

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT, CHANCERY DIVISION

PHILIP WEISS, ET AL.,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

CHICAGO TEACHERS UNION, LOCAL 1,
IFT-AFT, AFL-CIO,

Defendant.

Case No. 2024CH09334

REPLY TO AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES

1. In recent years, CTU has been catching up on finalizing audits. The audits have been delayed due to the COVID pandemic, implementation of new reporting requirements from the Chicago Teachers Pension Fund (“CTPF”), and turnover in CTU staff. But pursuant to CTU Bylaw Article VI Section 2.a., the full annual audits have been available for inspection by CTU members as follows:

- (a) The FY 2020 audit (covering July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020) has been available since on or about December 13, 2024.
- (b) The FY 2021 audit (covering July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021) has been available since on or about December 13, 2024.
- (c) The FY 2022 audit (covering July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022) has been available since on or about December 13, 2024.
- (d) The FY 2023 audit (covering July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023) has been available since mid-February 2025.

ANSWER: Plaintiffs have insufficient knowledge to either admit or deny the allegations in this paragraph and, therefore, deny them.

2. Plaintiffs do not assert that they have been denied access to the full audits as specified under Bylaw Article VI Section 2.a.

ANSWER: Denied.

3. The Union also publishes an annual audited report, which is the subject of this action. The audited reports, consisting of the auditor’s summary audit findings taken from the full annual audit, have been available online to CTU members online since on or about the same dates set forth above.

ANSWER: Plaintiffs have insufficient knowledge to either admit or deny the allegations in this paragraph and, therefore, deny them.

4. On January 8, 2025, CTU offered Plaintiff Philip Weiss the opportunity to come to CTU’s office to view the full audits. On or about February 25, 2025, Weiss visited CTU and viewed the full audits. Plaintiff Weiss further has access to the online audited report as of the dates set forth above.

ANSWER: Plaintiffs admit that Philip Weiss visited CTU and viewed documents on or about February 25, 2025, but denies that he was provided access to “full audits” and further denies that documents available online constitute “audited reports” under the meaning of the CTU Constitution.

5. All other plaintiffs may similarly view the summary audited reports and the full audits.

ANSWER: Denied.

6. Plaintiffs have suffered no damages.

ANSWER: Denied.

7. The particular action by CTU that Plaintiffs seek in this lawsuit has been completed as described above.

ANSWER: Denied.

8. The Court cannot provide any relief regardless of how the issues are decided.

ANSWER: Denied.

9. Plaintiffs’ lawsuit should be dismissed because Plaintiffs’ claim is moot.

ANSWER: Denied.

10. An Illinois court will defer to a union's interpretation of its bylaws unless the interpretation is arbitrary.

ANSWER: The allegations in this paragraph are legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is necessary, Plaintiffs deny the allegations in this paragraph.

11. CTU has interpreted Bylaw Article VI Section 1.d. such that the summary audit findings taken from the full annual audit constitute an “audited report,” and that the CTU website is the Union’s “publication.”

ANSWER: Plaintiffs deny that the allegations in this paragraph accurately reflect CTU’s historical interpretation of its Constitution and Bylaws, but otherwise have insufficient knowledge to either admit or deny the allegations in this paragraph and, therefore, deny them.

12. CTU’s interpretation of its Bylaws as set forth in paragraph 11 is not arbitrary.

ANSWER: Denied.

13. Plaintiffs have no facts suggesting or showing that CTU’s interpretation of its Bylaws as set forth in paragraph 11 is arbitrary.

ANSWER: Denied.

14. Plaintiffs have no superior alternative form to suggest for a summary audited report of the Union.

ANSWER: Denied.

15. Plaintiffs have no superior alternative form to suggest for a summary audited report of the Union.

ANSWER: Denied.

July 22, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ James McQuaid
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