

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
FRANKLIN CIRCUIT COURT
DIVISION I
CONSOLIDATED CIVIL ACTION NOS. 26-CI-00885;
26-CI-01010; 26-CI-01017**

RAMSI WOODCOCK

PLAINTIFF

ORDER

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY, et al.

DEFENDANTS

This matter was before the Court for a status conference on Wednesday, September 23, 2026, at approximately 10:00 a.m. in Courtroom D (some participants by Zoom), in which the parties updated the Court pursuant to the Court's previous Order dated September 21, 2026.

After extensive discussion with the parties, and being otherwise sufficiently advised, the Court hereby **ORDERS** the following:

1. The scope of the hearing scheduled for Wednesday, September 30, 2026, is limited to Defendants' *Motion to Dismiss* and Plaintiff's request for injunctive relief, both of which relate to the appointment of Defendant Gregory Van Tatenhove as Dean of the University of Kentucky David J. Rosenberg College of Law (College of Law) ("the Dean case").
2. Defendants shall, by the close of business on Friday, September 25, 2026, file a motion to quash the subpoenas that have been issued seeking to compel the attendance of Defendants Eli Capilouto, President of the University of Kentucky, Robert DiPaola, Provost of the University of Kentucky, and Gregory Van Tatenhove, Dean of the College of Law.

Plaintiff shall file any response thereto by the close of business on Monday, September 28, 2026. The Franklin County Circuit Clerk's Office closes at 4:00 p.m. (Eastern).

3. The Court shall hear arguments on Defendants' *Motion to Dismiss* prior to hearing testimony on Plaintiff's motion for injunctive relief.
4. Regarding Plaintiff's request for a temporary restraining order enjoining the completion of Defendants' investigation of Plaintiff, that request is **DENIED WITHOUT PREJUDICE**. However, the Court directs Defendants to provide the Court with notice when the outside investigative report is complete, and to provide Plaintiff with ten days' notice prior to taking any further disciplinary action based on the investigation/final report.
5. Furthermore, the Court hereby requests Defendants to reconsider their previous action banning Plaintiff from the College of Law. The Court notes that the record contains no evidence of any conduct on Plaintiff's part that justifies his being trespassed from the campus of the College of Law.¹

¹ On this point, the Court notes the relevance of Dean Van Tatenhove's Opinion and Order in *Jones v. Jenkins Independent School Dist.*, Civil No. 6:26-cv-00055-GFVT, 2026 WL 88757 (EDKY Jan. 12, 2026). That case addressed a Kentucky public school's series of "no trespass bans" issued to a parent in response to inflammatory Facebook posts the parent made. *Id.* at *1. The parent brought First Amendment retaliation claims as well as facial challenges to the alleged content-based restrictions of the "no trespass orders." *Id.* at *7. The Court ultimately granted the parent's motion for a preliminary injunction prohibiting the school from enforcing the "no trespass orders" against her, noting that "offensive speech still enjoys First Amendment protection, and the school district cannot sanction the content of [the parent's] speech merely because they find it unsettling, distasteful, or inappropriate." *Id.*

6. The issues presented in Plaintiff's motion for injunctive relief in "the suspension case" will not be addressed at the September 30 hearing but will be subject to a separate hearing to be scheduled as needed.
7. The Court reiterates its request for the parties to continue to meet and confer and to agree on a framework for resolving this dispute through alternative dispute resolution.

SO ORDERED this 24th day of September 2026.



PHILLIP J. SHEPHERD, JUDGE
Franklin Circuit Court, Division I

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