

Civil Rights
(R) 000
Jury X

RECEIVED / FILED
Superior Court of New Jersey

SEP 13 2011

CIVIL CASE MANAGEMENT
UNION COUNTY

BREUNINGER & FELLMAN
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Attorneys for Plaintiff

RICHMOND LAPOLLA

Plaintiff,

v.

COUNTY of UNION; GEORGE
DEVANNEY, County Manager and
individually;

Defendants.

**SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY
LAW DIVISION - UNION COUNTY**
DOCKET NO: UNN-L-3547 11

Civil Action

**VERIFIED COMPLAINT IN LIEU OF
PREROGATIVE WRIT AND DEMAND
FOR JURY TRIAL**

3547

Plaintiff, Richmond Lapolla, residing in the city of Cranford, County of Union, State of New Jersey, verifies as follows:

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

Plaintiff brings this Verified Complaint in Lieu of Prerogative Writ alleging continuing violations by Defendants County of Union and George Devanney. of the New Jersey State Constitution, and The New Jersey Civil Rights Act on the basis of political affiliation, freedom of association, and freedom of beliefs. Plaintiff also alleges intentional infliction of emotional and mental distress by Defendants. Plaintiff seeks injunctive relief, damages – both compensatory and punitive – counsel fees and costs of suit.

**COMPUTER
SEP 16 2011
SECTION**

9-14-11 FEE ATTACHED
BATCH NO. 417
CHECK CASH M.O. D.D.
PAYOR: Breuninger
CHECK/CASH RECEIPT # 11013
AMOUNT \$ 200 of 230

PARTIES

PLAINTIFF

1. Plaintiff RICHMOND LAPOLLA (“Plaintiff”) has been employed by the County of Union since 1979 – thirty-two years. He presently holds the civil service title of Director of Repair and Maintenance and is presently assigned to the County Department of Engineering, Public Works and Facilities Management.

DEFENDANTS

2. Defendant, THE COUNTY OF UNION (“County”) is a political subdivision of the State of New Jersey with general offices in the Union County Administration Building, Elizabeth, New Jersey. Union County has been and continues to be the employer of Plaintiff.

3. Defendant, GEORGE DEVANNEY (“Devanney”) was the County Manager of Union County from 2002 until August 1, 2011. As such, he was the supervisor of Plaintiff with the ultimate authority to hire, fire and assign County employees.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

4. Plaintiff began his public service in Union County in September of 1979 with the civil service title of Maintenance Repair Carpenter. Through the years, Plaintiff took additional civil service tests and was certified in the following higher job titles: Senior Carpenter in October, 1983; Assistant Carpenter Foreman in May, 1985; Assistant Director of Repair and Maintenance in July, 1987. Plaintiff was then appointed the Director of the Division of Buildings and Grounds in the Department of Public Works by then County Manager Ann Baron. In December, 1999, Plaintiff was

