



For Immediate Release:

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Thousands to Rally in Support of the Young Americans behind *Juliana v. United States* on Monday

***Trial in the landmark constitutional climate change lawsuit will not start on October 29, but
the young plaintiffs will descend on Eugene, Oregon to have their voices heard***

Eugene, Oregon - The landmark constitutional lawsuit *Juliana v. United States*, filed by 21 young Americans in 2015 with the support of Our Children's Trust, was scheduled to begin trial on Monday, October 29. For the last three years the youth plaintiffs and their attorneys have navigated a string of extraordinary tactics from the United States government to have their case thrown out.

The 21 *Juliana v. United States* youth plaintiffs are again fighting for their right to be heard and to present their evidence in court. The Trump administration, in a last-ditch effort to throw out the case, filed a motion with the United States Supreme Court to delay trial. This filing with the Supreme Court is the second motion in the last three months. The Trump administration claims it will be irreparably harmed if it is forced to go to trial due to the costs of litigation and having to defend its actions in court, actions which threaten the security, lives and property of young people. On Monday, October 22, the youth plaintiffs filed their opposition brief with the Supreme Court, arguing this case involves claims for infringement of their fundamental rights not to be deprived of their personal security and family autonomy, as well as specific and systemic government discrimination against them as a class in violation of their right to equal protection under the law.

The Supreme Court issued a temporary stay on trial proceedings while the Court reviews the youth plaintiffs' response to the Trump administration's highly unusual request.

U.S. District Court Judge Ann Aiken has issued an order vacating all trial dates and associated deadlines. The Court will schedule a status and scheduling conference "when the stay is lifted."

Julia Olson, executive director and chief legal counsel of **Our Children’s Trust** and co-counsel for the youth plaintiffs said:

“I’ve been thinking about the Declaration of Independence this week. It was a moment when our nation’s founders left behind a form of governance that ‘refused his assent to laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good,’ a form of governance that ‘plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.’ The founders substituted a constitutional democracy with three branches of government in place of that monarchy. Since the early days of the Republic, our judiciary has grown to be the last line of defense against governance that threatens the public good and destroys the lives of our people. It has even been strong enough to reckon with big entrenched systems of government that deprive The People of their rights, though not always getting it right on the first try, it has been a place to shine the light on truth and justice. Our constitutional democracy allows us to protect our liberty without declaring independence from our government, so long as those who govern assent to review by our courts and let the facts be told. These young people deserve that chance to present their case against those who govern and let the light fall where it may.”

Philip Gregory, co-counsel for the youth plaintiffs, stated:

“We hope the Supreme Court will recognize the importance of allowing this case to go to trial. A full factual record with all the evidence, including the climate science, will show the scope of the constitutional harms the federal government is causing these youth plaintiffs to suffer and why we need immediate action by the court.”

The youth plaintiffs say they will not be silenced by their government. They will gather together in Eugene, Oregon on Monday, October 29 outside of the federal courthouse to stand in solidarity with hundreds of their supporters and the youth of this nation.

Hazel V., 14-year-old plaintiff from Eugene, Oregon said:

“I am so disappointed and sad that our trial has been delayed again — and so close to when it was supposed to start. For three years my co-plaintiffs and I have been waiting for our voices to be heard in court. But the U.S. government is doing everything it can to silence us, all while we watch it continue to make the climate crisis worse. It just goes to show how nervous our government is about our stories and the science getting their day in court. We’re going to show the government that we are not giving up, and we need this country to come together behind us.”

Kiran Oommen, 21-year-old plaintiff from Seattle, Washington said:

“On Monday, we rally for our right as American citizens to a fair trial. No matter how much the federal government might try to deny us that right, we will have our day in court. ”

Over 70 events across more than 40 states will take place this Sunday, October 28 and Monday, October 29 in support of the plaintiffs and their lawsuit.

WHAT: #LetTheYouthBeHeard rallies in Eugene, Oregon and across the U.S.

WHEN: Sunday, October 28 and Monday, October 29, 2018. The central rally in Eugene, Oregon will take place on Monday, October 29 from 8:00 am - 12:00 pm PST.

WHERE: Eugene rally - Wayne Morse Federal Courthouse, 405 E 8th Ave, Eugene, OR 97401.

Other rallies will take place in 41 states, with key rallies in: San Francisco, CA, New York, NY, Boston, MA, Portland, OR, Washington, DC, Brooklyn, NY, Seattle, WA, Colorado Springs, CO, St. Paul, MN

WHO: The youth plaintiffs and their attorneys will be available to speak to the media on the ground in Eugene between 8:00 am and 10:00 am PST on Monday, Oct 29. Several of the youth, including Xiuhtezcatl Martinez will give live performances in front of the courthouse.

Our Children's Trust will livestream the Eugene rally on Monday from 8 am - 12 pm PST on their [Facebook page](#).

To get behind the scenes updates on *Juliana* developments, listen to [No Ordinary Lawsuit](#), a new podcast from Our Children's Trust.

Counsel for Plaintiffs are Julia Olson, Esq. of Eugene, OR, Philip L. Gregory, Esq. of Gregory Law Group of Redwood City, CA, and Andrea Rodgers, Esq. of Seattle, WA.

***Our Children's Trust** is a nonprofit organization, leading a coordinated global human rights and environmental justice campaign to implement enforceable science-based Climate Recovery Plans that will return atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations to below 350 ppm by the year 2100. We elevate the voice of youth, those with most to lose in the climate crisis, to secure the legal right to a healthy atmosphere and stable climate on behalf of all present and future generations. www.ourchildrenstrust.org/*

***Earth Guardians** is a Colorado-based nonprofit organization with youth chapters on five continents, and multiple groups in the United States with thousands of members working together to protect the Earth, the water, the air, and the atmosphere, creating healthy sustainable communities globally. We inspire and empower young leaders, families, schools, organizations, cities, and government officials to make positive change locally, nationally, and globally to address the critical state of the Earth. www.earthguardians.org*

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