

U.S. Department of Labor

Office of Administrative Law Judges
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Issue Date: 12 September 2018

**CASE NOS.: 2018-FRS-43
2018-FRS-44**

IN THE MATTER OF

RICHARD ADAMSON

and

BILLY JACK GRAVES

Complainants

v.

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY

Respondent

**ORDER DISMISSING COMPLAINTS AND CANCELLING
FORMAL HEARING BASED ON COMPLAINANTS' S FILING
OF COMPLAINT IN UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**

These matters arise out of a complaint of retaliation filed pursuant to the employee protection provisions of the Federal Rail Safety Act, 49 U.S.C. §20109. Governing regulations are at 29 C.F.R. Part 1979. See 49 U.S.C. §20109(c)(2)(A).

On July 24, 2018, through Counsel, Complainants notified that they intended to file an original action in United States District Court, as authorized in the governing statute.

On September 6, 2018, Complainants' s Counsel submitted a copy of Complainants' s filing of a consolidated civil action in Case No. 18-cv-432-CVE-JFJ, in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma.

As the Complainants have filed a Complaint in District Court based on the same facts that constituted their actions

before the Office of Administrative Law Judges, jurisdiction in the latter has been divested. See Stone v. Duke Energy Corp., 432 F.3d 320 (5th Cir. 2005) (Sarbanes-Oxley case); see also Kelly v. Sonic Automotive, Inc. ARB No. 08-027 (Dec. 17, 2008) (Sarbanes-Oxley case).¹

Consequently, based on the foregoing, I find I no longer have jurisdiction over the instant matters and hereby dismiss Complainants's Complaints based on lack of jurisdiction.

In view of the foregoing, the hearing scheduled on October 10, 2018, is hereby cancelled.

ORDERED this 12th day of September, 2018, at Covington, Louisiana.

LEE J. ROMERO, JR.
Administrative Law Judge

NOTICE OF APPEAL RIGHTS: To appeal, you must file a Petition for Review ("Petition") with the Administrative Review Board ("Board") within fourteen (14) days of the date of issuance of the administrative law judge's decision. The Board's address is: Administrative Review Board, U.S. Department of Labor, Suite S-5220, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20210, for traditional paper filing. Alternatively, the Board offers an Electronic File and Service Request (EFSR) system. The EFSR for electronic filing (eFile) permits the submission of forms and documents to the Board through the Internet instead of using postal mail and fax. The EFSR portal allows parties to file new appeals electronically, receive electronic service of Board issuances, file briefs and motions electronically, and check the status of existing appeals via a web-based interface accessible 24 hours every day. No paper copies need be filed.

¹ Similar to the governing statute in this case, the employee protection provision of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, 18 U.S.C. §1514A(b)(1)(B), permits an employee to file an action in district court if the Secretary has not rendered a final decision within a specified time period.

An e-Filer must register as a user, by filing an online registration form. To register, the e-Filer must have a valid e-mail address. The Board must validate the e-Filer before he or she may file any e-Filed document. After the Board has accepted an e-Filing, it is handled just as it would be had it been filed in a more traditional manner. e-Filers will also have access to electronic service (eService), which is simply a way to receive documents, issued by the Board, through the Internet instead of mailing paper notices/documents.

Information regarding registration for access to the EFSR system, as well as a step by step user guide and FAQs can be found at: <https://dol-appeals.entellitrak.com>. If you have any questions or comments, please contact: Boards-EFSR-Help@dol.gov

Your Petition is considered filed on the date of its postmark, facsimile transmittal, or e-filing; but if you file it in person, by hand-delivery or other means, it is filed when the Board receives it. See 29 C.F.R. § 1982.110(a). Your Petition must specifically identify the findings, conclusions or orders to which you object. You waive any objections you do not raise specifically. See 29 C.F.R. § 1982.110(a).

At the time you file the Petition with the Board, you must serve it on all parties as well as the Chief Administrative Law Judge, U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Administrative Law Judges, 800 K Street, NW, Suite 400-North, Washington, DC 20001-8002. You must also serve the Assistant Secretary, Occupational Safety and Health Administration and, in cases in which the Assistant Secretary is a party, on the Associate Solicitor, Division of Fair Labor Standards. See 29 C.F.R. § 1982.110(a).

If filing paper copies, you must file an original and four copies of the petition for review with the Board, together with one copy of this decision. In addition, within 30 calendar days of filing the petition for review you must file with the Board an original and four copies of a supporting legal brief of points and authorities, not to exceed thirty double-spaced typed pages, and you may file an appendix (one copy only) consisting of relevant excerpts of the record of the proceedings from which the appeal is taken, upon which you rely in support of your petition for review. If you e-File your petition and opening brief, only one copy need be uploaded.

Any response in opposition to a petition for review must be filed with the Board within 30 calendar days from the date of filing of the petitioning party's supporting legal brief of

points and authorities. The response in opposition to the petition for review must include an original and four copies of the responding party's legal brief of points and authorities in opposition to the petition, not to exceed thirty double-spaced typed pages, and may include an appendix (one copy only) consisting of relevant excerpts of the record of the proceedings from which appeal has been taken, upon which the responding party relies. If you e-File your responsive brief, only one copy need be uploaded.

Upon receipt of a legal brief filed in opposition to a petition for review, the petitioning party may file a reply brief (original and four copies), not to exceed ten double-spaced typed pages, within such time period as may be ordered by the Board. If you e-File your reply brief, only one copy need be uploaded.

If no Petition is timely filed, the administrative law judge's decision becomes the final order of the Secretary of Labor pursuant to 29 C.F.R. §§ 1982.109(e) and 1982.110(a). Even if a Petition is timely filed, the administrative law judge's decision becomes the final order of the Secretary of Labor unless the Board issues an order within thirty (30) days of the date the Petition is filed notifying the parties that it has accepted the case for review. See 29 C.F.R. §§ 1982.110(a) and (b).