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Appearing *Pro Hac Vice*
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Attorney for Plaintiff, James Lesmeister

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS, HOUSTON DIVISION

NATIONAL COALITION FOR MEN; JAMES
LESMEISTER, Individually and on
behalf of others similarly
situated; and ANTHONY DAVIS,
individually and on behalf of
others similarly situated,

PLAINTIFFS,

v.

SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM;
LAWRENCE G. ROMO, as Director of
SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM; and
DOES 1 through 50, Inclusive,

DEFENDANTS.

Civil Action No. 4:16-cv-03362

**FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR
INJUNCTIVE AND DECLARATORY
RELIEF**

**Honorable Gray H. Miller
Action Filed: April 4, 2013**

Plaintiffs National Coalition For Men (hereinafter "NCFM"),
James Lesmeister (hereinafter "Lesmeister"), and Anthony David
("Davis") (collectively hereinafter "Plaintiffs"), bring this
complaint against Defendants Selective Service System (hereinafter

1 "SSS") and its Director Lawrence G. Romo (collectively hereinafter
2 ("Defendants"). Plaintiffs request injunctive and declaratory relief
3 for Defendants to treat women and men equally by requiring both
4 women and men to register for the U.S. military draft.

5 **PARTIES**

- 6
- 7 1. Plaintiff NCFM is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) educational and civil
8 rights corporation organized under the laws of the State of
9 California and of the United States.
 - 10 2. NCFM is registered with the Combined Federal Campaign for non-
11 profit organizations.
 - 12 3. NCFM was established in 1976 to examine how sex discrimination
13 adversely affects males in military conscription, child custody
14 laws, parenting rights, domestic violence services, family law,
15 paternity laws, criminal sentencing, public benefits, education,
16 occupations that are not traditionally male (nursing, school
17 teachers, etc.), and other areas.
 - 18 4. NCFM assisted the California Legislature in enacting legislation
19 to protect men from paternity fraud, and helped overturn
20 unconstitutional laws that discriminated against male victims of
21 domestic violence in California in *Woods v. Horton* (2008) 167
22 Cal.App.4th 658. NCFM members were the prevailing appellants and
23 attorney in the landmark California Supreme Court case of
24 *Angelucci v. Century Supper Club* (2007) 41 Cal.4th 160, which held
25 that women, people of color, g~~2~~ys and lesbians, and other groups
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27
28

1 that California businesses discriminated against based on
2 protected personal characteristics did not have to first assert
3 their right to equal treatment to an offending business in order
4 to have standing to sue for unlawful discrimination under
5 California's Unruh Civil Rights Act.

6
7 5. NCFM has associational standing because some NCFM members,
8 including Plaintiff Davis, would otherwise have standing to sue in
9 their own right, the interests NCFM seeks to protect are germane
10 to NCFM's purpose and neither the claim asserted, nor the relief
11 requested, requires the participation of individual NCFM members
12 in this lawsuit.

13
14 6. Some of NCFM's members are males ages 18-25 or who will be age 18-
15 25 at some time relative to this lawsuit and the relief it seeks,
16 are harmed by or subject to the sex-discriminatory registration
17 requirements, are United States citizens, are not members of the
18 military or students at military academies or otherwise exempt
19 from the draft, and support equal treatment of males and females,
20 and some NCFM's members have or are likely to have male children
21 or loved ones who meet the criteria.

22
23 7. Plaintiff Lesmeister is a male age 18-25, a resident and U.S.
24 citizen residing near Houston, Texas, is in the age group required
25 by Defendants to register for the military draft and has recently
26 registered for the military draft as is required of him as a male,
27 is harmed by or subject to the sex-discriminatory registration
28

1 requirements, is not a members of the military or a student at
2 military academies or otherwise exempt from the draft, and he
3 supports equal treatment of males and females.

4 8. Davis is a male age 18-25, a resident and U.S. citizen residing in
5 San Diego, California, is in the age group required by Defendants
6 to register for the military draft and has recently registered for
7 the military draft as is required of him as a male, is harmed by
8 or subject to the sex-discriminatory registration requirements, is
9 not a members of the military or a student at military academies
10 or otherwise exempt from the draft, and he supports equal
11 treatment of males and females. Davis is a member of NCFM.

12
13
14 9. Defendant SSS is an independent agency within the Executive Branch
15 of the Federal Government of the United States of America. The SSS
16 collects and maintains information on men potentially subject to
17 military conscription. Male U.S. citizens and male immigrant non-
18 citizens between the ages of 18 and 25, are all required by law to
19 register with the SSS within thirty days of their 18th birthdays
20 and must notify the SSS within ten days of any changes to any of
21 the information they provided on their registration cards, such as
22 a change of address. A 2010 report by the General Accounting
23 Office estimated the SSS's registration rate at 92%, with the
24 names and addresses of over 16.2 million men on file. The SSS
25 provides the names of all registrants to the Joint Advertising
26 Marketing Research & Studies (4"JAMRS") program for inclusion in
27
28

1 the JAMRS Consolidated Recruitment Database. The names are
2 distributed to various government agencies for recruiting purposes
3 on a quarterly basis.

4 10. Defendant, Lawrence G. Romo, is Director of the SSS. The Director
5 of SSS is appointed by the President of the United States of
6 America and confirmed by the Senate.

7
8 11. Defendants DOES 1 through 50 are sued as fictitious entities at
9 this time and will be added to this Complaint by amendment when
10 their true names are ascertained.

11 12. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereon allege that each
12 of the Defendants is responsible and liable for the illegal and
13 unconstitutional acts alleged herein.

14
15 13. There is no other civil action between these parties arising out
16 of the same transaction or occurrence as alleged in this Complaint
17 pending in this Court, nor has any such action been previously
18 filed and dismissed or transferred after having been assigned to a
19 judge.
20

21 **JURISDICTION**

22 14. Plaintiffs bring this action under the Fifth Amendment of the
23 United States Constitution to challenge Defendants' sex
24 discrimination against males in Defendants' Selective Service
25 System, which requires only males register for the draft into the
26 branches of the U.S. military.
27
28

1 15. This Court has jurisdiction pursuant to the following statutes:

2 a. 28 U.S.C. § 1331, which gives district courts original
3 jurisdiction over civil actions arising under the
4 Constitution, laws, or treaties of the United States.

5 b. 28 U.S.C. § 1343 (3) and (4), which give district courts
6 original jurisdiction over actions to secure civil rights
7 extended by the United States government.
8

9 **VENUE**

10 16. The case was originally filed in the Central District Court of
11 California, because NCFM's national office is in California and
12 Plaintiffs' attorney resides in Los Angeles, California.
13

14 17. The Central District Court of California dismissed NCFM without
15 prejudice on a Motion to Dismiss, and transferred to case to the
16 Southern District Court of Texas, Houston Division, because that
17 is where Lesmeister, whom the court found has standing, resides.
18

19 18. Venue is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) because the events
20 giving rise to this Complaint occurred in this District, or a
21 substantial part of property that is the subject of the action is
22 situated in this District.
23

24 19. Nonetheless, Plaintiffs assert that the case would be more
25 conveniently heard in California, because NCFM's national office
26 is in San Diego, California, and Plaintiffs' attorney resides in
27 Los Angeles, California, only two hours away from San Diego.
28

PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

1
2 20. Plaintiffs re-allege each allegation set forth above.

3 21. In the 1981 U.S. Supreme Court decision of *Rostker v. Goldberg*,
4 453 U.S. 57 (1981), a group of men asserted the sex discrimination
5 in the SSS violated their rights to Equal Protection under the
6 Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution. In a sharply
7 divided decision with a vigorous dissent written by Justice
8 Thurgood Marshall, the majority of the Justices ruled against the
9 men on the basis that women were excluded from combat, and
10 therefore, men and women were not similarly situated.

11
12
13 22. On January 24, 2013 Secretary of Defense Leon E. Panetta and
14 Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Martin E. Dempsey issued a
15 Memorandum that officially rescinded the 1994 ban on women in
16 combat (hereinafter, "2013 Memorandum").

17
18 23. The 2013 Memorandum gave the military departments until May 15,
19 2013 to submit "detailed plans for the implementation of this
20 directive" and directed that integration of women into combat
21 positions be completed "as expeditiously as possible" and no later
22 than January 1, 2016.

23
24 24. The 2013 Memorandum further directed that any recommendations to
25 keep women out of certain units must be personally approved by the
26 Chairman and by the Secretary of Defense and must be "narrowly
27 tailored" and "based on rigorous analysis of factual data."
28

1 25. As the 2013 Memorandum itself notes, many changes had already
2 occurred between the 1981 *Rostker* decision and the 2013
3 Memorandum. For example, page one of the 2013 Memorandum states
4 in February 2012 the military opened over 14,000 positions
5 previously closed to women, and that, as of January 24, 2013,
6 thousands of women have served alongside men in Iraq and
7 Afghanistan and were exposed to hostile enemy action.
8

9 26. Therefore, the sole legal basis for requiring only males to
10 register with the SSS for the military draft no longer applies,
11 and Defendants should now treat men and women equally by either
12 requiring both men and women to register, or by ending the SSS.
13

14 27. On April 4, 2013, Plaintiffs filed this lawsuit for injunctive,
15 declaratory, and other relief ordering Defendants to rescind the
16 MSSA's male-only registration requirement, either by requiring
17 both sexes to register for MSSA or by rescinding the MSSA for both
18 sexes, on the ground that the gender-specific registration
19 requirement violates the constitutional right to equal protection.
20

21 28. On June 19, 2013, Defendants filed a Motion to Dismiss under
22 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)1, 12(b)3, and 12(b)6,
23 arguing, *inter alia*, that the case is not ripe because the repeal
24 of the ban on women in combat has not been fully implemented and
25 it is not clear whether all military branches will allow women in
26 combat, and that Lesmeister and NCFM lack standing to sue.
27
28

1 29. On July 29, 2013 the Central District Court of California
2 dismissed the action on the sole ground of ripeness.

3 30. Lesmeister and NCFM appealed to the Ninth Circuit Court of
4 Appeals.

5 31. On December 4, 2015, Defendants wrote a letter to the Ninth
6 Circuit Court of Appeals stating, in pertinent part:

7
8 on December 3, 2015, as required by 10 U.S.C. § 652
9 and 10 U.S.C. § 6035, the Secretary of Defense
10 notified Congress that the Department of Defense (DoD)
11 intends to assign women to previously closed positions
and units across all Services and U.S. Special
Operations Command.

12 32. Said letter attached a December 3, 2016 letter from the Department
13 of Defense to Joseph Biden, President of the Senate, indicating
14 that the Department of Defense intends to “open all previously
15 closed positions” to women “across all services.”
16

17 33. On February 19, 2016, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals reversed
18 the Central District of California’s order, stating in part:

19
20 The district court’s decision was largely premised on
21 the fact that the Department of Defense has been
22 engaged in a multi-year process of integrating women
23 into formerly closed positions, and it was unclear the
24 extent to which these positions would be opened. Much
25 of that uncertainty has passed: as the government has
26 noted, the Secretary of Defense recently announced
that the military “intends to open all formerly closed
positions” to women. Even if some uncertainty remains
as to the full extent to which women will end up
serving in combat roles, that does not render the
Coalition and Lesmeister’s claims unripe.

1 34. The Ninth Circuit further stated:

2 We note the Selective Service is wrong to argue that
3 the Coalition and Lesmeister lack standing because
4 their alleged equality injuries would not be redressed
5 if the burdens they challenge
6 were extended to women.

7 35. The Ninth Circuit declined to rule on the other challenges to
8 standing that were based on alleged deficiencies in the Complaint.

9 36. On remand, Defendants filed another Motion to Dismiss in which
10 they challenged Plaintiffs' standing.

11 37. On November 9, 2016, the Central District of California ruled that
12 Lesmeister has standing, but NCFM does not have associational
13 standing because NCFM did not name any members with standing.

14 38. The Central District Court of California then transferred venue to
15 the Southern District Court of Texas, Houston Division, where the
16 only remaining Plaintiff, Lesmeister, resides.

17 **GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

18 39. Plaintiffs re-allege each allegation set forth above.

19 40. Under the MSSA, male U.S. citizens and male immigrant non-citizens
20 between the ages of 18 and 26 are required by law to register with
21 the MSSS within 30 days of their 18th birthdays. 50 U.S.C. §
22 453(a).
23

24 41. After they register, men must notify the SSS within 10 days of any
25 changes to any of the information provided on the registration
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1 card, including a change of address, until January 1 of the year
2 they turn 21 years of age.

3 42. Failure to comply with the MSSA can subject a man to five years in
4 prison, a \$10,000 fine, and denial of federal employment or
5 student aid. 50 U.S.C. § 462(a).

6
7 43. Within the past three years, Defendants have been and are
8 enacting, implementing, and/or administering laws, rules, and
9 public policies, which discriminate against males by requiring
10 only males to register for the draft under the SSS program.

11
12 44. The above-referenced discriminatory laws and policies violate the
13 rights of Plaintiffs and other qualifying men in the United States
14 under the 5TH Amendment of the United States Constitution.

15
16 45. Men failing to register with SSS can be fined \$250,000, sentenced
17 to five years in prison, and be disqualified from a number of
18 federal and state benefits including: jobs, financial aid,
19 citizenship, and job training.

20
21 46. The U.S. Supreme Court, in *Frontiero v. Richardson*, 411 U.S. 677
22 (1973), ruled that the Equal Protection Clause of the United
23 States Constitution requires the U.S. military to provide its
24 female members with the same housing and medical benefits as it
25 provides its male members. *Frontiero* discusses America's long and
26 unfortunate history of sex discrimination, *Id.* at 684 - 687, which
27 NCFM and many other equal rights organizations seek to end.
28 Justice William J. Brennan Jr. in announcing the judgment of the

1 Court, compared the military's unequal treatment of men and women
2 regarding housing and medical benefits to be another example of
3 this country's unfortunate tradition of treating people unequally
4 based on their sex, finding that "Traditionally, such
5 discrimination was rationalized by an attitude of "romantic
6 paternalism" which, in practical effect, put women, not on a
7 pedestal, but in a cage." *Id.* at 684.
8

9 **DECLARATORY RELIEF**

10 47. Plaintiffs re-allege each allegation set forth above.

11 48. There exists an actual, present, and justiciable controversy
12 between Plaintiffs and Defendants concerning the rights of
13 Plaintiffs and the duties of Defendants concerning the conduct
14 described herein.
15

16 49. This controversy is ripe for judicial decision, and declaratory
17 relief is necessary and appropriate so the parties may know the
18 legal obligations that govern their present and future conduct.
19

20 **COUNT ONE: VIOLATION OF FIFTH AMENDMENT OF THE UNITED STATES**

21 **CONSTITUTION**

22 50. Plaintiffs re-allege each allegation set forth above.

23 51. The above-mentioned conduct by Defendants violates the rights of
24 Plaintiffs to equal treatment based on sex under the Fifth
25 Amendment of the United States Constitution.
26
27
28

PRAYER

Therefore, Plaintiffs pray as follows for:

1. Injunctive relief ordering Defendants to end the sex-based discrimination in its military draft registration program and to treat men and women equally.
2. Declaratory relief regarding the respective rights of Plaintiffs and all defendants as set forth in this Complaint;
3. Attorney fees and costs; and,
4. Any other relief that the Court deems just.

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiffs demand a trial by jury on all causes of action so triable.

Respectfully Submitted.

Law Office of Marc E. Angelucci

Date: 1/26/17

By: //Marc E. Angelucc //
Marc E. Angelucci, Esq.
Attorney for Plaintiffs, National
Coalition For Men, James Lesmeister,
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