



California Salon Owners and Barbers Sue Gov. Newsom Over the Right to Earn a Living

New federal lawsuit challenges Gov. Newsom's 'vague' lockdown orders, threat of professional license revocations

By Katy Grimes, May 12, 2020

**The Right to Earn a Living... "the most precious liberty man possesses."
~Supreme Court Justice William Douglas**



Attorney Harmeet Dhillon

The Center for American Liberty and Dhillon Law Group are representing the Professional Beauty Federation of California, salon owner Rosie Ibarra and other salon owners, in their new lawsuit against California Gov. Gavin Newsom, Attorney General Xavier Becerra, California Public Health Officer Sonia Angel, and 12 members of the State Board of Barbering and Cosmetology, for violating the civil rights, right to due process, and the constitutional right to earn a living.

As California Globe reported, for nearly two months, California officials have threatened criminal prosecution for violations of the Governor's Order. "Defendants have effectively taken away Plaintiffs' lawful right to engage in professional state-licensed activities," the lawsuit says.

"This legal challenge seeks to curtail the Defendants' overly broad and arbitrary orders and restore Plaintiffs' rights to conduct their professions with appropriate and specific safeguards against the COVID-19 illness," the lawsuit says. "Plaintiffs represent licensees who have been

devastated by Defendants' arbitrary and unclear categories (e.g. "essential" versus "non-essential") that allow some businesses to operate while others are required to close."

The PBFC represents more than 500,000 licensed professionals throughout the state, all of whom are currently prohibited from making a living under the governor's current statewide shutdown orders.

Tuesday, Attorney Harmeet Dhillon with the Dhillon Law Group, held a Zoom press conference announcing the lawsuit, filed that morning in the United States District Court, Central District of California.

Why file a lawsuit?

"More than two months have passed since Governor Newsom proclaimed a state of emergency in California, and throughout that time, he and others in his administration have vaguely and arbitrarily classified licensed barbering and cosmetology professionals as "non-essential," criminalizing the jobs these 500,000 plus state-licensed professionals perform in every community, large and small, throughout California. Last week, Defendants began threatening to revoke Plaintiffs' licenses, which authorize them to safely serve the public's personal grooming and beauty needs, and embody their ability to earn a living," the lawsuit explains succinctly.

"Many of California's beauty professionals are small business owners that employ 1099 contractors and aren't eligible for the Paycheck Protection Program."

"The points behind the scope of the case is to restore liberty, and the rights of these professionals," Attorney Dhillon said. She addressed the close relationship between female stylists and clients. She said she has even heard from physicians who told her that hair stylists play a vital line role in identifying clients' medical issues as well, such as spotting skin cancers and melanomas on the head. "It's not just a vanity roll, but one of mental health and physical health."

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