

JUDICIAL COMMITTEE APPEAL

To Declare Null and Void Certain Actions of The Libertarian National Committee for Failure of Notice and For Imposing Disciplinary Sanctions Without Authority or Due Process

Filed by: Jesse Campbell, Esq., Sustaining Member

I. JURISDICTION

This appeal is brought pursuant to Article 7, Section 12 of the Bylaws of the Libertarian Party. Petitioners seek to declare null and void specified actions of the Libertarian National Committee alleged to contravene the Party Bylaws, Policy Manual and its parliamentary authority, Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (RONR) (12th ed.).

II. PETITIONERS

Petitioners consist of at least ten percent (10%) of the delegates credentialed at the most recent Regular Convention (94) and/or at least one percent (1%) of sustaining members of the Libertarian Party (90) according to the most recent membership report, as required by the Bylaws. A list of petitioners is attached as **Exhibit 1**.

III. AFFECTED PARTIES

The parties affected by these decisions include:

1. Members of the Libertarian National Committee (LNC);
2. The sustaining members of the party who also support bringing this appeal; and
3. All members of the Party who have an expectation that the LNC conduct itself according to the governing rules of the Party, especially the Non-Aggression Principle (NAP) and the Statement of Principles.

IV. STATEMENT OF ISSUES PRESENTED

1. Whether the LNC violated the Bylaws and parliamentary authority by adopting actions at special meetings without providing sufficient notice of their true disciplinary purpose.

2. Whether resolutions and directives labeled as expressions of “opinion,” “findings,” or “non-disciplinary” actions were, in substance, disciplinary sanctions requiring adherence to formal disciplinary procedures.
3. Whether the LNC exceeded its authority by imposing de facto penalties—such as censure, reputational condemnation, disqualification, or exclusion—without charges, notice, or an opportunity to be heard.
4. Whether actions that restrict or regulate the conduct of members, affiliates, or staff, even when nominally directed at a particular individual, constitute internal disciplinary action subject to due-process requirements.

V. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The LNC authorized the SIC to investigate not to impose discipline, make binding findings of misconduct, or adopt punitive measures against any member, officer, contractor, or affiliate.

At its February 2, 2025 meeting, the LNC created a Special Investigatory Committee (SIC) to “investigate issues of conflict of interest and business practices of the Libertarian National Committee.” **Exhibit 2, Page 15.**

The Chair issued a call for a special meeting of the LNC on June 9, 2025 to “consider the adoption of the report.” **Exhibit 4.** Prior to that call, the LNC’s only notice as to the SIC Report was with SIC “Update 2 Report” dated May 17, 2025 in the May 17-18, 2025 and continued to June 1, 2025 LNC Meeting Minutes under “Progress”. The SIC’s progress report mentions ongoing work or interim status, and did not represent that the SIC’s work was complete or that the LNC would be asked to adopt final findings or take action based upon them (SIC progress report). **Exhibit 3, Page 171.**

The Previous Notice Standard for the Motion to Adopt the SIC Report

This SIC progress report was the sole basis for previous notice for an original main motion under Policy Manual Rule 1.02.1.1 (“Announcing this intention at the previous session in the presence of a quorum, providing an accurate and complete statement of purport, with such notice to be taken note of in the minutes”). The SIC report was made available to LNC members less than 2 days before the June 9, 2025 meeting to satisfy previous notice under Policy Manual Rule 1.02.1.2 (5-day notice).

Neither the prior May-June meeting minutes describing ongoing SIC work (**Exhibit 3, Page 171**), nor the June 9, 2025 call or meeting notice (**Exhibit 4**) or agenda (**Exhibit 5**), disclosed that the LNC would consider or adopt disciplinary resolutions, findings of misconduct, censures, or other actions imposing sanctions or restrictions on named individuals. Nevertheless, at the June 9, 2025 special meeting, the LNC adopted the SIC report and took additional actions

thereupon, including resolutions and related motions that relied on the SIC report and its conclusions.

Disciplinary Actions Considered by the SIC Report and its Appurtenant Resolutions

The SIC report made findings and issued recommendations that “the LNC adopt a resolution finding Angela McArdle **unfit to serve** as an officer of the Libertarian Party in the future” and that “**no LNC board or staff member shall have any contact or contract** with Angela McArdle, Austin Padgett or any corporation or entity closely held or controlled by either one.” **Exhibit 6, Page 94 (emphasis mine).**

The SIC report’s appurtenant resolutions mirrored the language of the SIC report stating that the LNC “**deems Angela McArdle unfit to serve** on the Libertarian National Committee, as an affiliate leader or as a candidate representing the Libertarian Party”, she “financially benefitted from her **deception**”, and authorizing legal counsel to **pursue the recovery of funds.**” **Exhibit 7, Pages 7, 10-11 (emphasis mine).**

Those June 9, 2025 actions were subsequently treated by the LNC as an operative basis for additional directives and decisions, including reciting alleged misconduct, unfitness, or ethical failings that expressly named individuals former Chair Angela McArdle, former LNC contractor Austin Padgett, and party members working with them.

The practical and intended effect of these actions was to impose formal condemnation, reputational harm, and functional disqualification from Party leadership roles and participation, and to regulate the conduct of members, affiliates, and staff in ways that were punitive or coercive in substance.

*The LNC Voids The SIC Report’s Appurtenant Resolutions Adopted June 9, 2025
for Lack of Previous Notice But Not the SIC Report Itself*

The LNC expressly acknowledged that the SIC Report’s appurtenant resolutions adopted June 9, 2025 were void or invalid for lack of proper previous notice, and that actions outside the scope of a meeting’s call could not stand, consistent with the Party’s Special Rules of Order, Policy Manual notice requirements, and RONR (12th ed.) §§ 9:13 and 10:6. **Exhibit 9.**

The same notice standard necessarily applies to the adoption of the SIC report and to any resolutions or directives that relied upon it, where those actions imposed or purported to impose disciplinary consequences. See, e.g., LNC meeting minutes reflected in **Exhibits 2, 3, 7 and 8.** In several instances, the LNC acknowledges that the meetings were not called for disciplinary purposes, while nevertheless proceeding to adopt motions whose substance and effect were disciplinary.

No charges were preferred against the affected individuals, no formal disciplinary process was initiated, and no opportunity for a hearing or defense was provided prior to the adoption of these actions.

The LNC's Renewed SIC-related Disciplinary Actions of August 24, 2025

On August 24, 2025, the LNC convened a second special meeting at which it adopted new SIC-related resolutions and actions appurtenant to, and relying upon, the June 9, 2025 adoption of the SIC report and its conclusions. These new SIC-related resolutions are a thinly veiled attempt to distance itself from the disciplinary nature of the SIC Report. In the resolution titled “Fitness”, the LNC censures McArdle for violating “fiduciary duties to the Libertarian Party, including **concealing conflicts of interest** and **misusing donor funds**” and “expresses its opinion” that her behavior is “inconsistent with the standards expected of those serving in leadership roles of the Libertarian Party or as a candidate representing it.” The second resolution titled “Recovery” repeats the conclusion that “McArdle financially benefitted from her **deception**” and authorizes legal action to “pursue recovery of funds”. **Exhibit 8 (emphasis mine)**.

Both June 9, 2025 and August 24, 2025 meetings were noticed as special meetings for limited purposes, such as receiving reports or discussing general business, without clearly identifying those disciplinary measures against named individuals would be considered. For both meetings, no one was invited to rebut the accusations made against them considered for disciplinary action.

VI. ARGUMENT

A. Actions Disciplinary in Substance Must Be Treated as Discipline

The Party Bylaws, the Policy Manual, and the Party’s adopted parliamentary authority collectively govern the circumstances under which discipline may be imposed. The Bylaws vest disciplinary authority only where expressly provided and otherwise preserve the rights of members and affiliates against arbitrary sanction. The Policy Manual further limits the scope of business that may be conducted at special meetings to the subjects identified in the call. The Party’s adopted parliamentary authority requires that discipline be handled through procedures that provide notice, specificity of charges, and an opportunity to be heard.

These governing rules are not optional and may not be displaced by characterizing disciplinary measures as investigative conclusions or advisory findings.

Under the Libertarian Party Bylaws, special rules of order and the Party’s adopted parliamentary authority, disciplinary actions include censure, suspension, expulsion, and other sanctions that formally condemn a member’s conduct or restrict participation or eligibility. Bylaws Art. 7, §§ 5–6; Bylaws Art. 16; Policy Manual §§ 1.01.4, 1.07.2–5; and RONR (12th ed.) §§ 61, 63.

Discipline is determined by **substance, not label**. A resolution that names an individual, recites findings of misconduct, and is intended or used to formally condemn or disqualify that individual constitutes discipline regardless of whether it is styled as an “opinion,” “finding,” or “non-disciplinary” action. The LNC may not evade disciplinary safeguards by semantic recharacterization. Where the practical effect of an action is punitive or coercive, the protections applicable to discipline apply.

This Judicial Committee has decided in *Phillies* (2024) that actions tied to **reputational accusations** directly have due-process protections required for McArdle and others affected. See *Phillies* FN 6; see also RONR (12th ed.) § 63:5 (“A member or officer has the right that allegations against his good name shall not be made except by charges brought on reasonable ground. If thus accused, he has the right to due process—that is, to be informed of the charge and given time to prepare his defense, to appear and defend himself, and to be fairly treated.”). **Exhibit 10**. This protection applies for all members who were subject to allegations by the LNC.

B. Disciplinary Action Requires Notice, Charges, and Fair Procedure

The Bylaws, special rules of order and parliamentary authority require that serious disciplinary measures be handled with particular care, including (Bylaws Art. 7, §§ 5–6; Bylaws Art. 16; Policy Manual §§ 1.01.4, 1.07.2–5; and RONR §§ 61–63):

1. Clear notice of the disciplinary purpose;
2. Specification of the alleged misconduct;
3. An opportunity for the accused to be heard; and
4. Procedures consistent with fairness and due process.

Where alleged misconduct occurs outside a meeting and involves serious accusations, formal procedures—including the preferring of charges and consideration of a trial—are strongly indicated. The failure to provide these safeguards renders resulting disciplinary actions procedurally defective. **Investigatory reports alone cannot substitute for formal charges.**

This Judicial Committee has decided in “In re: Suspension of LNC Secretary Caryn Ann Harlos (2024)” (*Harlos II*) that “no charges means ... no valid vote” which also discusses how the Reno Convention delegates overturned the *Harlos I* removal of the Secretary for its failure to recognize the requirement of “full due process”. See *Harlos II* FN 7. **Exhibit 11**.

C. Special-Meeting Notice Must Disclose Disciplinary Purpose

Business transacted at a special meeting must fall within the scope stated in the call of the meeting. RONR (12th ed.) §§ 9:13, 10:6; Policy Manual, Open Meetings § 1.02.3 and Special Meeting Notice § 1.02.7 provisions. Disciplinary proceedings are qualitatively distinct from ordinary business or report adoption and therefore require explicit notice.

Calling a meeting for an ostensibly innocuous purpose while intending to adopt measures that censure or condemn named individuals deprives members of meaningful notice and violates fundamental parliamentary principles. Under RONR (12th ed.) §§ 9:13–15, a special meeting may transact only the business expressly stated in its call, and any action outside that scope—including disciplinary action not clearly noticed—is null and void unless properly ratified at a duly noticed regular meeting.

VII. RELIEF REQUESTED

Petitioners respectfully request that the Judicial Committee grant such relief as to the adoption of the Special Investigatory Committee report and all actions taken thereupon by the Libertarian National Committee at its June 9, 2025 special meeting, the new SIC-related resolutions from August 24, 2025, and any later actions that rely on these actions made before any ruling on this matter as it deems appropriate, including one or more of the following:

1. **Declaratory Relief:** Declare that the challenged actions were disciplinary in substance and therefore subject to the notice, scope-of-meeting, and procedural requirements applicable to disciplinary actions under the Bylaws and adopted parliamentary authority.
2. **Partial Veto:** Veto and declare null and void those portions of the challenged resolutions or directives that impose or purport to impose disciplinary sanctions, findings of misconduct, or binding restrictions on members, affiliates, or staff, while leaving unaffected any separable non-disciplinary portions.
3. **Full Veto (Alternative):** In the alternative, veto and declare null and void the challenged actions in their entirety for failure to comply with notice, scope-of-meeting, or disciplinary-procedure requirements.
4. **Prospective Clarification:** Issue prospective guidance clarifying that:
 - Disciplinary actions may not be imposed in substance without compliance with disciplinary procedures, regardless of label;
 - Special-meeting calls must expressly disclose any intended disciplinary purpose; and
 - Directives or resolutions that regulate member or affiliate conduct are subject to the same procedural limits as direct discipline.
5. **Other Relief:** Grant such other and further relief as the Judicial Committee deems just and proper.

Date Submitted: March 6, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

Jesse Campbell, Esq.

On behalf of Petitioners

Exhibit List

1. List of Petitioners (filed separately under request of seal)
2. February 2, 2025 LNC Meeting Minutes. Retrieved from https://lpedia.org/wiki/Special:Redirect/file/LNC-Meeting_2025-02-02_FINAL.pdf.
3. May 17-18, 2025 and Continued June 1, 2025 LNC Meeting Minutes. Retrieved from https://lpedia.org/wiki/Special:Redirect/file/LNC-Meeting_2025-05-17-18_FINAL.pdf.
4. Notice of the June 9, 2025 LNC Special Meeting. Retrieved from https://groups.google.com/g/lnc-public/c/btQLSf_GSek/m/ehZkpkNoAgAJ.
5. Agenda of the June 9, 2025 LNC Special Meeting. Retrieved from https://groups.google.com/g/lnc-public/c/btQLSf_GSek/m/StMunMvyAwAJ.
6. Special Investigatory Committee Report (2025, June 1). Retrieved from https://groups.google.com/g/lnc-public/c/9ECZc2f_jU.
7. June 9, 2025 LNC Special Meeting Minutes. DRAFT MINUTES 6/9/25 V1 (auto-approved version) (2025, June 11). Retrieved from <https://groups.google.com/g/lnc-public/c/sx0pII8M1lc>.
8. August 24, 2025 LNC Meeting Minutes. Retrieved from https://lpedia.org/wiki/Special:Redirect/file/LNC-Minutes_2025-08-24_FINAL.pdf.
9. *Points of Order on June 9th Resolutions and August 10th Appointments*, LNC Business List. August 18, 2025. Retrieved from <https://groups.google.com/g/lnc-public/c/rjnFVPnGS-w/m/O60MC-BIBwAJ>.
10. *In re: Judicial Committee Appeal to Void LNC Decisions of October 6, 2024 (Phillies v. LNC)*, LPedia. December 3, 2024. Retrieved from <https://lpedia.org/wiki/File:Judicial-Committee-Phillies-vs-LNC.pdf>.
11. *In re: Suspension of LNC Secretary Caryn Ann Harlos (2024) (Harlos II)*, LPedia. January 12, 2025. Retrieved from https://lpedia.org/wiki/Special:Redirect/file/Tarnoff_Kinsella_Stratton_Opinion_Harlos_v_LNC.pdf.