

Belinda Parker Brown
I have filed a
Notice of Removal to Federal Court
To Protect My Right to
Engage in Civil Rights Activism
Thursday, September 7, 2023

The United States Supreme Court recognized 60 years ago, in the case of the *National Association for the Advancement of Colored People v. Robert Y. Button (January 14, 1963)*, that *Civil Rights Activism requires cooperation among ordinary people, working together.*

Black people, in particular the descendants of American slavery, have not always been able to count on the kindness of strangers, or even on reliable professional assistance from white attorneys and judges, or even black and brown members of the white dominated bar and judiciary.

This reality means that we need to look, listen, and learn. And when we've learned something, we need to talk to each other, and compare notes, and those of us who have more experience have to be able to share our experience with younger people who are subject to unfairness and oppression in the system.

I have dedicated the greater portion of my life to Civil Rights Activism. I founded an organization called LUI, Louisiana United International, whose sole purpose is to advance civil rights here in the State of Louisiana and throughout the United States.

I have learned to recognize when judges and lawyers are trying to railroad less experienced young people, and I spend all my days trying to help the victims of inherited racial injustice.

I consider this kind of ongoing conversation, sharing my experience, to be a matter of fundamental expression, the exercise of my First Amendment rights of freedom of speech and freedom of association, and helping my fellow Americans of all colors and creeds to deal with problems like oppressive judges and unfair lawyers.

Right now, Judge William H. Burris, Chief Judge of the 22nd Judicial District Court in St. Tammany Parish, has declared war against me and is trying to haul me in for contempt of court for the exercise of my First Amendment Rights as a Civil Rights Activist.

I do not believe I, or any black woman, or probably anyone not yet part of “the Good Old Boys” club, can trust the St. Tammany Judiciary, or the Bar Generally, prosecution or defense.

When I see young people being pressured into taking guilty pleas when they should be going to a trial by jury, when I see judges threatening long sentences or engaging in oppressive, ponderous colloquies to make sure that young people take those please, I HAVE TO TALK.

I’m very sorry if the State Bar of Louisiana believes that only its members can discuss the law, because I think it is the right of every inhabitant of the United States to learn and discuss the law to the degree necessary to live, and law touches every aspect of life. The case I have removed involves a young lady who is falsely accused of a crime she did not commit. India needs me and LUI.

Judge William H. Burris is trying to shut me up, and that is why I have removed his prosecution for contempt of court against me to Federal Court.

My protégé India Armani Ratliff, a young lady whose “public defender” is pretending to serve her by telling her to plead guilty rather than go to trial, needs my support and encouragement to protect her right. This is my life, this is my career. I will stand firm.

I believe that the Civil Rights Removal laws are essentially tailored to protect people like me who fight for the equal protection of laws for everybody in this Country. I’m not going to be bullied by threats of “contempt of court” for “unauthorized practice of law.” I am going to the Federal Court to challenge BOTH of these unjust statutory systems in Louisiana.