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*“Open your mouth, judge
righteously, defend the rights
of the poor and the needy.”*

Proverbs 31:9

Press Release

On Monday, June 3, 2019 New Covenant Legal Services (NCLS), a St. Louis City-based legal services organization filed a petition in Cole County Circuit Court against the Missouri Family Support Division (“FSD”) and a number of its employees. The petition seeks monetary damages and declaratory relief on behalf of Mr. Jamie Wesley related to a wrongful license suspension as well as subsequent child support collection efforts. The license suspension occurred in September of 2018 and cost Mr. Wesley the loss of his employment as a professional truck driver. Wesley’s case has been well documented in a recent story by St. Louis Post Dispatch columnist, Tony Messenger, and a subsequent editorial that appeared in the Post-Dispatch on May 28, 2019.

The multi-count petition also makes numerous Constitutional Due Process challenges concerning a number of other aggressive collection tactics that are routinely utilized by FSD against fathers who allegedly owe past child support. The petition specifically attacks the FSD policy of allowing FSD employees with no legal training to arbitrarily impose collection efforts without court orders or judicial oversight. Wesley also challenges the FSD practice of allowing massive child support arrearages to be assessed against incarcerated individuals who have no ability to either pay or challenge the arrearages as they accumulate.

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