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Clemson asks judge again to dismiss lawsuit

Former board secretary alleges Clemson improperly terminated him

Attorneys for Clemson University's trustees and other school officials have again asked a federal judge to dismiss a lawsuit filed by the board's former executive secretary, who alleged he was fired in retaliation for his accusations of fiscal mismanagement.

The trustees and school officials filed a motion for summary judgment in U.S. District Court that would dismiss Chalmers Eugene Troutman III's First Amendment claims against them individually based on "qualified immunity."

The defendants, including Clemson President James F. Barker, contend that under existing law, Troutman can't sue state officials "in their individual capacities."

Troutman's suit, filed against the trustees and school officials both as individuals and as college representatives, asserts he was improperly terminated because he exercised his First Amendment right to speak out on matters of public concern ó a claim the trustees and school officials reject.

Check GreenvilleOnline.com later for updates.