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Legal Aid Union Seeks to Expel Members Who Blocked Gaza Ceasefire Resolution

A lawsuit filed Monday in Manhattan federal court described a measure regarding the war as "blatantly anti-Semitic."

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Labor Law



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Litigation Reporter



Three public defenders on Long Island are suing their union in a New York federal court, alleging it's trying to expel them for filing a [prior lawsuit](#) that blocked the passage of a proposed resolution that called for a ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war.

Lieb At Law and the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law filed the complaint on Monday in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York on behalf of Ilana Kopmar, Diane T. Clarke and Isaac Altman, a trio of lawyers employed by the Legal Aid Society of Nassau County.

The lawsuit describes the draft resolution regarding the war as "blatantly anti-Semitic."

Counsel has not yet appeared for the group of defendants, which includes the 3,000-member Association of Legal Aid Attorneys.

The membership vote on the resolution was scheduled for Nov. 17, 2023, but on Nov. 16, the plaintiffs filed suit in state Supreme Court of Nassau County seeking a temporary restraining order enjoining the defendants from holding the vote.

State Supreme Court Justice Felice J. Muraca granted the request, and the defendants later had the case moved to U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York.

The plaintiffs voluntarily dismissed that claim, without prejudice, on Dec. 26.

The trio's latest lawsuit says that they are being expelled from the union in retaliation for their state court lawsuit, a violation of their rights arising under the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act.

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