

**U.S. District Court
Eastern District of Michigan (Flint)
CIVIL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 4:20-cv-11246-MFL-MJH**

SawariMedia LLC et al v. Whitmer et al
Assigned to: District Judge Matthew F. Leitman
Referred to: Magistrate Judge Michael J. Hluchaniuk
Case in other court: U.S. Court of Appeals - Sixth
Circuit, 20-01594
Cause: No cause code entered

Date Filed: 05/04/2020
Date Terminated: 10/19/2020
Jury Demand: None
Nature of Suit: 441 Civil Rights:
Voting
Jurisdiction: Federal Question

Plaintiff

SawariMedia LLC

represented by **Saura J. Sahu**
Clancy Advisors PLC
230 Nickels Arcade
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
734-780-7595
Email: sahu@clancyadvisors.com
ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Plaintiff

Deborah Parker

represented by **Deborah Parker**
21908 Gaukler Street
St. Clair Shores, MI 48080
313-550-2081
PRO SE

Plaintiff

Judy Kellogg

represented by **Judy Kellogg**
2450 Krouse Road
Lot # 337
Owosso, MI 48867
989-277-3228
PRO SE

Plaintiff

Paul Ely

represented by **Paul Ely**
12646 North Red Bud
Buchanan, MI 49107
269-635-1611
PRO SE

V.

Defendant

Gretchen Whitmer
Governor of Michigan

represented by **Erik A. Grill**
Michigan Department of Attorney
General
Civil Litigation, Employment &
Elections Division
PO Box 30736
Lansing, MI 48909
517-335-7659
Email: grille@michigan.gov
ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Heather S. Meingast
MI Dept of Attorney General
Clee
P.O. Box 30736
Lansing, MI 48909
517-335-7659
Email: meingasth@michigan.gov
ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Defendant

Jocelyn Benson
Secretary of State of Michigan

represented by **Erik A. Grill**
(See above for address)
ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Heather S. Meingast
(See above for address)
ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Defendant

Jonathan Brater
*Director of the Michigan Bureau of
Elections*

represented by **Erik A. Grill**
(See above for address)
ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Heather S. Meingast
(See above for address)
ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Date Filed	#	Docket Text
05/04/2020	<u>1</u>	COMPLAINT filed by All Plaintiffs against All Defendants Receipt No: Not Issued Yet - Fee: \$ 400. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Copy of Money Order) [Post Mark Date is the File Date] (Entered: 05/20/2020)

05/04/2020	<u>2</u>	MOTION for Temporary Restraining Order and/or Preliminary Injunction by All Plaintiffs. [Post Mark Date is the File Date] (ATee) (Entered: 05/20/2020)
05/04/2020		FILING FEE Received in the amount of 400.00 by All Plaintiffs - Receipt No. DET131351 [No Image Associated with this docket entry] (RBog) (Entered: 08/19/2020)
05/20/2020	<u>3</u>	SUMMONS Issued for *Jocelyn Benson, Jonathan Brater, Gretchen Whitmer* (ATee) (Entered: 05/20/2020)
05/21/2020	<u>5</u>	Notice Regarding Parties' Responsibility to Notify Court of Address Changes (KCas) (Entered: 05/21/2020)
05/21/2020	<u>6</u>	NOTICE TO APPEAR BY TELEPHONE: TELEPHONIC Status Conference set for 5/21/2020 at 4:00 PM before District Judge Matthew F. Leitman. **PLEASE USE THE CALL-IN INFORMATION PROVIDED VIA EMAIL AND IN THIS NOTICE TO JOIN THE CALL** (HMon) (Entered: 05/21/2020)
05/21/2020		Minute Entry for proceedings before District Judge Matthew F. Leitman: Telephonic Status Conference held on 5/21/2020. Defendants to file response to Plaintiffs' motion for a temporary restraining order and/or preliminary injunction (ECF No. 2) by no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 27, 2020. Plaintiffs may file a reply brief by no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 1, 2020. (Court Reporter: Peg Goodrich) (HMon) (Entered: 05/21/2020)
05/27/2020	<u>7</u>	RESPONSE to <u>2</u> MOTION for Temporary Restraining Order filed by Jocelyn Benson, Jonathan Brater, Gretchen Whitmer. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Index of Exhibits Exhibit List, # <u>2</u> Exhibit A. Declaration of Jonathan Brater, # <u>3</u> Exhibit B. Thompson v DeWine) (Grill, Erik) (Entered: 05/27/2020)
05/27/2020	<u>8</u>	Ex Parte MOTION for Leave to File Excess Pages <i>in Response to Motion for TRO/Preliminary Injunction</i> by Jocelyn Benson, Jonathan Brater, Gretchen Whitmer. (Grill, Erik) (Entered: 05/27/2020)
05/27/2020		TEXT-ONLY ORDER Granting <u>8</u> Ex Parte MOTION for Leave to File Excess Pages <i>in Response to Motion for TRO/Preliminary Injunction</i> filed by Jonathan Brater, Jocelyn Benson, Gretchen Whitmer. Signed by District Judge Matthew F. Leitman. (HMon) (Entered: 05/27/2020)
05/27/2020	<u>9</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Heather S. Meingast on behalf of Jocelyn Benson, Jonathan Brater, Gretchen Whitmer. (Meingast, Heather) (Entered: 05/27/2020)

05/28/2020	<u>10</u>	NOTICE OF ZOOM HEARING on <u>2</u> MOTION for Temporary Restraining Order. Zoom Motion Hearing set for 6/5/2020 at 10:00 AM before District Judge Matthew F. Leitman. **THE HEARING WILL TAKE PLACE VIA ZOOM. PLEASE USE THE LINK PROVIDED BY THE COURT TO JOIN THE HEARING** (HMon) (Entered: 05/28/2020)
06/01/2020	<u>11</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Saura J. Sahu on behalf of SawariMedia LLC. (Sahu, Saura) (Entered: 06/01/2020)
06/01/2020	<u>12</u>	REPLY to Response re <u>2</u> MOTION for Temporary Restraining Order , <i>Preliminary Injunction and Permanent Injunction</i> filed by SawariMedia LLC. (Sahu, Saura) (Entered: 06/01/2020)
06/01/2020	<u>13</u>	Ex Parte MOTION Extension of Page Limit re <u>12</u> Reply to Response to Motion <i>for TRO/PI</i> by SawariMedia LLC. (Sahu, Saura) (Entered: 06/01/2020)
06/02/2020		TEXT-ONLY ORDER Granting <u>13</u> Ex Parte MOTION Extension of Page Limit re <u>12</u> Reply to Response to Motion <i>for TRO/PI</i> filed by SawariMedia LLC. Signed by District Judge Matthew F. Leitman. (HMon) (Entered: 06/02/2020)
06/04/2020	<u>14</u>	NOTICE by SawariMedia LLC re <u>12</u> Reply to Response to Motion of <i>Intent to Rely on Authority: Gonzales v. O Centro Espirita Beneficente Uniao do Vegetal</i> , 546 U.S. 418, 429, 126 S. Ct. 1211, 1219(2006) (Sahu, Saura) (Entered: 06/04/2020)
06/04/2020	<u>15</u>	MOTION for Leave to File <i>Sur-Reply to Plaintiffs' Reply in Support of their Motion for TRO/Preliminary Injunction</i> by Jocelyn Benson, Jonathan Brater, Gretchen Whitmer. (Meingast, Heather) (Entered: 06/04/2020)
06/04/2020		TEXT-ONLY ORDER Granting <u>15</u> MOTION for Leave to File <i>Sur-Reply to Plaintiffs' Reply in Support of their Motion for TRO/Preliminary Injunction</i> filed by Jonathan Brater, Jocelyn Benson, Gretchen Whitmer. Signed by District Judge Matthew F. Leitman. (HMon) (Entered: 06/04/2020)
06/04/2020	<u>16</u>	SUR-REPLY re <u>2</u> MOTION for Temporary Restraining Order filed by Jocelyn Benson, Jonathan Brater, Gretchen Whitmer. (Meingast, Heather) (Entered: 06/04/2020)
06/05/2020		Minute Entry for proceedings before District Judge Matthew F. Leitman: Zoom Motion Hearing held on 6/5/2020 re <u>2</u> MOTION for Temporary Restraining Order filed by Paul Ely, Judy Kellogg, Deborah Parker, SawariMedia LLC. Disposition: Motion Taken Under

		Advisement. (Court Reporter: Peg Goodrich) (HMon) (Entered: 06/05/2020)
06/11/2020	<u>17</u>	OPINION AND ORDER Granting Plaintiffs' <u>2</u> Motion for a Preliminary Injunction. Signed by District Judge Matthew F. Leitman. (HMon) (Entered: 06/11/2020)
06/15/2020	<u>18</u>	NOTICE by Jocelyn Benson, Jonathan Brater, Gretchen Whitmer <i>State Defendants' Notice of Proposed Remedy</i> (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Index of Exhibits Exhibit List, # <u>2</u> Exhibit A. Fair & Equal Opinion and Order) (Meingast, Heather) (Entered: 06/15/2020)
06/16/2020	<u>19</u>	NOTICE TO APPEAR BY VIDEO CONFERENCE: Status Conference set for 6/16/2020 at 12:00 PM before District Judge Matthew F. Leitman. **PLEASE USE THE LINK PROVIDED BY THE COURT TO JOIN THE CONFERENCE** (HMon) (Entered: 06/16/2020)
06/16/2020	<u>20</u>	NOTICE TO APPEAR BY VIDEO CONFERENCE: Status Conference RESET for 6/16/2020 at 2:00 PM before District Judge Matthew F. Leitman. **PLEASE USE THE LINK PROVIDED BY THE COURT TO JOIN THE CONFERENCE** (HMon) (Entered: 06/16/2020)
06/16/2020		Minute Entry for proceedings before District Judge Matthew F. Leitman: Zoom Video Status Conference held on 6/16/2020. (Court Reporter: Peg Goodrich) (HMon) (Entered: 06/16/2020)
06/16/2020	<u>21</u>	NOTICE TO APPEAR BY VIDEO CONFERENCE: Status Conference set for 6/22/2020 at 4:00 PM before District Judge Matthew F. Leitman. **PLEASE USE THE LINK PROVIDED BY THE COURT TO JOIN THE CONFERENCE** (HMon) (Entered: 06/16/2020)
06/16/2020	<u>22</u>	ORDER on Status Conference. Signed by District Judge Matthew F. Leitman. (HMon) (Entered: 06/16/2020)
06/18/2020	<u>23</u>	NOTICE by Jocelyn Benson, Jonathan Brater, Gretchen Whitmer <i>Second Notice of Proposed Remedy</i> (Grill, Erik) (Entered: 06/18/2020)
06/19/2020	<u>24</u>	SUPPLEMENTAL BRIEF re <u>23</u> Notice (Other) <i>Plaintiff SawariMedia LLC's Objections to State Defs.' Second Notice of Proposed Remedy</i> filed by SawariMedia LLC. (Sahu, Saura) (Entered: 06/19/2020)
06/22/2020		Minute Entry for proceedings before District Judge Matthew F. Leitman: Video Status Conference held on 6/22/2020. (Court Reporter: Peg Goodrich) (HMon) (Entered: 06/23/2020)
06/23/2020	<u>25</u>	ORDER Rejecting <u>23</u> Second Notice of Proposed Remedy. Signed by District Judge Matthew F. Leitman. (HMon) (Entered: 06/23/2020)

06/23/2020	<u>26</u>	NOTICE OF APPEAL by Jocelyn Benson, Jonathan Brater, Gretchen Whitmer. Receipt No: AMIEDC-7881707 - Fee: \$ 505 - Fee Status: Fee Paid. (Meingast, Heather) (Entered: 06/23/2020)
06/23/2020	<u>27</u>	Certificate of Service re <u>26</u> Notice of Appeal. (SKra) (Entered: 06/23/2020)
06/23/2020	<u>28</u>	TRANSCRIPT of VIDEO STATUS CONFERENCE held on June 22, 2020. (Court Reporter: Peg L. Goodrich) (Number of Pages: 17) (Appeal Purposes) The parties have 21 days to file with the court and Court Reporter a Redaction Request of this transcript. If no request is filed, the transcript may be made remotely electronically available to the public without redaction after 90 days. Redaction Request due 7/14/2020. Redacted Transcript Deadline set for 7/24/2020. Release of Transcript Restriction set for 9/21/2020. Transcript may be viewed at the court public terminal or purchased through the Court Reporter before the deadline for Release of Transcript Restriction. After that date, the transcript is publicly available. (Goodrich, P) (Entered: 06/23/2020)
06/23/2020	<u>29</u>	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE re <u>26</u> Notice of Appeal by Jocelyn Benson, Jonathan Brater, Gretchen Whitmer (Meingast, Heather) (Entered: 06/23/2020)
06/23/2020	<u>30</u>	Emergency MOTION to Stay by Jocelyn Benson, Jonathan Brater, Gretchen Whitmer. (Grill, Erik) (Entered: 06/23/2020)
06/24/2020	<u>31</u>	RESPONSE to <u>30</u> Emergency MOTION to Stay filed by SawariMedia LLC. (Sahu, Saura) (Entered: 06/24/2020)
06/24/2020	<u>32</u>	ORDER Denying Defendants' <u>30</u> Emergency Motion for a Stay Pending Emergency Appeal. Signed by District Judge Matthew F. Leitman. (HMon) (Entered: 06/24/2020)
07/02/2020	<u>33</u>	ORDER from U.S. Court of Appeals - Sixth Circuit re <u>26</u> Notice of Appeal filed by Jonathan Brater, Jocelyn Benson, Gretchen Whitmer [Appeal Case Number 20-1594] (DWor) (Entered: 07/02/2020)
07/02/2020	<u>34</u>	ORDER Setting Schedule for New Proposed Remedy. Signed by District Judge Matthew F. Leitman. (HMon) (Entered: 07/02/2020)
07/02/2020	<u>35</u>	NOTICE TO APPEAR BY VIDEO CONFERENCE: Status Conference set for 7/13/2020 at 9:00 AM before District Judge Matthew F. Leitman. (HMon) (Entered: 07/02/2020)
07/07/2020	<u>36</u>	STATEMENT of State Defendants' Statement Regarding Additional Proposed Remedy by Jocelyn Benson, Jonathan Brater, Gretchen Whitmer (Grill, Erik) (Entered: 07/07/2020)
07/07/2020	<u>37</u>	NOTICE TO APPEAR BY VIDEO CONFERENCE: Status Conference set for 7/8/2020 at 12:00 PM before District Judge Matthew F. Leitman. (HMon) (Entered: 07/07/2020)

07/08/2020		Minute Entry for proceedings before District Judge Matthew F. Leitman: Video Status Conference held on 7/8/2020. Plaintiffs to submit update on signature collection as described on the record by 9:00 a.m. on Monday, July 13, 2020. (Court Reporter: Peg Goodrich) (HMon) (Entered: 07/08/2020)
07/08/2020	<u>38</u>	NOTICE TO APPEAR BY VIDEO CONFERENCE: Status Conference set for 7/13/2020 at 9:00 AM before District Judge Matthew F. Leitman. (HMon) (Entered: 07/08/2020)
07/13/2020	<u>39</u>	NOTICE by SawariMedia LLC of <i>Supplemental Filing</i> (Sahu, Saura) (Entered: 07/13/2020)
07/13/2020		Minute Entry for proceedings before District Judge Matthew F. Leitman: Video Status Conference held on 7/13/2020. (Court Reporter: Peg Goodrich) (MacKay, K) (Entered: 07/13/2020)
07/13/2020	<u>40</u>	ORDER from U.S. Court of Appeals - Sixth Circuit re <u>26</u> Notice of Appeal filed by Jonathan Brater, Jocelyn Benson, Gretchen Whitmer [Appeal Case Number 20-1594] (TTho) (Entered: 07/14/2020)
07/17/2020	<u>41</u>	ORDER Concerning Defendants' Lack of a Submission of a Proposed Remedy. Signed by District Judge Matthew F. Leitman. (HMon) (Entered: 07/17/2020)
07/23/2020	<u>42</u>	NOTICE by SawariMedia LLC of <i>Second Declaration of Amani Sawari</i> (Sahu, Saura) (Entered: 07/23/2020)
07/23/2020	<u>43</u>	NOTICE of Voluntary Dismissal by All Plaintiffs (Sahu, Saura) (Entered: 07/23/2020)
07/23/2020	<u>44</u>	NOTICE TO APPEAR BY VIDEO CONFERENCE: Status Conference set for 8/5/2020 at 10:00 AM before District Judge Matthew F. Leitman. (HMon) (Entered: 07/23/2020)
08/05/2020		Minute Entry for proceedings before District Judge Matthew F. Leitman: Video Status Conference held on 8/5/2020. (Court Reporter: Peg Goodrich) (HMon) (Entered: 08/05/2020)
08/05/2020	<u>45</u>	NOTICE TO APPEAR BY VIDEO CONFERENCE: Status Conference set for 8/19/2020 at 1:30 PM before District Judge Matthew F. Leitman. (HMon) (Entered: 08/05/2020)
08/19/2020		Minute Entry for proceedings before District Judge Matthew F. Leitman: Video Status Conference held on 8/19/2020. (Court Reporter: Peg Goodrich) (HMon) (Entered: 08/19/2020)
09/18/2020	<u>46</u>	NOTICE TO APPEAR BY TELEPHONE: TELEPHONIC Status Conference set for 9/22/2020 at 9:30 AM before District Judge Matthew F. Leitman. **PLEASE USE THE CALL-IN INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THIS NOTICE TO JOIN THE CALL** (HMon) (Entered: 09/18/2020)

09/22/2020		Minute Entry for proceedings before District Judge Matthew F. Leitman: Telephonic Status Conference held on 9/22/2020. (Court Reporter: Peg Goodrich) (HMon) (Entered: 09/22/2020)
09/22/2020	47	ORDER to Show Cause Why Preliminary Injunction Should Not Be Vacated. Show Cause Response due by 10/2/2020. Signed by District Judge Matthew F. Leitman. (HMon) (Entered: 09/22/2020)
09/22/2020	48	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE re 47 Order to Show Cause by SawariMedia LLC (Sahu, Saura) (Entered: 09/22/2020)
10/16/2020	49	TRANSCRIPT of MOTION FOR TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER AND PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION held on June 5, 2020. (Court Reporter: Peg L. Goodrich) (Number of Pages: 62) (Appeal Purposes) The parties have 21 days to file with the court and Court Reporter a Redaction Request of this transcript. If no request is filed, the transcript may be made remotely electronically available to the public without redaction after 90 days. Redaction Request due 11/6/2020. Redacted Transcript Deadline set for 11/16/2020. Release of Transcript Restriction set for 1/14/2021. Transcript may be viewed at the court public terminal or purchased through the Court Reporter before the deadline for Release of Transcript Restriction. After that date, the transcript is publicly available. (Goodrich, P) (Entered: 10/16/2020)
10/19/2020	50	ORDER Vacating 47 Order to Show Cause, 17 Order on Motion for TRO. Signed by District Judge Matthew F. Leitman. (DTof) (Entered: 10/19/2020)
10/19/2020		TEXT-ONLY CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE re 50 Order to Vacate on Paul Ely, Judy Kellogg, Deborah Parker at addresses listed on docket sheet. (DTof) (Entered: 10/19/2020)
12/09/2020	51	ORDER from U.S. Court of Appeals - Sixth Circuit re 26 Notice of Appeal filed by Jonathan Brater, Jocelyn Benson, Gretchen Whitmer [Appeal Case Number 20-1594] (TTho) (Entered: 12/09/2020)

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