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Supreme Court
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No. SCPW-24-_____

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

CIVIL BEAT LAW CENTER FOR THE
PUBLIC INTEREST,

Petitioner,

vs.

THE HONORABLE JAMES S.
KAWASHIMA, Circuit Court Judge of
the Circuit Court of the First Circuit,

Respondent.

ORIGINAL PROCEEDING
CIV. NO. 1CCV-19-2164

PETITION FOR WRIT OF
PROHIBITION AND WRIT OF
MANDAMUS

CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST
CIRCUIT, STATE OF HAWAII

The Honorable James S. Kawashima,
Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of
Hawai`i

DECLARATION OF R. BRIAN BLACK

DECLARATION OF R. BRIAN BLACK

1. I am the Executive Director and attorney for Petitioner Civil Beat Law Center for the Public Interest, now known as Public First Law Center (Law Center). I make this declaration in support of the Petition for Writ of Prohibition and Writ of Mandamus based on personal knowledge.

2. Before the May 28 hearing, I notified Judge Chang's staff that I was present and would be waiting in the hallway if the Court decided to make any portion of hearing open to the public. His staff informed me that I would be alerted if any portion is public or otherwise when the hearing ended.

3. At the end of the May 28 hearing, Judge Chang's staff came out to the hallway to inform me that the hearing ended.

4. Counsel for the parties informed me that, during the closed May 28 hearing, Judge Chang in effect denied the motion to unseal, ordering that the entire case would remain sealed due to settlement concerns, but requiring the parties to redact certain words from the complaint as scandalous and to provide a copy of the complaint to me personally.

5. On June 21, I received a copy of a redacted complaint by electronic mail from counsel for the Plaintiff and from Judge Kawashima's chambers.

6. The Law Center did not request special access to the docket in Civil No. 1CCV-19-2164. In this case, as in all cases in which the Law Center has sought access, the Law Center requested access to the extent constitutionally required for all members of the public, not access solely for itself.

I, R. BRIAN BLACK, do declare under penalty of law that the foregoing is true and correct.

DATED: Honolulu, Hawai'i, July 22, 2024

/s/ R. Brian Black
R. BRIAN BLACK