
15 realized that I am transgender. I came out to my mom shortly thereafter.

16 5. My mom sent me to a psychologist who specializes in treatment of
17 issues related to gender identity. My psychologist diagnosed me with gender
18 dysphoria.

19 6. In June 2014, under my doctor's supervision, I began medical
20 treatment for gender dysphoria in the form of hormone replacement therapy
21 ("HRT").

22 7. Since coming out, I try to be a role model for other young transgender
23 people. I share my story, publicly and privately, whenever I can. I think about the
24 depression that I had to overcome because there was no one to explain to me what
25 I was feeling or to help me through the early stages of transition. I want to make
26 sure that no one else has to go through that alone.

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28

Preparation for Enlistment

8. I told my mom that I wanted to join the military around the same time that I told her that I am transgender. I was in the eighth grade at the time.

9. I did research online about the requirements for military service and the process for enlistment. I live near Twenty-Nine Palms Air Force base. I began talking to friends and neighbors stationed at Twenty-Nine Palms about their experiences serving in the Air Force.

10. In 2014, during my junior year of high school, I took the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (“ASVAB”) test in hopes that I could join the military after high school.

11. I plan to undergo chest surgery, also called “top surgery,” as soon as possible. I hoped that the ban on enlistment for transgender people would be lifted so that I could enlist as soon as I was healed from my surgery. I found a good doctor and intend to have the procedure as early as Spring 2018.

Policies on Open Military Service by Transgender Soldiers

12. In June 2016, while watching the news, I learned that the ban on open military service by transgender people had been lifted. I felt more eager to enlist than ever before. By lifting the ban, the military signaled that I am worthy of serving my country and that I will be valued and supported as a transgender soldier. I felt like I would be able to pursue my dream of a military career.

13. In July 2017, I learned of President Trump’s tweets that said I would not be allowed to enlist and serve in the Air Force. I felt like I was being pushed back down again.

14. Then, in August 2017, I learned that President Trump issued an official memorandum banning military service by transgender people. I was crushed that I would no longer be able to pursue a career in the military. And, it made me feel terrible to think that the transgender soldiers already serving in the

1 military would be kicked out just for being who they are. I know that transgender
2 individuals are as capable of serving our country as any of our peers.

3 **Current Status**

4 15. If the ban were lifted today, I would go to recruiter to discuss enlisting
5 in the Air Force as soon as I complete my top surgery. Enlistment has been my
6 goal for a long time and, since the Department of Defense announced its new
7 policy last year, I have planned on enlisting and having an equal opportunity to
8 serve my country. Now that the ban is in place, I also have to make other plans in
9 case military service remains denied to me.

10 16. If I was able to join the military, I would have access to training, a
11 steady income, and career opportunities. Right now, I work at a grocery store for
12 minimum wage and my store is shutting down. I live paycheck to paycheck. My
13 car does not run. I do not have any career prospects. I worry that if I cannot find a
14 better job, like a job in the military, I will have to move to a place where no one
15 knows me. I do not want to hide who I am, but I do not want to experience hate
16 and discrimination in a new town where people may not accept me. I have
17 experienced discrimination in seeking employment. I think that being declared
18 unfit to serve in the military will make employers think that I am unfit to hire.

19 17. Currently, I am on my stepfather's health insurance. But in a few
20 years, I will be too old to stay on his insurance. I do not receive health insurance
21 through my job at the grocery store. If I joined the military, then I would have
22 access to health, vision, and dental insurance.


23 18. In addition to limiting my future ability in the military, I worry about
24 the impact of the ban on the transgender community. In the past, I have received
25 hate and animosity from strangers because I am transgender. As a transgender
26 advocate, I have seen other transgender people treated as inferior. I worry that
27 having such a negative statement about transgender people coming from the
28 President of the United States and the U.S. Armed Service will increase people's

1 irrational fears, biases, and negative stereotypes about me and other transgender
2 individuals. In effect, it is a license to hate transgender people.

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1 I declare under the penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

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4 Dated: September 29, 2017


Aiden Stockman