

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF
OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma State Conference of the National Association for the
Advancement of Colored People et al. v. Gentner Drummond et al.

Oklahoma State Conference v. Drummond · No. CIV-21-1022-G · Decided March 31, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma denied State Defendants’ renewed motion for judgment on the pleadings in a challenge to Oklahoma House Bill 1775. The court held that Plaintiffs plausibly alleged that the Act was enacted, at least in part, with discriminatory purpose or intent in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment’s Equal Protection Clause. The court distinguished the Tenth Circuit’s decision in *Poe ex rel. Poe v. Drummond* based on the different procedural posture and the factual disputes relevant to the Arlington Heights framework.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma
DECIDED	March 31, 2026
DOCKET	CIV-21-1022-G
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	State Defendants moved under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(c) for judgment on the pleadings against Plaintiffs' Fourteenth Amendment equal protection claim. The court denied the renewed motion.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	On a Rule 12(c) motion, the court accepts all facts pleaded by the nonmoving party as true, draws reasonable inferences in that party's favor, and grants judgment only when no material issue of fact remains and the moving party is entitled to judgment as a matter of law. The court's inquiry is generally limited to the pleadings, exhibits incorporated therein, matters central or integral to the claim or defense, and judicially noticeable facts.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unknown; district court order designated per curiam, with no reporter citation or stated precedential designation.

TOPICS

motion for judgment on the pleadings

equal protection

fourteenth amendment

civil procedure

civil rights

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure

constitutional law

civil rights

education law

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Plaintiffs lacked standing to pursue their equal protection challenge to provisions of the Act concerning higher education, such that the State Regents should be dismissed.
2. Whether State Defendants were entitled to judgment on the pleadings because the equal protection claim was not plausibly pleaded.
3. Whether the Tenth Circuit's decision in *Poe ex rel. Poe v. Drummond* required judgment on the pleadings against Plaintiffs' discriminatory-purpose equal protection claim.

HOLDINGS

1. State Defendants did not establish as a matter of law that Plaintiffs lacked standing to challenge the Act under the Equal Protection Clause, and the court would not dismiss the State Regents on that basis.
2. State Defendants were not entitled to judgment on the pleadings because the amended complaint plausibly alleged that the Act was enacted at least in part with discriminatory purpose or intent, and the pleadings reflected factual disputes relevant to that determination.
3. *Poe ex rel. Poe v. Drummond* did not require judgment on the pleadings or reverse the court's prior determination that Plaintiffs plausibly pleaded their equal protection claim.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“A motion for judgment on the pleadings should not be granted unless the moving party has clearly established that no material issue of fact remains to be resolved and the party is entitled to judgment as a matter of law.” (Section III)

*“In sum, while *Poe* is binding authority that will provide additional guidance for the ultimate determination on Plaintiffs’ equal protection claim, its issuance does not upend the Court’s prior examination of that claim”* (Section IV.B)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiffs challenge Oklahoma House Bill 1775, codified at title 70, section 24-157 of the Oklahoma Statutes, and its implementing regulations, which restrict the teaching or training of specified subjects in Oklahoma schools. Their equal protection claim alleges that the Act was enacted, at least in part, with discriminatory purpose to suppress speech and curriculum addressing historically marginalized groups and to harm students of color. The pleadings allege discriminatory legislative history, foreseeable disparate impact, departures from ordinary legislative procedure, and tenuous stated justifications. The claim seeks declaratory and injunctive relief against state officials in their official capacities.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiffs filed an amended complaint challenging the constitutionality of Oklahoma House Bill 1775 and its implementing regulations. State Defendants answered and previously moved for judgment on the pleadings; the court denied that motion as to the equal protection claim, finding the claim adequately pleaded. After related appeals and certification of state-law questions to the Oklahoma Supreme Court, State Defendants renewed their Rule 12(c) motion, arguing that Plaintiffs lacked standing and that a subsequent Tenth Circuit decision required judgment on the pleadings. The court rejected both arguments and denied the renewed motion.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- *Adams v. Jones*, 577 F. App'x 778, 782 (10th Cir. 2014)
- *Colony Insurance Co. v. Burke*, 698 F.3d 1222, 1228 (10th Cir. 2012)
- *Black Emergency Response Team v. Drummond*, 737 F. Supp. 3d 1158, 1178-80, 1182 (W.D. Okla. 2024)
- *Wilderness Society v. Kane County*, 632 F.3d 1162, 1168 (10th Cir. 2011)
- *Black Emergency Response Team v. Drummond*, 571 P.3d 135, 140 (Okla. 2025)
- *Poe v. Ullman*, 367 U.S. 497, 506 (1961)
- *Citizens for Constitutional Integrity v. United States*, 57 F.4th 750, 766 (10th Cir. 2023)
- *United States v. Amador-Bonilla*, 102 F.4th 1110, 1115-16 (10th Cir. 2024)
- *Village of Arlington Heights v. Metropolitan Housing Development Corp.*, 429 U.S. 252, 264-68 (1977)
- *Poe ex rel. Poe v. Drummond*, 149 F.4th 1107, 1119-20, 1125-26 (10th Cir. 2025)
- *Navajo Nation v. New Mexico*, 975 F.2d 741, 744 (10th Cir. 1992)
- *Hunt v. Cromartie*, 526 U.S. 541, 549 (1999)

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