Utah Supreme Court Sets Date for Oral Argument in Natalie R. v. Utah

SALT LAKE CITY— Last Wednesday, June 12th, the Utah Supreme Court issued a hearing date for oral argument in the appeal of youth-led constitutional climate lawsuit, Natalie R. v. State of Utah. Oral argument will be held in Salt Lake City Utah, on September 4, 2024, at 9:00 am.

Following the order, Andrew Welle, one of the attorneys from Our Children’s Trust representing the youth plaintiffs, issued the following statement:

“We are hopeful that the Court will set this case back on the path towards trial, where it belongs. With each passing day that Utah’s statutory policy to maximize fossil fuel development remains in place, Utah’s government continues to increase the state’s dangerous air pollution and worsen the climate crisis, directly harming the health and safety of these brave young plaintiffs. It is imperative that Utah’s courts hear this case so that these young people can secure their constitutional rights and prevent worsening harms to their health and safety.

John Robinson, one of the Deiss Law attorneys representing the plaintiffs stated: “The important constitutional questions in this case should be decided on a full factual record presented at trial, not on a motion to dismiss. We are pleased to support these youth and Our Children's Trust in making that case to the Utah Supreme Court at oral argument.”

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Our Children’s Trust was founded in 2010 on the idea that courts are vital to democracy and empowered to protect our children and the planet. Without a stable climate system, every natural resource we rely upon to exercise our basic human rights—life, liberty, home, happiness—is under threat. Our work will be achieved when there is universal recognition of children’s climate rights by courts around the world and children’s fundamental rights to life on this planet are protected. www.ourchildrenstrust.org
Deiss Law PC is a trial firm in Salt Lake City. The firm has a proven record of excellence and legal innovation, and its attorneys have protected the interests of individuals and businesses of all sizes in Utah and throughout the West since 2012. www.deisslaw.com