

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF WAKE

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION
FILE NO. 24CV018884-910

T. CRAIG TRAVIS,)
Plaintiff,)
)
vs.)
)
P. KEVIN BERGER, DIANE P.)
PARNELL, DONALD T. POWELL,)
MARK F. RICHARDSON, NORTH)
CAROLINA CONSERVATIVES FUND,)
ATLAS POLITICAL CONSULTING,)
LLC, and GOPAC, INC.)
Defendants.)

**ORDER DENYING DEFENDANTS'
MOTION TO DESIGNATE ACTION
AS EXCEPTIONAL CASE PURSUANT
TO NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL
RULE OF PRACTICE 2.1**

THIS MATTER coming on to be heard and being heard before The Honorable Paul C. Ridgeway presiding in Wake County Civil Superior Court on February 26, 2025 on the Joint Motion to Designate Action as Exceptional Case Pursuant to North Carolina General Rule of Practice 2.1 (“Motion for Exceptional Case Designation”) filed by Defendants P. Kevin Berger, Diane P. Parnell, Donald T. Powell, Mark F. Richardson, North Carolina Conservatives Fund, and Atlas Political Consulting, LLC (collectively “North Carolina Defendants”) on July 12, 2024. Plaintiff, T. Craig Travis (“Plaintiff”), was present and was represented by Alicia Journey and Stephanie T. Jenkins of Parker Bryan Britt Tanner & Jenkins, PLLC. Defendants P. Kevin Berger, Diane P. Parnell, Donald T. Powell, and Mark F. Richardson were not present, but were represented by Craig Schauer of Dowling Firm, PLLC. Defendants North Carolina Conservatives Fund and Atlas Political Consulting, LLC were not present but were represented by W. Ellis Boyle of Ward & Smith, PA. Defendant GOPAC, Inc. was not present but was represented by Myia A. Pretty of K&L Gates LLP, who made a special appearance for purposes of this hearing.

After reviewing the file, including the North Carolina Defendants’ Motion for Exceptional Case Designation, the Objection to Exceptional Case Designation filed by Plaintiff on July 12, 2024, and the Supplemental Objection to Exceptional Case Designation filed by Plaintiff on January 13, 2025, and hearing the arguments of counsel, the Court finds that, considering the factors set out in Rule 2.1(d) of the North Carolina General Rules of Practice for the Superior and District Courts and other relevant matters, there is no basis to recommend that this case be designated as exceptional and it is in the interest of justice for proceedings in this case to be conducted by the Civil Superior Court of the 10th Judicial District of North Carolina in the regular course of its business.

It is therefore ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that the North Carolina Defendants' Motion for Exceptional Case Designation is hereby DENIED.

This the 18th day of March, 2025.



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THE HONORABLE PAUL C. RIDGEWAY
Senior Resident Superior Court Judge