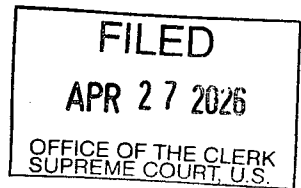


No. 26-5096

ORIGINAL



IN THE
SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
APPEALS TO THE FEDERAL CIRCUIT

CHARISE LYNNE LOGAN — PETITIONER
(Your Name)

vs.

FIRST TRANSIT — RESPONDENT(S)

ON PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO

STATE OF MINNESOTA SUPREME COURT
(NAME OF COURT THAT LAST RULED ON MERITS OF YOUR CASE)

PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI

CHARISE LYNNE LOGAN
(Your Name)

1308 SHIRLEY WAY
(Address)

BEDFORD, TEXAS 76022
(City, State, Zip Code)

817-503-6284
(Phone Number)

L

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. The Due Process Question

Whether the Fourteenth Amendment's Due Process Clause prohibits a state appellate court from dismissing an appeal for lack of a transcript when the court's own rules (Minn. R. Civ. App. P. 110.02) provide a 60-day deadline for delivery, yet the court dismissed the case 19 days prior to that deadline.

2. The Equal Protection Question

Whether a state violates the Equal Protection Clause and the principles established in *Griffin v. Illinois* (1956) by dismissing the appeal of an indigent litigant with an approved In Forma Pauperis (IFP) status because of a court reporter's failure to provide a transcript—effectively creating a wealth-based barrier to appellate review.

3. The "Access to Courts" Question

Whether the systematic practice of a state court clerk relegating over 150 timely-submitted documents to "Miscellaneous" files, thereby withholding them from the official record and judicial review, constitutes a denial of the fundamental right of access to the courts.

LIST OF PARTIES

PETITIONER— CHARISE LYNNE LOGAN

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RELATED CASES

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**APPENDIX A: STATE OF MINNESOTA SUPREME COURT ORDER 1-28-2026
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DECLARATION

✓

TABLE OF AUTHORITIES

United States Supreme Court Precedent

- *Griffin v. Illinois*, 351 U.S. 12 (1956) (Holding that "destitute defendants must be afforded as adequate appellate review as defendants who have money enough to buy transcripts.") (1.1.2)
- *Mayer v. City of Chicago*, 404 U.S. 189 (1971) (Extending the right to a free transcript to non-felony cases for indigent appellants.) (1.1.3)

Minnesota Supreme Court Precedent

- *State v. Pederson*, 600 N.W.2d 451 (Minn. 1999) (Emphasizing that indigent appellants cannot be denied review due to an inability to pay for transcripts.) (p. 7)

Statutes and Rules

- U.S. Const. amend. XIV (Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses). (1.1.4)
- Minn. R. Civ. App. P. 109 (Effect of IFP Approval on transcript requirements). (p. 7)
- Minn. R. Civ. App. P. 110.02 (60-day timeline for transcript delivery). (pp. 6-7)
- Minn. R. Civ. App. P. 110.03 (Procedure for Statement of the Proceedings). (p. 7)

IN THE
SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI

Petitioner respectfully prays that a writ of certiorari issue to review the judgment below.

OPINIONS BELOW

☐ For cases from **federal courts**:

The opinion of the United States court of appeals appears at Appendix _____ to the petition and is

- ☐ reported at _____; or,
☐ has been designated for publication but is not yet reported; or,
☐ is unpublished.

The opinion of the United States district court appears at Appendix _____ to the petition and is

- ☐ reported at _____; or,
☐ has been designated for publication but is not yet reported; or,
☐ is unpublished.

☐ For cases from **state courts**:

The opinion of the highest state court to review the merits appears at Appendix A to the petition and is STATE OF MINNESOTA Supreme Court

- ☒ reported at JANUARY 28, 2026; or,
☐ has been designated for publication but is not yet reported; or,
☐ is unpublished.

The opinion of the State of Minnesota Court of Appeals court appears at Appendix B to the petition and is

- ☒ reported at November 4, 2025; or,
☐ has been designated for publication but is not yet reported; or,
☐ is unpublished.

JURISDICTION

☐ For cases from federal courts:

The date on which the United States Court of Appeals decided my case was _____.

☐ No petition for rehearing was timely filed in my case.

☐ A timely petition for rehearing was denied by the United States Court of Appeals on the following date: _____, and a copy of the order denying rehearing appears at Appendix _____.

☐ An extension of time to file the petition for a writ of certiorari was granted to and including _____ (date) on _____ (date) in Application No. ____ A ____.

The jurisdiction of this Court is invoked under 28 U. S. C. § 1254(1).

☐ For cases from state courts:

The date on which the highest state court decided my case was _____
A copy of that decision appears at Appendix A.

January 29, 2020

☐ A timely petition for rehearing was thereafter denied on the following date: _____, and a copy of the order denying rehearing appears at Appendix _____.

☐ An extension of time to file the petition for a writ of certiorari was granted to and including _____ (date) on _____ (date) in Application No. ____ A ____.

The jurisdiction of this Court is invoked under 28 U. S. C. § 1257(a).

CONSTITUTIONAL AND STATUTORY PROVISIONS

The upholding and application of the following constitutional and statutory provisions are being petitioned for your review, as well as, your correction of the alleged constitutional injustice of the State of Minnesota Supreme Court:

The Fourteenth Amendment (Amendment XIV) to the U.S. Constitution, ratified in 1868, defined national citizenship and guaranteed "equal protection of the laws". It overturned the *Dred Scott* decision, granted rights to formerly enslaved people, and extended the Bill of Rights to state governments through the due process clause.

- **Due Process Clause (Section 1):** Prohibits states from depriving any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law.
- **Equal Protection Clause (Section 1):** Mandates that states must provide equal protection under the law to all people within their jurisdiction.

Under Minnesota Rules of Civil Appellate Procedure (Minn. R. Civ. App. P.) 109, approval of a motion to proceed in forma pauperis (IFP) has significant effects on the transcript requirement for an appeal:

Cost Waiver: If, IFP status is granted, the district court may order the state to pay for the costs of preparing and printing the transcript.

Whereby obtaining the Transcript: An IFP party may obtain one paper copy of the transcript from the court administrator without paying the district court copy fee.

Under Minnesota Rule of Civil Appellate Procedure 110.02, when a transcript is ordered, the court reporter must file a certificate within 10 days, estimating a completion date not to exceed 60 days from the request date. Should the U.S. Supreme Court need more proofs

exhibits, there are more emails and screenshots of recorded calls to affirm The Appellant's efforts to follow up with this process, without harassment to inquire concerning the procedure to an update about "the progress of my August 26, 2025 Supplemental request?" My first request for the transcripts within a timely manner was dropped, due to the "administrative processes" **out of my control** with Hennepin County Fourth District Judicial Courts and I had to place a second request, which I did so, within 2 days of receiving the transcriptionists email of no compliance from the lower courts within her 10 day submission..

Enclosed Appendix C 425 N – W with Appendix C 425 W showing confirmation statement "GOT IT" of receiving duplicate documents with another form filled out with my signature and amount, shows my request begins to age upon October 8, 2025. Yet, another request, October 15, 2025 for every time the petitioner gets booted out of the transcriptionists 10 day rule, while waiting for the lower courts to move.

Note: Exhibit 425 W has an "apology" by the transcriptionists for any confusion.
Exhibit 425 a Email dated November 3, 2025 mysteriously "**one day,**" before the Court of Appeals dismissal upon November 4, 2025 prematurely to the 60 days allowed for the transcripts to be delivered.

Theres a "**Contradiction**" **Demonstrated by the Transcriptionists.** This ostracizing contradiction to her own statement upon September 23, 2025 of seeing my approved IFP on file. The email of November 3, 2025 Appendix C Exhibit 425 a states, "I don't see your IFP Supplemental filed in your case."

Fax Sheet of the Fort Worth, Texas Public library provided in **Appendix C Exhibit 425 S** confirmation of my email plus 2 for both attorney's and plus 1 for Barbara Schultz transmitted "Complete," including proof of August 26, 2025 filed request.

Transcript Completion: The court reporter's certificate provides an estimated completion date for the transcript, which cannot exceed 60 days from the request.

- **Appeal Period:** Generally, an appeal from a judgment or an appealable order must be taken within 60 days after the entry of judgment or service of written notice of filing.
- **Statement in Lieu of Record:** Parties [Emphasis] may file a statement of the case in lieu of the record within 60 days after filing the notice of appeal.

There are over 150 documents, which were placed into Miscellaneous Files and were NOT placed upon "the record." Therefore, there are three order(s) from the Court of Appeals simultaneously, which I never received, until I traveled from Texas, to The Minnesota Supreme and Court of Appeals Clerk's desk and requested an update with my case. I was informed a week after the dismissal of November 4, 2025.

If, the 150+ documents weren't denied posting to the record, Statement in Lieu of Record," would such orders ever had any foundation to created and served ?

The order(s) are requesting information and proofs within the Miscellaneous File, which was NOT recognized by the above Minnesota statutes with Statement in Lieu of Record and The Petitioners Constitutional Rights with Due Process and Equal Protection Clause (Section 1).

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

1. Underlying Litigation and Notice of Appeal

This case originates from a civil action in the Minnesota Fourth Judicial District, Hennepin County (Case No. 27-CV-22-9467) (p. 1). Following a jury trial, Petitioner timely filed a Notice of Appeal with the Minnesota Court of Appeals (Case No. A25-1449) on August 26, 2025 (pp. 5-6).

2. Granting of In Forma Pauperis (IFP) Status

Petitioner applied for and was granted In Forma Pauperis (IFP) status, which was valid through December 29, 2025 (p. 6). Under Minn. R. Civ. App. P. 109, this status legally suspended all transcript payment obligations and filing fees (p. 7).

3. The Transcript Request and Acknowledgment

On September 23, 2025, the court reporter, Barbara Schultz, acknowledged Petitioner's transcript request in writing, explicitly stating, "I see your IFP approved and this matter is up for an appeal" (pp. 6, 10). Under Minn. R. Civ. App. P. 110.02, this acknowledgment triggered a mandatory 60-day deadline for the reporter to deliver the transcripts, making the legal deadline November 23, 2025 (pp. 6-7).

4. Administrative "Miscellaneous" Filing and Premature Dismissal

Despite Petitioner's diligence in sending over 150 documents via FedEx, the Court of Appeals filed only six documents to the official docket, shunting the remainder over 150 documents into a "Miscellaneous" file (pp. 1, 6). On November 4, 2025, exactly 19 days

before the legal deadline for the transcripts to be produced, the Minnesota Court of Appeals dismissed the case for lack of transcripts (pp. 6, 13).

5. Exhaustion of State Remedies

On December 3, 2025, Petitioner filed a **Petition for Review and Motion to Reinstate Appeal** with the Minnesota Supreme Court, arguing that the dismissal was procedurally premature and violated Rule 110.02 (pp. 4-5). On January 28, 2026, the Minnesota Supreme Court granted Petitioner's IFP filing but **denied the Petition for Review**, effectively finalizing the premature dismissal within the state court system (p. 3).

REASONS FOR GRANTING THE PETITION

1. Violation of the 14th Amendment Due Process Clause

The Minnesota Court of Appeals deprived the Petitioner of a protected property and liberty interest—the right to an appeal—without due process of law. By dismissing the case 19 days before the legal deadline for transcript delivery set by Minn. R. Civ. App. P. 110.02, the state court acted arbitrarily and denied the Petitioner a meaningful opportunity to be heard. (pp. 6, 8)

2. Denial of Equal Protection for Indigent Litigants

Under the precedent of *Griffin v. Illinois* and the Minnesota Supreme Court's own ruling in *State v. Pederson* (1999), a state cannot deny appellate review to a litigant simply because they are too poor to pay for a transcript. (p. 7)

The Conflict: Petitioner had an approved In Forma Pauperis (IFP) status, which legally suspended transcript costs under Rule 109. (pp. 5, 7)

The Injustice: The court's dismissal effectively penalized the Petitioner for the administrative failures of the state's own court reporter, creating a "wealth barrier" to justice that the U.S. Supreme Court has historically sought to dismantle. (p. 8)

3. Systematic Failure and "Judicial Manipulation"



The "angle of accountability" in this case involves the state's failure to monitor its own filing systems. (p. 1)

Petitioner submitted over 150 documents via FedEx in a timely manner, yet the court only "filed" 6 of them, relegating the rest to "Miscellaneous" files. (pp. 1, 6)

This practice of "shunting" documents into miscellaneous files without judicial review constitutes an unmonitored manipulation of the record, preventing a fair and transparent appellate process. (pp. 1, 9)

4. A Matter of National Importance

This case presents a critical question: May a state appellate court bypass its own procedural timelines to dismiss the claims of an indigent, pro se litigant while those very timelines are still active? If allowed to stand, this creates a dangerous precedent where court rules are optional for the judiciary but mandatory for the citizen.

SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT

The State of Minnesota has created a "wealth barrier" to justice that directly contradicts the mandate of the Fourteenth Amendment. This case is a clear example of a "trap & quot; set for an indigent, pro se litigant: Petitioner was granted In Forma Pauperis (IFP) status, which legally excused the cost of transcripts, yet her case was dismissed for the very lack of those transcripts—19 days before the legal deadline for their production had even passed.

1. A Departure from Settled Law

The United States Supreme Court has held for seventy years, since *Griffin v. Illinois* (1956), that a state may not "bolt the door" to appellate review for a citizen simply because they lack the funds to pay for a transcript. By dismissing Petitioner's appeal while her IFP status was active and the court reporter's 60-day window under Minn. R. Civ. App. P. 110.02 was still open, the Minnesota Court of Appeals effectively penalized Petitioner for her poverty and for administrative failures entirely outside of her control.

2. Arbitrary and Premature Dismissal

The right to an appeal is a protected interest. To dismiss that appeal nearly three weeks before the expiration of a mandatory legal deadline is the definition of "arbitrary and

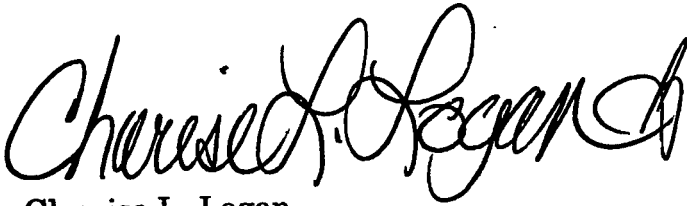
capricious & quot; government action. This premature dismissal deprived
Petitioner of her Due Process right to a meaningful opportunity to be heard.

3. The Systematic Failure of & quot; Miscellaneous & quot; Filing

Furthermore, the & quot; angle of accountability & quot; in this case reveals a
deeper procedural injustice. The lower court's practice of shunting over 150
timely-submitted documents into & quot; Miscellaneous & quot; files—rather
than filing them to the official docket—denied Petitioner a transparent and fair
record. This systematic manipulation of the record prevents any higher court
from conducting a true review of the merits, rendering the right to an appeal an
empty promise.

4. Conclusion

The Minnesota Supreme Court's refusal to correct these blatant violations
allows a dangerous precedent to stand: that a state may disregard its own rules
to silence the voices of the poor. This Court should grant the Petition to ensure
that the & quot; scales of justice & quot; remain balanced for all citizens, regardless
of their financial status.

 4/25/2026

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