



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 5, 2020

CONTACT: Jordan Matyas
(312) 968-9600

Disability Rights Organization Sued for Anti-Military Animus and Discrimination

Chicago, IL – A lawsuit was filed this week against a prominent Chicagoland disability rights organization and the Chair of its Board of Directors, for firing a new employee who was a long-standing volunteer because of his military service. The lawsuit was filed by Patterson Law Firm and 1818 on behalf of Scott “Shalom” Klein and alleges that Klein was abruptly terminated just a few months into his employment based on his obligations as a Lieutenant in the United States Army Reserve.

“I have loved working with this non-profit as a volunteer, Chairman of the Board and recently as an employee,” said Shalom Klein. “I am shocked and saddened that an organization I loved and have committed years of my life to referred to my commitment to the Army Reserves and my Country in discussing my termination. I attempted to solve this without involving the courts, but in my case and likely in cases like this all over the country my employer refused to admit they violated my rights and they refused to make any changes to their policy to ensure this won’t happen again.”

The lawsuit alleges that his employer unlawfully fired Klein from his post as Director of External Affairs shortly after hiring Klein in violation of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA). After completing Basic Combat Training and Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia, Klein was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the United States Army on August 7, 2019. Klein also serves as Chair of Employer Outreach for the United States Department of Defense’s Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve program for the state, which ensures companies follow USERRA and understand the benefits servicemembers bring to the workplace.

The lawsuit alleges Klein’s brief employment with the non-profit was riddled with outward animus toward Klein’s military service and a continued focus by leadership on Klein’s commitments to his country, and that this commitment to his country caused his employment to be terminated due to the organization’s unwillingness to comply with its obligations under USERRA and the anti-military animus of its leadership, as expressed in numerous written documents.

The lawsuit can be found at: www.1818advocacy.com/klein.userra

Employers – If you are an employer and want to support the United States Guard and Reserve soldiers, follow this link to show your support. <https://www.esgr.mil/Employers/Statement-of-Support>

Guards and Reservist – If you believe you have been fired or retaliated against because of your military service here is a short article that will tell you about your rights and options. www.1818advocacy.com/guard-reservist-userra

Shalom Klein's Podcast can be found at:

Getting Down TO Business – The show is based on interviews with leaders in business, employment and politics as well as strategic advice on building your business, success stories and finding jobs. <https://shalomklein.com/radio-home/>

We All Serve – A weekly Podcast about Leaders in the Veteran Community <https://shalomklein.com/tag/weallserve/>