

Amicus Brief by Keith Thompson, submitted Dec. 13, 2024

Good afternoon,

My name is Keith Thompson, and I serve as an alternate representative for Super Region 3 to the Libertarian National Committee (LNC). Additionally, I have been the communications officer for the Louisiana affiliate for over a decade. I was one of the votes cast against the removal of Caryn Ann Harlos, as I felt then, as I do now, that the LNC did not have proper cause for such an action.

While you have undoubtedly received numerous emails on this hearing, with strong opinions on both sides, I do not believe the matter at hand is particularly complex.

The LNC voted to remove Caryn Ann for several reasons, none of which rise to the level of valid cause. I would note that my state affiliate board has passed resolutions in support of Caryn Ann against these charges and thanking her for her actions to support our nominees.

The only cause remotely approaching validity relates to Caryn Ann's actions in helping our Presidential campaign secure ballot access in Colorado. I commend her for those actions. They would constitute gross malfeasance only if they were done with intent to harm the Party—something clearly not the case, as both the intent and the outcome were positive. This is further evidenced by our 2024 Presidential nominee and his campaign manager expressing gratitude for her efforts.

The Judicial Committee has already carefully examined the charges and found them lacking. I will not repeat their exhaustive analysis but will instead emphasize my agreement with the JC's majority ruling, which found that the charges did not constitute valid cause for suspension.

It logically follows that if the charges were invalid for suspension, they must also be invalid for removal. If anything, removal should have an even higher threshold. To remove someone based on charges deemed insufficient for suspension would be entirely illogical.

I would add that I did not vote for Caryn Ann's reelection. She and I have not always agreed and may very well clash on issues in the future. However, that is the nature of the political process. Contrary to the LNC's recent examples, adults should be able to disagree and remain civil. These disagreements, even strong ones, are no basis for removal if we are to remain the Party of Principle. Such decisions are wisely left to delegates at convention, not the LNC itself.

There are numerous facets to this case - rude social media posts, FEC filings raising concern of conflicts, the derivative suit, and others - but these are distractions. The simple matter remains that under the policy manual and the bylaws as they stood at the time, there was not just cause to remove Caryn Ann Harlos.

The LNC's subsequent updates to the policy manual cannot retroactively justify her removal. Retroactive rule changes are fundamentally unjust. If a state were to enact such practices, we would rightly decry them.

I urge the committee to remain focused on this straightforward issue. You have already wisely ruled that the charges did not meet the threshold for suspension. It naturally follows that these same charges cannot justify removal.

Thank you kindly for your time and consideration.

In Liberty,
Keith Thompson