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IN THE DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR OKLAHOMA COUNTY JAN - 8 2026
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

RICK WARREN
COURT CLERK

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JENNIFER PALMER and OKLAHOMA
WATCH, INC.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA ex rel.
OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION,

Defendant.

Case No. CV-25-1271

JOURNAL ENTRY OF AGREED JUDGMENT

This matter comes before the Court by agreement of Plaintiffs Jennifer Palmer and Oklahoma Watch, Inc. (collectively, "Plaintiffs") and Defendant State of Oklahoma ex rel. Oklahoma State Department of Education ("Defendant," "Department," or "OSDE") (together with Plaintiffs, "Parties"). Plaintiffs appear through counsel Leslie K. Briggs of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press and Defendant appears through counsel Jacki Phelps of the Oklahoma State Department of Education. The Parties announce that an agreement has been reached regarding all issues. The Court, having heard the statements of counsel, makes the following findings and orders:

1. Plaintiff Jennifer Palmer is a reporter for Oklahoma Watch, Inc.
2. Plaintiff Oklahoma Watch, Inc. is a non-profit media outlet headquartered in Oklahoma County, Oklahoma.
3. Defendant Oklahoma Department of Education is a public body within the meaning of Okla. Stat. tit. 51, § 24A.3 and subject to the provisions of the Open Records Act, Okla. Stat. tit. 51, § 24A.1, et seq.

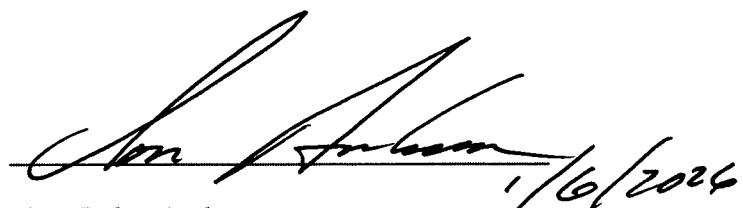
4. This Court has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Okla. Const. art. VII, § 7 and venue is proper in Oklahoma County, Oklahoma.
5. This matter is an action for violation of the Open Records Act, Okla. Stat. tit. 51, §§ 24A.1 – 24A.40 (“Open Records Act”) and this Court has the authority to award attorney fees and costs to Plaintiffs.
6. The public record at issue in this case is the resignation letter of Kourtney Heard, former Chief Compliance Officer for OSDE (“Heard Resignation Letter”), which is a personnel record subject to Okla. Stat. tit. 51, § 24A.7.
7. In accordance with the Parties’ Joint Stipulation of Fact filed October 31, 2025, the Court finds that no “internal personnel investigation,” as that term is used in Okla. Stat. tit. 51, § 24A.7(A)(1), occurred relating to the Heard Resignation Letter.
8. In accordance with the Parties’ Joint Stipulation of Fact filed October 31, 2025, the Court finds that public disclosure of the Heard Resignation Letter does not cause any an “unwarranted invasion of privacy,” as that term is used in Okla. Stat. tit. 51, § 24A.7(A)(2), relating to the Heard Resignation Letter.
9. The Court finds Defendant Oklahoma State Department of Education’s denial of Plaintiffs’ request for the Heard Resignation Letter violated the Open Records Act and that the Heard Resignation Letter is a public record that must be produced to Plaintiffs.
10. The Court further finds that Defendant’s conduct was not “willful,” as that term is used on Okla. Stat. tit. 51, § 24A.17(A).
11. The Court finds Plaintiffs are entitled to their attorney fees and costs, pursuant to Okla. Stat. tit. 51, § 24A.17(B).

12. The Parties agree that Plaintiffs are entitled to attorney fees in the amount of \$2,550.00 and costs in the amount of \$307.64.
13. The Court finds that the attorney fees and costs are fair and reasonable and in accordance with standards in the legal community for similar work under similar circumstances.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that Defendant's denial violated the Open Records Act, Defendants must produce the Heard Resignation Letter to Plaintiffs within 7 days from the date of this Order, the Plaintiffs are entitled to their attorney fees in the amount of \$2,550.00 and costs in the amount of \$307.65, and said judgment to be paid within 30 days from the date of this Order.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

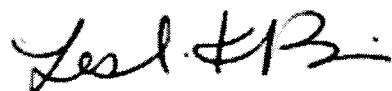
Date:



1/6/2024

Hon. Judge Andrews
District Judge
Oklahoma County District Court

Agreed as to form and content:



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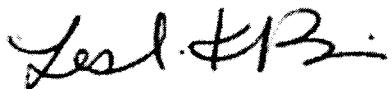
NOTICE AND ORDER FOR HEARING

Having reviewed the Parties Joint Motion for Journal Entry of Agreed Judgment and Agreed Judgment, the Court now sets a hearing on the Motion for Journal Entry of Agreed Judgment for the _____ day of _____ 2025 at _____ in courtroom _____ of the Oklahoma County District Court.

IT IS SO ORDERED this _____ day of _____ 2025.

Hon. Don Andrews
District Court Judge

Approved as to form:



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