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The Fourteenth Amendment Is Being Erased by Court Rules — This Lawsuit May Be Its Last Test

“THE CONSTITUTION DOESN’T NEED TO BE REPEALED. IT JUST NEEDS TO BE IGNORED. THAT’S HOW THEY’VE KILLED THE FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT.”

Washington, DC – May 26, 2025 —

A landmark federal lawsuit filed in Washington, DC argues that **the Fourteenth Amendment is being systematically nullified** — not by Congress, but by **local court rules, clerks, and filing systems** that treat unrepresented litigants as second-class citizens.

Filed by Dr. Daniel J. Feldman, a disabled neuropsychologist and federal whistleblower, the case demands a nationwide injunction and structural reform. It alleges that **courts across the country now operate two systems:**

- One for people with lawyers
- Another for those without

The Promise That Was Broken

The Fourteenth Amendment was ratified in 1868 to guarantee equal protection and access to justice for all citizens — especially those newly freed from slavery. It was supposed to be the **Constitution’s answer to “40 acres and a mule”**: a promise that every person, no matter their status, would have equal protection under law.

“That promise is being erased by process, not by law,” said Feldman. “If you don’t have a lawyer, you don’t get access. You don’t get heard. You don’t get justice.”

The Proof: Courts with Two Rulebooks

The lawsuit documents how most U.S. courts:

- **Allow only attorneys to e-file**
- **Require disabled or unrepresented parties to deliver paper filings in person**
- **Let clerks block or ignore filings from unrepresented litigants**
- **Provide preferential access, timing, and treatment to attorneys**

Feldman’s 81-year-old mother was forced to hand-deliver filings on a walker, while attorneys submitted false claims electronically — and had them ruled on without citation, hearing, or evidence.

The Data: This Is Not Anecdotal

The case cites published studies:

- **Judicial Council of California:** Unrepresented litigants succeed at less than one-quarter the rate of represented parties
 - **Seattle U. Law Review:** Clerks act as filters and gatekeepers
 - **American Bar Foundation (Sandefur):** Judges and staff presume unrepresented parties are not credible
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The Lawsuit That May Decide Everything

Feldman v. Ivy (1:25-CV-00657, D.D.C. filed May 23, 2025) is not just about one landlord or one city. It is a test of whether **the Fourteenth Amendment has any force left** when the courts themselves are creating the barrier.

“This isn’t a glitch. It’s a design,” said Feldman. “And if I can’t prove it with verified filings, with digital evidence, with court transcripts and ADA denials — then no one ever will.”

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