

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

EMILY ECHOLS , a minor child, by and through	)	Civil Action No.
her next friends, TIM AND WINDY ECHOLS,	)	02-cv-633-KLH-CKK-RJL
<i>et al.</i> ,)	
	)	<i>consolidated with</i>
<i>Plaintiffs</i>,	)	02-cv-582-KLH-CKK-RJL
	)	(lead case)
	)	<i>and</i>
-vs-	)	02-cv-581-KLH-CKK-RJL
	)	02-cv-751-KLH-CKK-RJL
FEDERAL ELECTIONS COMMISSION,	)	02-cv-753-KLH-CKK-RJL
<i>et al.</i>,	)	02-cv-754-KLH-CKK-RJL
	)	02-cv-781-KLH-CKK-RJL
<i>Defendants.</i>	)	02-cv-874-KLH-CKK-RJL
	)	02-cv-875-KLH-CKK-RJL
	)	02-cv-877-KLH-CKK-RJL
	)	02-cv-881-KLH-CKK-RJL

DECLARATION OF JESSICA MITCHELL

I, Jessica Mitchell, hereby declare under penalty of perjury of the State of Florida:

1. I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of Florida.
2. I am twelve years old, and was born on February 21, 1990.
3. Although I am not an adult, I understand that it is important to speak truthfully about the facts that I know, and admit honestly when I do not know something; I understand that not telling the truth in this statement would be a wrongful thing, and that I have the duty under the law to tell the truth.
4. Although I am not an adult, I understand the difference between facts and fantasy, and that my duty in making this statement is to testify to facts, and to avoid making up things that I cannot remember or do not know.

5. I am a Christian.
6. I am a home-schooled child, and I always have been.
7. Being home-schooled has also helped me to learn responsibility for myself and my schedule:
 - a. For example, I am accustomed to waking up by about 6:30 a.m.
 - b. After I wake I, I do all my chores in the morning.
 - c. Once my chores are finished, a friend and I will get some early morning exercise by riding bikes and such, usually while my mom is taking a walk.
 - d. By 7:30, we are back home and have breakfast.
 - e. And our school day starts, usually, no later than 8:15 a.m.
8. In addition to my studies at home about civics, government and history, I have had three great opportunities to learn about legislation and politics, by attending training programs sponsored by Teen Pact.
 - a. Teen Pact teaches kids about state legislation and political activities.
 - b. We listen to speakers, study materials, and have activities that allow us to look close up at legislative and political activities on the state level.
 - c. I have attended Teen Pact programs in Maine and Alabama, and I attended and graduated from the Teen Pact program held here in Florida this year.
 - d. During that program, I participated as a member of our “Rules Committee,” we set up four committees similar to ones used in the legislature.
 - e. Also, we interviewed lobbyists at the legislature, and we heard from some

legislators, and had the opportunity to ask them questions.

f. Also, we visited with Governor Bush in the Capitol.

g. Participating in the Teen Pact programs has given me an understanding of how state legislatures work, including the process in the legislature and the outside activities of lobbyists and others who influence legislation.

h. I have become interested in government, politics and legislation, and the training at Teen Pact has increased my interest in these subjects, as well as my understanding.

9. As a family, we have also been involved in politics.

a. I worked with my mom and my sister in the mail room of the local headquarters for the 2000 Bush Presidential Campaign.

b. I also attended rallies for the campaign.

c. And I helped to assemble signs that the campaign distributed.

d. And I also walked a precinct with my family and distributed materials about the Bush campaign to encourage people to vote.

e. I also got to meet the President while he was still a candidate, because he was jogging in our neighborhood, so we got to meet him and I got a picture with him and got his autograph.

f. I also participated in some campaign activities when Bill McCollum ran, unsuccessfully, to become our United States Senator.

g. My sister worked on his campaign, and my best recollection is that we walked a precinct as part of an effort to encourage people to get out and vote, and to support his

campaign.

h. We are also volunteering to work for Governor Bush's re-election here.

i. We are going to be walking our neighborhood door-to-door handing out literature supporting him in October.

j. And, I think, we will also be distributing materials supporting Tom Feeney's campaign for the United States Congress.

k. In fact, I made a contribution to his campaign just recently, in the amount of Five Dollars.

l. That was from the money I earned in my own business.

10. The candidates that I have supported by volunteering, by the recent campaign donation, and by other activities, are ones that I have chosen after careful thought and research.

11. Because of my Christian faith, I will only support a candidate that is pro-life.

12. Also, I think that our government has gotten too big, and that too many people have gotten used to relying on it, so I can only support candidates that agree with me about reducing the size of government.

13. And, I think of myself as a Republican because that is the political party that has taken a stand against abortion and for the rights of children before birth.

14. When I am thinking about a candidate to support, I do research to learn their views.

a. Sometimes another member of my family has materials about the candidate, a lot of the time my dad does.

b. Also, I use the Internet to visit the websites of candidates and study the information and materials available on the website.

15. I have learned that because of the new law on campaign reform that I will not be allowed to give the money I have earned to a candidate that I have chosen to support who is seeking federal elective office.

16. I have also learned that I will not be allowed to give the money I have earned to committees of the political parties I support or associate with.

17. Because of my interest in government, legislation, and politics, and because of my Christian faith, I plan and intend to continue seeking out candidates for federal elective office who represent my views and beliefs on important questions like the right to life of children before birth, and on the size of our government.

18. When I find such candidates, I plan and intend to make donations to them, just as I did recently with my donation to the campaign of Tom Feeney for United States Congress.

19. Working for the election of a candidate and giving financial support to the election of a candidate are two ways that I am able to demonstrate my association with those candidates who share my beliefs and opinions.

20. While working on campaigns is an important activity, I also think that it is appropriate to give financial support to candidates.

21. So the new restrictions on my rights really do affect my rights and limit my ability to show that I share in the views and opinions of the candidates I choose.

22. A friend, Tali West, and I have a pet sitting business that we started together and

that we continue to run to this day.

- a. It's called, "Doggone Perfect Pet Sitting."
- b. We came up with the idea after reading an article in a magazine, the article listed several ideas for businesses that could be home-based.
- c. We developed a price list for our services.
- d. Also we prepared an advertisement that appears in our neighborhood newsletter, and that we have posted on the neighborhood bulletin boards.
- e. We also put up flyers about our services.
- f. As far as for our services, we walk the pets, feed them, clean up after them, and do the things that the pet's owner would do if they were at home.
- g. Holly and I share the work, taking turns with the various jobs that we have, and we share the proceeds that we receive according to the work we do.
- h. As part of our business plan, we take five percent of our proceeds and set them aside for business development, to make new flyers and to make t-shirts with our logo on them.
- i. Two summers ago, I was able to put Two Hundred Dollars into my savings account as a result of our business, as well as pay for some things around the house that my puppy had torn up when he was little.
- j. This year I added in about Fifty Dollars more.

23. I have saved, given or spent the money that I earn because of my own decisions, after talking with my parents about the choices I make.

a. For example, I give a tithe out of my earnings because it is a scriptural principle and because my mom and dad have taught me to do so.

b. And, I have talked with them about things I was thinking of buying; sometimes they have asked me to give them some more thought, but I cannot recall a time they have ever told me that I could not spend my money as I chose.

Further your declarant sayeth not.

I hereby declare that the foregoing statement is true and correct under the penalty of perjury of the State of Florida. Done this ____ day of _____, 2002.

Jessica Mitchell