

The Honorable Chief Judge David G. Estudillo

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT TACOMA**

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

ROBERT W. FERGUSON, et al.,

Defendants.

NO. 2:25-cv-01537-DGE

PAUL D. ETIENNE, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

ROBERT W. FERGUSON, et al.,

Defendants.

NO. 3:25-cv-05461-DGE

**STIPULATED MOTION TO SUSPEND
DEADLINE REGARDING *ORTHODOX
CHURCH* PLAINTIFFS' MOTION TO
CONSOLIDATE AND**

ORDER

STIPULATED MOTION
No. 2:25-cv-01537-DGE
No. 3:25-cv-05461-DGE

**WILMER CUTLER PICKERING
HALE AND DORR LLP**
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20037
(202) 663-6000 (t)
(202) 663-6363 (f)

1 Plaintiffs in *Etienne v. Ferguson*, No. 3:25-cv-05461-DGE (“*Etienne Action*,” and, the
2 “*Etienne Plaintiffs*”), and Plaintiffs in *Orthodox Church in America v. Ferguson*, No. 2:25-cv-
3 01537-DGE (“*Orthodox Church Action*,” and, the “*Orthodox Church Plaintiffs*”) jointly move
4 the Court, pursuant to Local Rule 7(d)(1), to suspend the deadline for the *Etienne Plaintiffs* to
5 show cause as to why the *Etienne Action* and the *Orthodox Church Action* should not be
6 consolidated until further order of the Court, and to stay any other case deadlines that might
7 come into effect. The stipulating parties seek suspension of the *Etienne Plaintiffs*’ response
8 deadline in light of continuing discussions to find common ground on various issues in the cases.

9 The *Etienne Plaintiffs* have conferred with counsel for the State Defendants, who have
10 stated that the State Defendants do not oppose this stipulated motion.

11 Background

12 On May 29, 2025, the *Etienne Plaintiffs* initiated the *Etienne Action*. The Court has not
13 yet entered a scheduling order in the *Etienne Action*.

14 On June 16, 2025, the *Orthodox Church Plaintiffs* initiated the *Orthodox Church Action*.
15 On August 14, 2025, the *Orthodox Church Plaintiffs* moved to consolidate the *Orthodox Church*
16 *Action* and the *Etienne Action*. ECF No. 185. The Court has not yet entered a scheduling order
17 in the *Orthodox Church action*.

18 On August 22, 2025, the Court ordered that the *Etienne Plaintiffs* show cause as to why
19 the *Etienne Action* and the *Orthodox Church Action* should not be consolidated by August 29,
20 2025.

21 On August 29, 2025, the Court granted the *Orthodox Church Plaintiffs* and the *Etienne*
22 *Plaintiffs*’ Stipulated Motion extending the *Etienne Plaintiffs*’ deadline to show cause as to why
23 the *Etienne Action* and the *Orthodox Church Action* should not be consolidated to September 8,
24 2025. The Court also directed the Clerk not to enter any other procedural deadlines in the
25 *Etienne Action* or the *Orthodox Church Action* until September 8, 2025.

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On September 8, 2025, the Court granted the *Orthodox Church* Plaintiffs and the *Etienne* Plaintiffs' Stipulated Motion extending the *Etienne* Plaintiffs' deadline to show cause as to why the *Etienne* Action and the *Orthodox Church* Action should not be consolidated to September 10, 2025. The Court also directed the Clerk not to enter any other procedural deadlines in the *Etienne* Action or the *Orthodox Church* Action until September 10, 2025.

Discussion

The *Etienne* Plaintiffs and the *Orthodox Church* Plaintiffs continue to actively engage in discussions to find common ground on various issues in their cases. The parties continue to expect that those discussions may, in whole or in part, address and resolve various procedural matters, including the *Orthodox Church* Plaintiffs' pending motion to consolidate.

Accordingly, and in the interests of permitting continued discussion regarding these issues, the *Etienne* Plaintiffs and the *Orthodox Church* Plaintiffs jointly request that the Court suspend the *Etienne* Plaintiffs' deadline to respond to its Order to Show Cause as to why the *Etienne* Action and the *Orthodox Church* Action should not be consolidated until further order of the Court. The moving parties further request that the Court set no other deadlines in the *Etienne* Action or the *Orthodox Church* Action.

IT IS SO STIPULATED by and between the *Etienne* Plaintiffs and the *Orthodox Church* Plaintiffs.

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I certify that this stipulated motion contains 530 words, in compliance with the Local Civil Rules.

DATED: September 9, 2025

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HALE AND DORR LLP**
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20037
(202) 663-6000 (t)
(202) 663-6363 (f)

1 By: /s/ Katherine Anderson

2 Kristen K. Waggoner, WSBA #27790
3 Katherine Anderson, WSBA #41707
4 ALLIANCE DEFENDING FREEDOM
5 15100 N. 90th Street
6 Scottsdale, AZ 85260
7 Tel: (480) 444-0020
8 kanderson@ADFLegal.org

9 *Attorney for Orthodox Church Plaintiffs*

By: /s/ Siddharth Velamoor

Matthew T. Martens*
Siddharth Velamoor, WSBA #40965
Donna Farag*
WILMER CUTLER PICKERING HALE
AND DORR LLP
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20037
Tel: (202) 663-6000
Fax: (202) 663-6363
matthew.martens@wilmerhale.com
siddharth.velamoor@wilmerhale.com
donna.farag@wilmerhale.com

Leah M. Fugere*
WILMER CUTLER PICKERING HALE
AND DORR LLP
350 South Grand Avenue
Suite 2400
Los Angeles, CA 90071
Tel: (213) 443-5300
Fax: (213) 443-5400
leah.fugere@wilmerhale.com

Robert Kingsley Smith*
WILMER CUTLER PICKERING HALE
AND DORR LLP
60 State Street
Boston, MA 02109
Tel: (617) 526-6000
Fax: (617) 526-5000
robert.smith@wilmerhale.com

William J. Crowley
CROWLEY LAW OFFICES, P.S.
600 University Street
Suite 1708
Seattle, WA 98101
Tel: (206) 224-7069
will@crowleylawoffices.com

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HALE AND DORR LLP**
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20037
(202) 663-6000 (t)
(202) 663-6363 (f)

Mark L. Rienzi*
Eric C. Rassbach*
William J. Haun*
Laura Wolk Slavis*
BECKET FUND FOR RELIGIOUS
LIBERTY
1919 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20006
Tel: (202) 955-0095
mrienzi@becketfund.org
erassbach@becketfund.org
whaun@becketfund.org
lslavis@becketfund.org

Hiram S. Sasser, III*
Jeremy Dys*
Chris Motz*
FIRST LIBERTY INSTITUTE
2001 W. Plano Pkwy., Ste. 1600
Plano, Texas 75075
Tel: (972) 941-4444
Fax: (972) 941-4457
hsasser@firstliberty.org
jdys@firstliberty.org
cmotz@firstliberty.org

Attorneys for Etienne Plaintiffs

* Designates counsel admitted *pro hac*
vice in *Etienne v. Ferguson*, No. 3:25-cv-
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ORDER

PURSUANT TO THE FOREGOING STIPULATION, IT IS SO ORDERED.

The Court GRANTS the *Etienne* Plaintiffs' Stipulated Motion. The *Etienne* Plaintiffs' deadline to show cause as to why the *Etienne* Action and the *Orthodox Church* Action should not be consolidated is hereby suspended until further order of the Court. Additionally, the Court directs the Clerk not to enter any other procedural deadlines in the *Etienne* Action or the *Orthodox Church* Action.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED this 10th day of September 2025.



David G. Estudillo
United States District Judge

Presented by:

/s/ Siddharth Velamoor

Siddharth Velamoor, WSBA #40965
WILMER CUTLER PICKERING HALE AND
DORR LLP
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20037
Tel: (202) 663-6000
Fax: (202) 663-6363
siddharth.velamoor@wilmerhale.com

Attorney for Etienne Plaintiffs

ORDER GRANTING
STIPULATED MOTION

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