

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI
NORTHERN DIVISION**

RIMS BARBER, et al.

PLAINTIFFS

V.

CAUSE NO. 3:16-CV-417-CWR-LRA

PHIL BRYANT, Governor, et al.

DEFENDANTS

ORDER

Before the Court is the plaintiffs' opposed motion to consolidate this case with *Campaign for Southern Equality v. Bryant*, No. 3:16-cv-442. A status conference was held on some of the logistical issues presented by these cases – which both seek injunctive relief before July 1, 2016 – during which the parties and the Court worked out a compromise on scheduling issues and the State's opposition to consolidation was overruled in part. This summary follows.

The motion to consolidate is granted in part and deferred in part. The cases are consolidated for hearing purposes only so that the overlapping claims may be heard at the same time. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 42(a)(1). The cases remain distinct in all other ways, such as for filing of documents.

The consolidated hearing on the motions for preliminary injunction shall be held on Thursday, June 23 and Friday, June 24. At the conclusion of that hearing the Court will ask the parties to reevaluate whether these cases should be consolidated in full.

The following pre-hearing deadlines are established:

Both cases:

The plaintiffs' witness and exhibit lists are due by noon on Friday, June 17. The State's witness and exhibit lists are due by 5:00 pm on Monday, June 20.

Barber v. Bryant:

The plaintiffs' reply brief on injunctive relief is due by 5:00 pm on Tuesday, June 21. The motion hearing originally scheduled for that day is cancelled.

Campaign for Southern Equality v. Bryant:

The State's response brief on injunctive relief is due by 5:00 pm on Wednesday, June 22. The plaintiffs have waived their reply brief.

Should other issues arise before the hearing, the parties shall confer and attempt to resolve their disagreements before seeking relief from the Court.

SO ORDERED, this the 16th day of June, 2016.

s/ Carlton W. Reeves
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE