



NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD DISMISSES CHARGE BROUGHT BY NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK LEGAL DEFENSE FOUNDATION AGAINST IBEW LOCAL 58

October 7, 2020 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

On September 29, 2020, the General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board, Peter B. Robb, denied the appeal of a former member of Local 58 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (“IBEW”). The National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation brought the charges on behalf of Charles Lanning.

The initial charge alleged that IBEW had an obligation to inform Mr. Charles Lanning of his right to resign union membership. While a member of IBEW, Mr. Lanning worked for a competing non-union business, which is a violation of IBEW’s Constitution. Mr. Lanning was brought up on internal charges and fined \$10,000 for engaging in activity in violation of his obligations to IBEW.

Mr. Lanning enjoyed the benefits of working as an IBEW electrician from 2008 to 2018. Thereafter, he began working for a non-union electrical contractor that listed his wife as the owner. Prior to bringing charges, IBEW offered Mr. Lanning and his wife to have the business become a union contractor, which they refused. While working non-union, Mr. Lanning was utilizing his union-provided health insurance.

In denying the appeal, Robb stated, “[t]he evidence fails to establish a prima facie case that... the Union engaged in any conduct violative of Section 8(b)(1)(A) of the Act as maintained on appeal.” Robb further stated that there was no evidence presented that Mr. Lanning’s membership in the union was involuntary or based on unlawful coercion. Robb also found that after a disciplinary hearing, IBEW found Mr. Lanning guilty of its established rules and imposed a reasonable fine considering his violations. The appeal upheld the April 27, 2020 decision of National Labor Relations Board Regional Director Terry Morgan dismissing the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation’s charge.

IBEW Local 58 Business Manager and Financial Secretary Brian Richard stated, “our members invest millions of dollars a year in training, business development, benefits, organizing and recruiting to make sure that our members are the most well-trained and efficient electricians in Michigan. Frankly, we need more electricians to perform all of the work that we have helped develop in Southeast Michigan. Our members make that collective investment in themselves and we cannot tolerate to then allow a member to work against our members’ interest by using those skills to take work away from the rest of our members. We must vigorously enforce our rules.”

Mr. Richard added, “while I am sad that one of our former members got in league with an anti-union organization like the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation, I am pleased that the NLRB saw through the bogus charges.” Robert D. Fetter of Miller Cohen P.L.C. represented IBEW Local 58 in the matter.

About IBEW Local 58: The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 58 represents over 4,800 electricians throughout Southeast Michigan. www.ibewlocal58.org.

###

Contact: Grace Trudell, Business Agent, IBEW Local 58, 313-244-2268 Grace.Trudell@ibewlocal58.org