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13  
14 **IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**

15 Don ADDINGTON; John BOSTIC; Mark  
16 BURMAN; Afshin IRANPOUR; Roger  
VELEZ; and Steve WARGOCKI,

17 Plaintiffs,

18 vs.

19  
20 US AIRLINE PILOTS ASSOCIATION, and  
US AIRWAYS, INC.,

21 Defendants.  
22  
23

Case No. 2:08-cv-1633-NVW

**MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND  
AUTHORITIES IN REPLY TO  
PLAINTIFFS' RESPONSE IN  
OPPOSITION TO THE US AIRLINE  
PILOTS ASSOCIATION'S MOTION  
TO DISMISS**

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1 **I. SUMMARY**

2 In order to avoid dismissal of its action on jurisdictional grounds, the Plaintiffs must  
3 both satisfactorily allege a DFR violation related to the alleged contractual violations and, in  
4 addition, establish that submitting their contractual dispute to a System Board is excused by  
5 the narrowly interpreted futility doctrine. Plaintiffs’ DFR claim is based on the unsustainable  
6 theory that USAPA has a legal obligation to conform to the internal seniority integration  
7 policies of a decertified predecessor union. The law does not support such a thesis. Federal  
8 case law is clear that seniority is not permanent even *after* it has been implemented – let  
9 alone where, as here, a decertified predecessor union declined to pursue implementation of  
10 its own proposal.<sup>1</sup> USAPA’s policy goal – to honor the concept of date-of-hire seniority –  
11 has been deemed a core value of the labor movement and an equitable basis for seniority  
12 integration.

13 Even if the Plaintiffs are found to have properly alleged a DFR violation by USAPA,  
14 they fail to satisfy the futility doctrine established by the Ninth Circuit in *Bautista v. Pan Am.*  
15 *World Airlines, Inc.*, 828 F.2d 546, 552 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1987), which holds that futility cannot be  
16 based on a mere disagreement over contractual interpretation between a union and the  
17 members it represents, but rather must be based on invidious discrimination or unjustified

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18 <sup>1</sup> Plaintiffs attempt to present the Court with a red herring by portraying the former East  
19 and West pilot groups as distinct legal entities that “agreed” to “final and binding”  
20 arbitration on the issue of seniority integration. (Dkt. No. 44, 1:17). However, the former  
21 East and West pilot groups had no choice of whether or not to submit the issue to  
22 arbitration, because at that time, they were both bound by the internal merger policy of  
23 the now decertified union that represented them. Under this same flawed legal reasoning,  
Plaintiffs argue that the Transition Agreement was an “ordinary commercial contract”  
between the pilots. (Dkt. No. 44, 3:22). The East and West pilots are not, as collective  
groups, distinct legal entities that could enter into any such commercial contract, but  
assuming they could, it is well settled that the applicable collective bargaining  
agreements would supersede any such contract. *Melanson v. United Air Lines*, 931 F.2d  
558, 561 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1991); *Delapp v. Cont’l Can Co.*, 868 F.2d 1073, 1076 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1989);  
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*Las Vegas, Local No. 369 v. Del E. Webb Corp.*, 1984 U.S. App. LEXIS 18509, \*6 (9<sup>th</sup>  
Cir. Sept. 18, 1984); *Hendriks v. Air Line Pilots Ass’n*, 696 F.2d 673 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1983).

1 hostility. To allow the Plaintiffs to circumvent the System Board’s jurisdiction would defeat  
2 the policy underlying the Railway Labor Act and open the federal courts’ floodgates.

## 3 **II. ARGUMENT**

### 4 **1. The Court May Consider the Evidence Submitted by USAPA and May Dismiss the Case 5 With Prejudice**

6 Plaintiffs incorrectly argue that the Court may not consider the Declarations submitted by  
7 USAPA. As the moving party, USAPA brought a factual attack on subject matter  
8 jurisdiction based on the Brennan and Cleary Declarations. As such, this court “may review  
9 evidence beyond the complaint . . .” *Safe Air for Everyone v. Meyer*, 373 F.3d 1035, 1039  
10 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2004); *Vartanian v. AMFA Local 9*, 2008 U.S. App. LEXIS 14645 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. July 8,  
11 2008). Additionally, contrary to Plaintiffs’ contention, USAPA never argued that its motion  
12 was to be *automatically* converted into a motion for summary judgment. Rather, USAPA  
13 moved in the *alternative* for summary judgment, and such a disposition is warranted under  
14 proper circumstances. *Rosales v. United States*, 824 F.2d 799, 802-803 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1987).<sup>2</sup>

15 Plaintiffs also argue that because USAPA moved to dismiss on jurisdictional grounds,  
16 dismissal with prejudice would be “improper.” (Dkt No. 45, 3:18-19). Plaintiffs go so far as  
17 to declare that “[u]nder no circumstances . . . should this Court dismiss this action with  
18 prejudice.” (*Id.* at 3:26-27) (emphasis supplied). However, USAPA also moved to dismiss  
19 for failure to state a claim under Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(6), pursuant to which dismissal with  
20 prejudice may be entered.<sup>3</sup>

### 21 **2. Plaintiffs’ Three Asserted Bases for Finding a DFR Violation Fail to State a Claim**

22 Plaintiffs’ Opposition serves to dramatically narrow the DFR issues before the Court.  
23 Plaintiffs do not “challenge” USAPA’s actions or policy, but only its “motives”:

24 Plaintiffs allege hostile discrimination without challenging either the merits of  
25 USAPA’s seniority polices or whether USAPA can properly revisit seniority. ...  
26 Rather, Plaintiffs allege that USAPA **improperly** revisited seniority. *See, e.g.,*  
27 *Barton Brands*, 529 F.2d at 798-99 (holding that it was improper for union to  
28 revisit seniority issue for political reasons).

(Dkt. No. 45, 5:12-14, 9:21-25) (emphasis supplied).

29 <sup>2</sup> As the Court advised the parties: “the briefing is going to walk and talk like a motion  
30 for summary judgment. . .” (Dkt. No. 41, 9:2-3).

31 <sup>3</sup> *See Steckman v. Hart Brewing, Inc.*, 143 F.3d 1293, 1298 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1998).

1 Plaintiffs' abandonment of any challenge to the substance of USAPA's seniority  
2 policies or its right to revisit seniority is compelled by law. As already briefed by USAPA,  
3 date-of-hire seniority integration is a standard union policy that courts have recognized as  
4 well within a union's wide range of reasonableness, and the right to revisit previously  
5 implemented seniority arrangements is also well established. (Dkt. No. 36, 7:4-9:8). The  
6 Plaintiffs allege three bases to their "motive"-based DFR claim: (1) ignoring the minority  
7 when forming a seniority policy; (2) forming a new union committed to defeat the minority's  
8 seniority interests; and (3) promising to violate the DFR if elected. (Dkt. No. 45, 10:1).

9 a. Formation of Seniority Policy

10 The Plaintiffs find fault with USAPA's formation of its seniority integration policy in  
11 that it did not give "due consideration" to the interests of a "minority." As a threshold  
12 matter, USAPA contends that there is no acceptable means of evaluating what Plaintiffs  
13 contend is USAPA policy until that policy finds its expression in an agreement with US  
14 Airways. However, even assuming that USAPA adopted and implemented a pure date-of-  
15 hire seniority integration policy based on the determination of a democratic majority:

16 A rational person could conclude that **dovetailing** seniority lists in a merger ...  
17 **serves the interests of labor as a whole.** ... The propriety of dovetailing,  
18 treating the two groups identically, follows directly. If the union's leaders took  
19 account of the fact that workers at the larger firm preferred this outcome, so  
20 what? **Majority rule is the norm.** Equal treatment does not become forbidden  
21 because the majority prefers equality, even if formal equality bears more harshly  
22 on the minority.

23 *Rakestraw v. United Airlines, Inc.*, 981 F.2d 1524, 1533 (7<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1992) (emphasis supplied).

The case at bar, however, does not involve a majority's adoption of a pure date-of-  
hire seniority integration policy. Rather, the only official embodiment of USAPA policy –  
the USAPA Constitution – balances the date-of-hire objective with "reasonable conditions  
and restrictions to preserve each pilot's un-merged career expectations." (Dkt. No. 36, 4:1).  
Thus, USAPA, as a matter of constitutional mandate, does in fact consider the "minority"  
interests of West pilots.

Plaintiffs cite a single case in support of their "due consideration" argument, *Barton  
Brands, Ltd. V. NLRB*, 529 F.2d 793, 798-99 (7<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1976). Not only are *Barton Brands'*  
facts entirely distinguishable, but both the decision's own discussion of then-existing



1 precedent, and the Seventh Circuit's subsequent treatment of *Barton Brands*, support  
2 USAPA's course of conduct.

3 In *Barton Brands*, the union had *negotiated* and obtained membership ratification of a  
4 seniority integration that dovetailed the employees working at two plants referred to as  
5 Barton and Glencoe. *Id.* at 795. When the employer subsequently closed one of the two  
6 plants, the *same* union re-negotiated the contractual integration in order to *entail* the  
7 employees at the smaller Glencoe plant, thereby shifting the burden of layoffs *exclusively* to  
8 the smaller group. *Id.* at 796. The Seventh Circuit upheld the NLRB's finding of a DFR  
9 violation based on its determination that the union had rejected a previously negotiated, and  
10 implemented, date-of-hire seniority integration in favor of entailing the Glencoe employees,  
11 for no apparent reason other than political expediency. *Id.* at 800.

12 USAPA is not attempting to reverse a seniority arrangement that it had previously  
13 negotiated, ratified, and implemented in favor of the entailing of a disfavored minority. As  
14 held in the Seventh Circuit's subsequent *Rakestraw* decision, USAPA's policy of seeking  
15 pilot integration on a date-of-hire basis cannot be deemed arbitrary and capricious since  
16 dovetailing "serves the interests of labor as a whole." *Rakestraw*, 981 F.2d at 1533.

17 Significantly, even in the *Barton Brands* case, the Seventh Circuit recognized, and  
18 distinguished its own holding from existing NLRB precedent permitting a union to negotiate  
19 the revocation of a seniority integration instituted pursuant to a "final and binding"  
20 arbitration process where the union considered the arbitration decision to be objectionable.  
21 529 F.2d at 799-800 (*citing Associated Transport, Inc.*, 185 N.L.R.B. 631 (1970)).

22 b. Alleged Misuse of Authority

23 For this argument, Plaintiffs rely primarily on dicta contained within the Seventh  
Circuit's decision in *Air Wisconsin Pilots Prot. Comm. v. Sanderson*, 909 F.2d 213 (7<sup>th</sup> Cir.  
1990). However, the *Air Wisconsin* dicta, which questioned the propriety of re-visiting an  
implemented seniority integration, was clearly rejected by the Seventh Circuit's subsequent  
decision in *Rakestraw*, 981 F.2d 1524 (7<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1992).

*Rakestraw* is particularly instructive with respect to the application of DFR principles  
to seniority because it addresses both the impermanency of determinations related to  
contractual seniority as well as the right of a democratic majority to insist on dovetailing.



1 The *Rakestraw* decision consolidated disputes at two different carriers: the first involving  
2 the TWA/Ozark merger and the second the modification of a “permanent” seniority  
3 agreement between United Airlines (“United”) and ALPA in the aftermath of the 1985 strike.

4 In the TWA case, the court, however, found nothing wrong with ALPA’s  
5 acquiescence to the majority’s preference for a date-of-hire integration despite allegations  
6 that ALPA had improperly disregarded its own Merger Policy. *Id.* at 1533.

7 The United portion of the *Rakestraw* case concerned ALPA’s negotiation of a reversal  
8 of the relative position of two distinct pilot groups despite an express contractual promise  
9 “never” to do so. *Id.* at 1528-29. The Seventh Circuit reversed the district court’s decision,  
10 which was based on the contractually guaranteed permanency of the prior seniority  
11 arrangement, holding:

12 “Forever” in labor relations means “until the next collective bargaining  
13 agreement.” Excepting vested rights, a promise lasts only until renegotiation or  
14 the expiration of the agreement. *Litton Financial Printing Division v. NLRB*, 115  
15 L. Ed. 2d 177, 111 S. Ct. 2215, 2226 (1991).

16 *Id.* at 1536.

17 Unlike ALPA in the United portion of the *Rakestraw* decision, USAPA does *not* seek  
18 to re-negotiate a *previously implemented* seniority arrangement that it had *agreed to* as a  
19 *permanent* settlement of a seniority dispute. Unlike ALPA with respect to the TWA/Ozark  
20 pilot integration, USAPA is not disregarding its own Merger Policy, but rather abiding by its  
21 own constitutional mandate in pursuing date-of-hire integration.

22 c. Alleged Promise to Disregard Minority Interests

23 Plaintiffs rely on one case, *Truck Drivers & Helpers Local Union 568 v. NLRB*, 379  
F.2d 137 (D.C. Cir. 1967), to support this argument. In *Truck Drivers*, however, the union  
violated its DFR by promising to evade the equitable concept of date-of-hire seniority  
integration. *Id.* at 139. The promise made in *Truck Drivers* bears no resemblance to  
USAPA’s constitutional seniority integration policy of date-of-hire plus preservation of each  
pilot’s un-merged career expectations.<sup>4</sup> In fact, the D.C. Circuit in *Truck Drivers* described  
straight date-of-hire seniority integration as “equitable and feasible.” *Id.* at 143 n.10. By

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<sup>4</sup> See discussion *infra*, p. 3; see also Dkt. No. 36 at 4:1-4.

1 adopting the additional consideration of “un-merged career expectations” into its policy,  
2 USAPA has committed itself to a greater consideration of “minority” interests than the *Truck*  
3 *Drivers* court, and the federal judiciary in general, have required.

4 Finally, Plaintiffs’ “promise”-based argument is simply not ripe. USAPA’s policy  
5 “promise” is embodied in its constitution, a document that incorporates both date-of-hire and  
6 career expectation considerations. Accordingly, until there is a final agreement with US  
7 Airways concerning seniority integration, there can be no means of determining whether  
8 USAPA has either violated its balanced constitutional principles or violated DFR standards  
9 by adopting a final agreement that is so far outside a wide range of reasonableness that it is  
10 wholly irrational. *Air Line Pilots Ass’n v. O’Neill*, 499 U.S. 65, 78 (1991).

11 3. Plaintiffs’ DFR Claims are Time Barred and Not Ripe

12 According to Plaintiffs, USAPA “incongruously” argues that Plaintiffs’ claims are both  
13 too early and too late. (Dkt No. 45, 10:9). However, Plaintiffs’ claims fall into two distinct  
14 temporal categories: 1) that the Nicolau decision should “*already*” have been implemented,  
15 and 2) that USAPA’s *future* negotiations must be constrained by the Nicolau decision. The  
16 first claim is barred by the six-month DFR limitations period. The second claim is not ripe.

17 In arguing that its action is “ripe,” Plaintiffs contend that the non-implementation of the  
18 Nicolau list “has already caused missed-promotion injuries.” (Dkt. No. 45, 13:7). In terms  
19 of accrual, Plaintiffs’ contention begs the question: when was union action first taken to  
20 prevent the implementation of the Nicolau list in violation of Plaintiffs’ asserted DFR rights?

21 The answer to the accrual question is found in Plaintiffs’ own briefs and pleadings.  
22 Plaintiffs allege that acts evincing “hostile motivation” began as early as July 25, 2007.  
23 (Dkt. No. 44, 10:18). These acts include the determination of an ALPA representative on  
July 29, 2007 that “the Nicolau Award will never see the light of day.” (*Id.* at 10:23; State  
Complaint ¶ 91). On August 15, 2007, ALPA’s US Airways Master Executive Council  
“withdrew their representatives from the joint committee seeking to negotiate the terms of a  
merged operation of US Airways *so as to prevent implementation of the Nicolau list.*” (Dkt.  
No. 44, 10:24)(emphasis supplied). Reinforcing their position on accrual, Plaintiffs allege in  
their parallel state action that ALPA East MEC Chairman Jack Stephan is personally liable  
for breaching a contractual obligation to implement the Nicolau list in August, 2007. (State

1 Compl. ¶¶ 92, 123-126). Thus, if DFR liability for the non-implementation of the Nicolau  
2 list exists, it arose no later than August, 2007, due to ALPA's failure to fulfill its obligation  
3 under ALPA Merger Policy which required it to "use all reasonable means at its disposal to  
4 compel the company to accept and implement the merged seniority list." (Complaint Ex. C,  
5 p.8); *Bernard v. Air Line Pilots Ass'n*, 873 F.2d 213 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1989)(ALPA DFR liability  
6 based on the breach of its own Merger Policy).

7 The Plaintiffs' right to pursue a DFR claim based on the Nicolau decision expired at  
8 the latest in mid-February, 2008, six months after ALPA representatives took effective action  
9 "to prevent implementation of the Nicolau list," since the loss of promotion opportunities  
10 would have followed immediately thereafter. As Plaintiffs have observed, a "DFR claim  
11 becomes ripe at 'the point at which any injury to (the union member) allegedly caused by the  
12 Union became fixed and reasonably certain.'" (Dkt. No. 45, 12:17) (*quoting Archer v.*  
13 *Airline Pilots Assn. Intl.*, 609 F.2d 934, 937 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1979)). The Plaintiffs' sole response is  
14 that the subsequent certification of USAPA on April 18, 2008, revived claims that had died  
15 over two months before. There is no basis for recognizing any such Lazarus-type doctrine  
16 based on the arrival of a successor union. *Cf.*, *Myers v. Southern California Gas Co.*, 2000  
17 U.S. App. LEXIS 15430 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. June 27, 2000) (explaining limited circumstances when  
18 tolling or equitable estoppel applies to DFR statute of limitations). In any event, ALPA's  
19 failure to implement its own internal policy cannot be the basis for a claim against USAPA.

20 4. Plaintiffs Have Failed to Plead and Cannot Demonstrate Futility<sup>5</sup>

21 In *Bautista*, the Ninth Circuit held that, in order to gain access to the federal courts, the  
22 employee must demonstrate that resort to the Adjustment Board would be "absolutely futile."  
23 828 F.2d at 552. The requisite futility cannot be based on a "mere disagreement" with the  
union concerning contractual interpretation. Rather, the employee must demonstrate  
"invidious discrimination or unjustified hostility." *Id.* Plaintiffs have failed to plead and  
cannot now show that such "invidious discrimination" or "unjustified hostility" exists in this

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<sup>5</sup> USAPA hereby adopts and incorporates the arguments set forth by Defendant US Airways on this issue contained within its Motion to Dismiss (Dkt. No. 30) and its Memorandum in Reply to Plaintiffs' Opposition.

1 case. At best, what exists in this case is a “mere disagreement,” which is not enough to  
2 demonstrate futility.

3 Plaintiffs argue that futility is demonstrated by the following elements: “(1) that the US  
4 Airways’ grievance procedures enable USAPA to prevent a neutral from hearing a grievance;  
5 (2) that USAPA would prevent a neutral from hearing a grievance similar to this action; and  
6 (3) that USAPA is motivated to do so by improper hostility to the interests that Plaintiffs  
7 would vindicate in this action.” (Dkt. No. 45, 12:8).

8 a) Access to a System Board Neutral

9 The Plaintiffs’ own submissions belie the first and second arguments above. In fact,  
10 USAPA and US Airways have already agreed to make the necessary arrangements to have  
11 the McIlvenna grievance heard before a System Board chaired by a neutral. (Second Brennan  
12 Decl. ¶ 4). Additionally, in order to eliminate the potential for financial bias on the  
13 USAPA Board members’ part, USAPA has made a determination to only appoint union  
14 Board members who would not be adversely affected by the possible implementation of  
15 the Nicolau list. (*Id.*). The fact that the express terms of the Transition Agreement provide  
16 that only the “parties” to the Agreement have the right to file a grievance does not alter the  
17 fact that these same parties have agreed to modify that restriction to provide Mr. McIlvenna  
18 with the necessary access.

19 In another twist, Plaintiffs assert that it would be “futile” for them to submit their case  
20 to a System Board in which USAPA representatives and US Airways representatives sit as  
21 panelists. (Dkt. No. 44, 6:13). However, courts have held that, even in the context of hotly  
22 contested seniority disputes, employees seeking to circumvent the jurisdiction of the System  
23 Board may not do so based on conclusory allegations concerning the supposed bias of  
company or union panelists. *United Farm Workers v. Arizona Agric. Employment Relations Bd.*, 727 F.2d 1475, 1478 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1984) (rejecting claim of inherent bias because of failure to allege any instance of actual bias or financial interest); *Del Casal v. Eastern Airlines, Inc.*, 634 F.2d 295 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1981) (refusing to set aside System Board decision because grievant could not show partiality or bias of **individual** members of the Board); *Wells v. Southern Airways, Inc.*, 517 F.2d 132, 134-35 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1975) (same); *Wells v. Southern Airways, Inc.*, 616 F.2d 107, 111 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1980) (same); *Stumo v. United Air Lines, Inc.*, 382 F.2d 780, 787

1 (7<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1967), *cert. denied*, 389 U.S. 1042 (1968) (rejecting plaintiff’s claim that she could  
2 not receive a fair hearing based on the composition of the System Board); *Arnold v. United*  
3 *Air Lines, Inc.*, 296 F.2d 191 (7<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1961) (rejecting pilots’ claims of bias and prejudice  
4 predicated upon the composition of the System Board); *Edwards v. United Parcel Service*  
5 *Inc.*, 974 F. Supp. 1043 (W.D. Ky. 1997), *remanded on other grounds*, 181 F.3d 100 (6<sup>th</sup> Cir.  
6 1999) (stating that “we cannot be so cavalier about predicting how four members will react  
7 to days of testimony and evidence”); *McFarland v. Allied Pilots Ass’n*, Case No. 3:03-cv-  
8 00984 (N.D. Texas Sept. 22, 2005) (rejecting grievants’ request to have their grievance heard  
9 by a single neutral arbitrator because of lack of showing of partiality or bias on the part of  
10 **individual** members).

11 Of particular note are the *Arnold* and *McFarland* decisions, which involved  
12 grievances in the context of seniority disputes. In *Arnold*, a group of United pilots, who were  
13 formerly flight engineers, brought grievances asserting that the system seniority list failed to  
14 recognize the period each was employed as a flight engineer prior to being employed as a  
15 pilot. Despite the presence of a conflict between two discrete employee groups – pilots and  
16 former flight engineers – the court declined to hold that the two union pilot-members of the  
17 Board were “hostile” to the grievants. *Arnold*, 296 F.2d at 195. In *McFarland*, former TWA  
18 pilots, who were subjected to disadvantageous seniority integration by the dominant  
19 American pilot group, sought access to a neutral-only System Board in order to challenge the  
20 seniority-based furlough of former TWA pilots. The court held that the former TWA pilots  
21 were not entitled to have their case decided solely by the neutral appointed to that Board, in  
22 the absence of a showing of partiality or bias on the part of the individual American-pilot  
23 and/or Company Board members.

24 b) Plaintiffs Have not Demonstrated Invidious Discrimination or Unjustified  
25 Hostility

26 Plaintiffs’ only basis for alleging “improper hostility” is that USAPA is hostile “to the  
27 interests that Plaintiffs seek to vindicate.” (Dkt. No. 44, 10:7). However, Plaintiffs’ claim in  
28 this respect falls markedly short of satisfying the Ninth Circuit’s futility standard.

29 Along with such airline unions as the Association of Flight Attendants, the Transport  
30 Workers Union, the International Association of Machinists, and others, USAPA has as an

1 objective, a seniority integration based on date-of-hire principles with appropriate protections  
2 based on pre-merger career expectations. The federal courts have held that dovetailing is a  
3 fair and equitable approach that advances the interests of the labor movement – hardly the  
4 basis for the necessary finding of “invidious discrimination or unjustified hostility.”  
5 Moreover, USAPA’s actions in no way demonstrate unjustified hostility to the West pilots.  
6 To the contrary, USAPA is actively working to vindicate the contractual rights and seniority  
7 interests of the West pilots, even at the expense of East pilots.

8 First, USAPA is currently processing a grievance that covers the Plaintiffs’ entire first  
9 cause of action. (Dkt. No. 36, 4:23-5:1). The remedy which USAPA seeks would have the  
10 effect of placing new-hire East pilots on furlough and allowing pre-merger West pilots to  
11 take their places. USAPA’s position is dictated by its good faith interpretation of the  
12 Transition Agreement and its *non-discriminatory* adherence to seniority principles, even  
13 when these seniority principles have an adverse impact on East pilots.

14 Second, there is no basis for the allegation that USAPA is hostile to the interests of  
15 the Plaintiffs, because the USAPA Constitution mandates that USAPA is required to protect  
16 the interests of the Plaintiffs by implementing “reasonable conditions and restrictions to  
17 preserve each pilot’s un-merged career expectations.” (Dkt. No. 36, 4:1). USAPA’s creation  
18 of a constitutional policy mandating consideration of the West pilots’ “minority” interests  
19 precludes any finding of invidious discrimination or unjustified hostility.

20 Finally, even if USAPA had chosen to adhere to a straight date-of-hire seniority  
21 integration method, this could not be characterized as “invidious discrimination” or  
22 “unjustified hostility” because federal courts have consistently construed this seniority  
23 integration method to be inherently non-discriminatory and well within a union’s wide range  
of reasonableness. (Dkt. No. 36, 7:4-9:8).

5. Plaintiffs Lack Standing Under the RLA to Bring Their Failure to Negotiate Claim and  
an Arbitrator Would Have Jurisdiction to Enforce any Contractual Obligation to  
Negotiate in Good Faith

In an effort to side-step their lack of standing under the RLA, Plaintiffs argue that their  
Count II failure to negotiate in good faith claim is based on an implied contractual right  
under the Transition Agreement rather than an RLA statutory right. (Dkt. No. 45, 17:14-17).  
The Plaintiffs then proceed to argue that the System Board is precluded from providing a



1 remedy for the violation of a contractual bargaining obligation and that, therefore, the federal  
2 court must assert jurisdiction. (Dkt. No. 44, 11:16). However, arbitrators do in fact have the  
3 right to fashion remedies in the event of the violation of a contractual obligation to  
4 negotiate.<sup>6</sup> Therefore, there is no rationale for disregarding the RLA’s mandate that  
5 contractual disputes fall within the exclusive jurisdiction of the System Board.

6 6. The Norris-LaGuardia Act Does Apply

7 Plaintiffs argue that the Norris-LaGuardia Act is not applicable because it does not  
8 prevent the court from enjoining a breach of the duty of fair representation. (Dkt. No. 45,  
9 14:17). However, Plaintiffs’ own pleadings show that they do not seek to simply enjoin the  
10 alleged breach of the DFR. Rather, Plaintiffs seek to enjoin the Company from furloughing  
11 West pilots before it has furloughed East pilots who were either on furlough or not yet hired  
12 at the time of the merger, and Plaintiffs also state that “ultimately” they “seek an order  
13 directing the Company and USAPA to negotiate a CBA that would implement the arbitration  
14 integrated seniority list.” (Dkt. No. 44, 2:15). This is the kind of injunctive relief to which  
15 the NLGA applies. *Int’l Ass’n of Machinists and Aerospace Workers v. Tenn. Valley Auth.*,  
16 976 F. Supp. 1114 (M.D. Tenn. 1997) (holding that NLGA § 104(f) restricts the issuance of  
17 injunctions aimed at interfering with collective bargaining negotiations).<sup>7</sup>

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18 <sup>6</sup> Frank Elkouri & Edna Asper Elkouri, *How Arbitration Works*, at 754-55 (6<sup>th</sup> ed. 2003)  
19 (citing *Milprint, Inc.*, 51 LA 748 (Somers, 1968) (ordering cancellation of subcontract  
20 based on company’s failure to comply with contractual obligation to negotiate over  
21 subcontracting); *Philip A. Hunt Chemical Corp.*, 70 LA 1182 (Malkin, 1978) (awarding  
22 damages for company’s failure to comply with contractual obligation to negotiate over  
23 subcontracting); *Rock Island Refining Corp.*, 70 LA 322 (High, 1978) (same); *Kaiser  
Foundation Hospitals*, 61 LA 1008 (Jacobs, 1973) (same); *U.S. Steel Corp.*, 54 LA 1207  
(Duff, 1970) (same); *Milprint, Inc.*, 46 LA 724 (Graff, 1966) (same)).

<sup>7</sup> *Bernard*, 873 F.2d 213 (9th Cir. 1989), cited by the Plaintiffs, is distinguishable,  
because in that case, the court found that ALPA had breached its DFR by ignoring its  
own Merger Policy in reaching an integrated seniority agreement that discriminated  
against the Jet America pilots. The court issued an order to set the tainted agreement  
aside. Here, there has been no DFR finding, and plaintiffs do not seek to set aside any  
agreement, but rather seek to enjoin furloughs and dictate collective bargaining.



1 Respectfully Submitted,

2 Dated: October 17, 2008

By:

/s/ Lee Seham

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1 **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

2 This is to certify that on the date indicated herein below a true and accurate copy of  
3 the foregoing pleading, *to wit*,

- 4 • Memorandum Of Points And Authorities In Reply To Plaintiffs’ Response In  
5 • Opposition To The US Airline Pilots Association’s Motion To Dismiss;  
6 • Attachments to Memorandum;  
7 • Certificate of Service

8 were electronically filed with the Clerk of Court using the CM/ECF system, which will  
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27 And further that paper hard copies were provided to The Honorable Neil V. Wake, District  
28 Court Judge, 401 W. Washington Street, SPC 52, Phoenix, AZ 85003.

1 On October 17, 2008, by:

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