

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

New Peoples Bank Employee Discrimination Lawsuit Dismissed in its Entirety

Honaker, Virginia. New Peoples Bank (the “Bank”) is pleased to announce that the employment discrimination lawsuit filed in the United States District Court in Abingdon, Virginia against the Bank by former employee Mary Yolanda Trigiani was officially dismissed on April 20, 2022, as having no merit as to any of Ms. Trigiani’s claims. The Court found that the Bank was entitled to summary judgment and dismissed Trigiani’s lawsuit prior to trial, because she failed to prove either her sex or religious discrimination claims. The Court also found that there was no basis to support her novel claim of so-called “intersectional discrimination,” which is not recognized by the Fourth Circuit. After receiving the Bank’s summary judgment motion and prior to the Court’s ruling in favor of the Bank, Ms. Trigiani abandoned two previously filed claims for alleged hostile work environment harassment and age discrimination. As such, all five of her claims have been dismissed.

Ms. Trigiani initially filed her employment discrimination lawsuit in January 2021, alleging that the Bank discriminated against her based on her sex, age, and religious beliefs, and that the workplace constituted a hostile work environment. She made what the Court referred to as “eye-popping allegations,” including that a “cult-like office culture” was maintained which opposed “individualistic thinking/ideas, penalizing or ostracizing employees who did not follow to the letter certain cultural-religious tenets....”

As the federal district court judge stated in dismissing the case, “[w]hile over-the-top allegations are unfortunately not unusual in initial pleadings, the time for reckoning often comes, as it does in this case. The plaintiff here is essentially her only witness and her subjective conclusions about her own conduct and the resulting treatment by her employer do not overcome the undisputed facts.”

Mr. C. Todd Asbury, President and CEO of New Peoples Bank, stated, “We are very pleased with the outcome of the lawsuit. It has been our position since the day it was filed that this lawsuit was frivolous and the claims were false, and it is great to see that justice has finally been served. It is unfortunate that the Bank and its employees have had to endure this unnecessary disruption to serving our customers’ banking needs. We appreciate our legal team, employees and the many people who have supported us during this trying time.”

