



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, October 22, 2018

Georgia Tech Student Files Civil Battery Complaint Against U.S. Senator David Perdue

Lawsuit Stems from Incident on Georgia Tech Campus
With Perdue, a U.S. Senator and the GT Foundation Treasurer

Sen. Perdue Rips Phone Out of Student's Hand as
He Asks Question About Voter Rights

ATLANTA - Atlanta-based law firm Dreyer Sterling, LLC filed a complaint for civil battery Monday against U.S. Senator and Georgia Tech Foundation Treasurer David Perdue. The suit was filed in Fulton County State Court on behalf of Nate Knauf, a Georgia Tech student who attempted to ask Sen. Perdue, "How can you endorse a candidate who would deny voter registration based on race?"

Sen. Perdue was on campus Saturday, Oct. 13 to campaign for Georgia gubernatorial candidate Brian Kemp. Instead of answering the question posed by the student and Georgia voter, Sen. Perdue ripped the student's cell phone out of his hand in the midst of a video recording.

The lawsuit seeks a jury trial, damages, attorneys' fees and costs from Sen. Perdue.

"We are fully confident in our case and we look forward to an apology and a polite answer to our client's question," attorney and Georgia State Representative David Dreyer said. "The law is as clear in this case as any I've seen. The cell phone is an extension of the hand and Sen. Perdue committed battery when he touched the student's hand and pulled the cell phone away from the student."



Knauf, a junior computer science major with a 3.95 GPA, believes that his voice is as important as any other Georgia voter or any of Sen. Perdue’s constituents.

“I was polite and respectful as I started to ask a question that is important to me and is, in fact, important to the health of our Democracy,” Knauf said. “Instead of answering in a civil and respectful way, Sen. Perdue ripped the phone out of my hands.”

Attorney Michael Sterling, a former Assistant United States Attorney in the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division, believes there should be a quick resolution.

“The law in this case couldn’t be any simpler and more clear,” Sterling said. “Given the facts of the incident and the overwhelming legal precedent in favor of our client, we expect Sen. Perdue should work quickly to resolve this case.”

A close confidant and unwavering supporter of President Trump¹, Sen. Perdue has a history of evasiveness and disrespect to voters like that seen at Trump campaign rallies and carried into the White House.

Recently, during the controversy surrounding the Kavanaugh nomination, Sen. Perdue ducked into a bathroom at an airport to avoid talking with a survivor of sexual assault.²

“More than anything,” Knauf, said, “I would like an apology and an answer to my question. It’s as simple to answer today as it was when I first asked the question. Why is Sen. Perdue endorsing Brian Kemp, a candidate who denies voter registration based on race?”

Relevant Legal Notes & Citations

- Contact proceeding from rudeness is as offensive and harmful as that which proceeds from anger or lust, and in law constitutes an assault and battery³

¹ [Meet Trump's favorite senator — the man he calls before dawn and after midnight and has given one of his 'highest accolades'](#), Business Insider, Feb. 27, 2018

² [Watch These Activists Confront Republican Senators About Believing Sexual Assault Survivors](#), Glamour, Oct. 2, 2018

³ Brown v. State, 57 Ga.App. 864, 867–868(2), 197 S.E. 82 (1938)



- Clearly, the act of intentionally causing actual physical harm to another is civilly actionable as a battery⁴.
- Any unlawful touching of a person's body, although no actual physical hurt may ensue therefrom, yet, since it violates a personal right, constitutes a physical injury to that person. [Cits.] The unlawful touching need not be direct, but may be indirect, as by the precipitation upon the body of a person of any material substance⁵.
- It is the intent to make either harmful *or* insulting or provoking contact with another which renders one civilly liable for a battery⁶.

CONTACT: Bryan Long
bryan@southernmajority.com
404-290-1787 call or text

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⁴ Security Life Ins. Co. v. Newsome, 122 Ga.App. 137(1), 176 S.E.2d 463 (1970)

⁵ Christy Bros. Circus v. Turnage, 38 Ga.App. 581(2), 144 S.E. 680 (1928)

⁶ Interstate Life, etc., Co. v. Brewer, supra 56 Ga.App. at 606-607(1), 193 S.E. 458