

1/23/24 Litigation Report – Request for Authority to Initiate or Defend

This list does not include the following types of cases: (1) Workers' Comp (OJCC); (2) garnishments, (3) foreclosures, (4) Probate, (5) misdemeanor citations, (6) any bankruptcy cases that might involve debts owed to Alachua County; or (7) employee procedures and Collective Bargaining Agreements.

<u>No.</u>	<u>Case Style</u>	<u>Attorney(s)</u>
1.	Edward Blum, Plaintiff, vs. Alachua County, owner and operator of Gator National Campgrounds; Vernest Legree, individually and as Alachua County Park Superintendent; Sheriff Emery Gainey, in his official capacity as Sheriff of Alachua County; and Jasper Stephenson, individually and in his official capacity as Deputy Sheriff of Alachua County, Defendants. U.S.D.C. Case #1:23-cv-283-AW/MJF	Bob Swain Diana Johnson

The County Attorney seeks authority for her designee(s) to defend the County's interests in this case. Plaintiff Edward Blum is suing for alleged violation of civil rights, breach of contract (regarding purchase of a campsite at Gator Nationals), malicious prosecution, and false arrest/imprisonment. The Complaint states that on 3/16/19, Mr. Blum arrived around midnight at the Gator Nationals RV campground, intending to claim a previously purchased campsite . Upon arrival Blum was met by former County employee Vernest Legree, words were exchanged, and Vernest requested law enforcement to the scene. When the encounter escalated further, Deputy Jasper Stephenson arrested Mr. Blum. Alachua County's response to the First Amended Complaint is due 1/23/24. Under Alachua County Code 21.41(e), the County Attorney is authorized to prosecute and defend all legal actions by and against the County as approved by the Board.

2.	Peter Whelpton, Plaintiff, vs. Alachua County and City of Alachua, Defendants. Case #2023-CA-4584	Bob Swain Diana Johnson
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The County Attorney seeks authority for her designee(s) to defend the County's interests in this case. Plaintiff Peter Whelpton has filed a lawsuit against Alachua County and the City of Alachua for alleged injuries he incurred on 6/24/22 when he tripped and fell on a sidewalk near the Santa Fe Hills subdivision in Alachua. Alachua County was served on 12/29/23 with the Summons, Complaint, and discovery. The 30-day response deadline to the Complaint is Sunday, 1/28/24. Under Alachua County Code 21.41(e), the County Attorney is authorized to prosecute and defend all legal actions by and against the County as approved by the Board.