



MEDIA RELEASE

OFFICE OF COUNTY MAYOR GLENN JACOBS

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Mayor Jacobs Further Addresses Schools' ADA Litigation and D.C.-based Non-profit's Involvement

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.—Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs will release today around 1 p.m. a video statement about the Knox County Schools' ADA litigation.

Included in the video will be statements in support of the Knox County Board of Education and additional calls to federal Judge Ronnie Greer to act swiftly and objectively in the case.

Also, the Mayor will touch on his disappointment with [Democracy Forward](#)—a D.C.-based litigation non-profit led by a [Board](#) comprised of high-level Democrat Party operatives with ties to Hillary Clinton—bogging down our local judicial processes.

“[Democracy Forward is] making a mess of things in Knox County without care or acknowledgement of the potentially irreparable harm they are doing to so many of our students,” he says.

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Background: Chattanooga-based attorney Justin Gilbert has been recognized for his victory in a case that violated the Special Education Behavior Supports Act (SEBSA) and has worked on a number of isolation and restraint cases across the state. The [Hamilton County Herald](#) quoted him saying, “...the most meaningful cases are the ones involving abuse—when a child with a disability experiences an abusive educational environment. If I’m able to get that child out of a bad situation and into a better one—and secure compensation for the parents—then I can feel good about the work I’ve done.”

Jackson-based [Jessica Salonus](#)' website identifies her as an attorney who serves clients throughout the state in “disability discrimination, retaliation, and failure to accommodate claims under the ADA.” Her practice is dedicated to “securing the services and accommodations a child rightfully deserves under the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA), Section 504, and/or ADA” and “litigates cases involving retaliation against parents or teachers who advocate for the rights of children with disabilities.”

Prior to working for the D.C.-based Democracy Forward, [Jeffrey Dubner](#)—who has filed *amici curiae* documents with Samara Spence in Knox County, Williamson County, Memphis, Arizona, Georgia, Iowa, Texas, and South Carolina—worked for Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll, which was dubbed by [Inside Counsel Magazine](#) as “the most effective law firm in the United States for lawsuits with a strong social and political component.”