

## JUDGE GREENLIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICTS' CLAIMS AGAINST SOCIAL MEDIA GIANTS

***A California federal judge has ruled that school districts can proceed with most of their claims against social media giants like Meta, YouTube, TikTok, and Snapchat.***

**Montgomery, AL** (October 25, 2024) - Beasley Allen applauds U.S. District Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers' decision that has largely denied the motion to dismiss filed by these companies, allowing most of the claims brought by school districts and local government entities to move forward.

The litigation, which includes hundreds of actions from personal injury plaintiffs, school districts, local government entities, and state attorneys general, alleges that platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, TikTok, and Snapchat were designed to foster compulsive use by minors, leading to various harms to children, local governments, and public health.

Judge Gonzalez Rogers' 45-page order, issued Thursday, underscores the validity of the plaintiffs' claims. The judge rejected the defendants' arguments that the alleged injuries were too remote or attenuated to seek redress. This ruling is a crucial step in holding these companies accountable for the negative impacts of their platform designs on young users.

Beasley Allen is representing hundreds of school districts that have incurred significant expenses related to addressing students' social media addictions. These expenses include hiring mental health personnel, developing mental health resources, and implementing measures to limit access to social media platforms during school hours.

"We are encouraged by Judge Gonzalez Rogers' decision to allow these important claims to proceed," said Joseph VanZandt, who serves as Co-Lead Counsel in the largest centralized litigation against the social media giants in Los Angeles, California. "This ruling affirms the serious nature of the allegations and the need for accountability from these companies."

The judge's order also highlighted that certain claims related to platform features are not barred by Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act or the First Amendment. These include failures to implement age verification processes, effective parental controls, and default protective limits on the length and frequency of use.

Beasley Allen's Joseph VanZandt and Davis Vaughn continue to lead the charge in this nationwide case, representing a broad coalition of parents, children, boards of education, and counties affected by these platforms.

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