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Thomas More Law Center v. Obama - Declaration of Plaintiff Ceci

John Ceci

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I, John Ceci, make this declaration pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 based on my personal knowledge:

1. I am a United States citizen, a resident of Michigan, a federal taxpayer, a member of the Thomas More Law Center, and a Catholic. I am also a plaintiff-appellant in this case.

2. I do not have private healthcare insurance, nor do I want to be compelled by the federal government to purchase healthcare coverage.

3. I am a lawyer and a solo practitioner. Consequently, I do not have employer-provided healthcare coverage.

4. I pay for healthcare expenses as I need them. I elect not to purchase healthcare insurance in part because I want to retain control over my healthcare decisions.
5. Under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act ("Act"), I will be required to purchase certain health insurance coverage that conforms to what the federal government mandates, regardless of whether it is coverage that I need or desire. My personal affairs are such that it will be a hardship for me to either pay for health insurance that is not necessary or desirable or face penalties under the Act. The Act negatively impacts me now because I will have to reorganize my affairs and make further changes to the way I live to meet the government’s demands.

6. To purchase private healthcare coverage for me would cost between $1,800 and $4,400 per year, depending upon which plan I purchase. These figures are based on quotes I received from Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan. I have never incurred a medical cost close to these amounts.

7. The Act is presently causing me to experience serious financial pressure in addition to the already existing pressure caused by the fact that my law practice has been adversely affected by the poor Michigan economy. Due to the added financial pressure, I have cut back on discretionary spending, such as costs associated with entertainment, like going to the movies, a restaurant, or sporting events. I have delayed making car repairs and purchasing new clothing necessary to maintain a professional appearance. My current vehicle is a 1996 model with approximately 239,000 miles. I expect I will need to replace this vehicle within
the next year or two. I would prefer to purchase a new car rather than pay a monthly healthcare premium that would be the equivalent of a car payment. I cannot afford both.

8. I am also forced to delay making upgrades to my office, most notably to my computer software and hardware. I have delayed purchasing new legal resource materials to assist me in my law practice. Aside from my website, I currently do not pay for advertising for my practice in order to keep costs down.

9. In sum, I already have a very tight monthly budget. It would be difficult, if not impossible, for me to incur the additional, unwanted cost associated with purchasing and maintaining a required level of healthcare coverage.

10. As a direct consequence of the Act, I am now struggling to figure out how I can absorb the additional financial burden required by the Act.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States and the State of Michigan that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 27th day of May 2011, in Michigan.

John Ceci