

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO
COUNTY OF ROOSEVELT
NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT**

9th JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
Roosevelt County
7/30/2020 1:47 PM
VICKI J. WILKERSON
CLERK OF THE COURT
[Christine Randall](#)

LYLE LOGEMANN,

Plaintiff,

v.

No. D-911-CV-2020-00114

NATIONAL FFA ASSOCIATION,

Defendant,

**COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES ARISING FROM IMPROPER
REMOVAL OF OFFICER**

Plaintiff's Complaint seeks damages caused by Defendant's actions in removing plaintiff from his National FFA office and revocation of plaintiff's scholarship, due to social media postings that defendant claims were improper.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. Jurisdiction and venue are proper pursuant to the Article VI, Section 13 of the New Mexico Constitution, and NMSA § 38-3-2.
2. All the events that give rise to this complaint occurred in the state of New Mexico.
3. At all times relevant to this Complaint, the Parties were engaged in an employment relationship in the State of New Mexico.
4. Venue is proper in this district because the City of Portales, is located in Roosevelt County, NM.

PARTIES

5. Plaintiff, Lyle Logemann is currently a university student at Eastern New Mexico University and is a former national officer of the National FFA association. He was removed from his position as a National FFA Officer on June 4, 2020.

6. Defendant National FFA Association is a non-profit organization, which chapters in all 50 states, with its main office located in Indianapolis, Indiana.

BACKGROUND FACTS/ GENERAL AVERMENTS

7. Mr. Logemann had been a National FFA Officer from October 31, 2019 to June 4, 2010.

8. Prior to taking office Mr. Logemann had been vetted and approved to run and ultimately hold a National FFA officer position.

9. Upon taking office a National Officer is awarded a \$10,000 scholarship as well as a 500 per diem, or \$6,000 per year.

10. On May 31, 2020 Mr. Logemann posted comments on fellow National FFA officer Jordan Stowe's social media post (Exhibit 1 – screen shot of comments by Plaintiff), which supported Black Lives Matter.

11. Later on May 31, 2020, Mr. Logemann deleted his comments on Jordan Stowe's page.

12. Before Lyle could write an apology, Xavier Morgan, another former IL State FFA officer, wrote a letter to National FFA and began a social media petition condemning FFA for its failures in the areas of Diversity, Inclusion and Equity and calling for Mr. Logemann's removal from office

13. On June 1, 2020 Mr. Logemann was contacted by the National FFA Association and was asked to make a public apology, in which National FFA reserved the right to edit the apology in exchange for the promise that he could remain a national FFA officer.

14. On June 1, 2020 Mr. Logemann posted a public apology that was vetted, edited, and approved by FFA.

15. June 2, 2020 the National FFA CEO posted the “At National FFA, we are going to love, mentor and coach this young man through this situation. These are learning moments for young people.”

16. June 3, 2020 in his relentless efforts to remove Mr. Logemann from office, Xavier Morgan found memes Mr. Logemann reposted in 2013, 2015, and 2016 before his election as a National FFA Officer and sent pictures to the National FFA Association demanding Mr. Logemann be removed from office immediately.

17. June 3, 2020 National FFA posts the following “in light of additional information, we are further investigating social media posts made by our national officer prior to the time he was elected to office. We intend to move swiftly in that investigation and will provide more information as soon as possible.”

18. At some point, National FFA allegedly organized a Board of Directors meeting via Zoom. (Notably, the National FFA constitution outlines in Article IV that notice of meetings shall be given to each member of the board not less than thirty days prior to any regular meeting and not less than five days prior to any special meeting.”)

19. Mr. Logemann received a call from the CEO the morning of June 4th, saying things “look good” for being able to work this out. He was not given any opportunity to represent himself or defend himself against the accusations.

20. He received a call that afternoon following the Board meeting from the CEO asking for his resignation. When he refused to resign, the CEO told Mr. Logemann he would be removed from office.

21. June 4, 2020 National FFA wrote in a press release which was posted on social media saying the posts Lyle made in 2013 – 2016 “violate FFA’s code of ethics and especially our

commitment to appreciate and promote diversity in our organization.” The press release also states that due to the fact that National Officers are “quasi employees” of the National FFA Organization they had “handled the details of this sensitive matter with the guidance from the human resource department.”

22. Further on June 4th The National FFA CEO posted: “Yesterday we were presented with information concerning social media posts that were made by our Western Region Vice President, Lyle Logemann, prior to his service as a National Officer. We have confirmed that Lyle made these posts, and he admits they were at the very least inappropriate, insensitive and reflected views that are not keeping with the ideals of the National FFA Organization. These statements violate our code of ethics and especially our commitment to appreciate and promote diversity in our Organization. Lyle understands and is remorseful that he has offended many individuals and violated the code of conduct for FFA members and National Officers. Because of the nature of National FFA’s quasi employment relationship with national officers, we have handled the sensitive details of this matter with the guidance of our human resource department. While this is a personnel matter, it is also in the public’s view. After much discussion and deliberation, based upon a pattern of behavior that we cannot tolerate, I can communicate that the following actions have been taken and are effective immediately:

- a. Lyle Logemann has been removed as National FFA Officer
- b. We have offered additional counseling and sensitivity training,
- c. FFA will continue to operate for the remainder of this officer year with five national officers.”

COUNT I: BREACH OF CONTRACT

23. Plaintiff re-alleges each of the above averments as if set forth in full herein.

24. Plaintiff was quasi-employed by Defendant from the time he took Office on October 31, 2019 to June 4, 2020.

25. Plaintiff has a legitimate and meaningful interest in maintaining his position and scholarship interests.

26. Plaintiff met all necessary requirements set out by the defendant to hold a position as a National FFA officer.

27. Plaintiff was wrongly removed from his position as a National FFA Officer resulting in loss to his reputation and loss of income.

COUNT II: BREACH OF THE COVENANT OF GOOD FAITH AND FAIR DEALING

28. Plaintiff re-alleges each of the above averments as if set forth in full herein.

29. Defendant owed a duty of good faith and fair dealing with respect to Plaintiff's employment.

30. Defendant breached its duty when removing the Plaintiff from his role as a National Officer, even after meeting their requirements in formulating and publishing an apology in exchange for remaining on the national officer team.

31. Defendant breached the covenant of good faith and fair dealing inherent in the employment of Plaintiff and in the contract they formed regarding his remaining a national officer when they removed him from his position as a National FFA Officer.

32. As a direct, natural and proximate result of such breach, Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer damages.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully prays for:

- A. Judgment against Defendant for all lawfully recoverable damages including punitive damages in an amount to be determined by the jury;

- B. Against defendant for costs, expenses and attorneys' fees; and
- C. Any and all other relief that may be appropriate as deemed by this court.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ A. Blair Dunn

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EXHIBIT 1

