

1 LEE SEHAM, Esq., *pro hac vice*
STANLEY J. SILVERSTONE, Esq., *pro hac vice*
2 LUCAS K. MIDDLEBROOK, Esq., *pro hac vice*
SEHAM, SEHAM, MELTZ & PETERSEN, LLP
3 445 Hamilton Avenue, Suite 1204
White Plains, NY 10601
4 Tel: 914 997-1346
Fax: 914 997-7125

5 NICHOLAS PAUL GRANATH, Esq., *pro hac vice*
6 ngranath@ssmplaw.com
SEHAM, SEHAM, MELTZ & PETERSEN LLP
7 2915 Wayzata Blvd.
Minneapolis, MN 55405
8 Tel: 612 341-9080
9 Fax 612 341-9079

10 STANLEY LUBIN, Esq., State Bar No. 003076
stan@lubinandenoach.com
11 LUBIN & ENOCH, PC
349 North 4th Avenue
12 Phoenix, AZ 85003-1505
Tel: 602 234-0008
13 Fax: 602 626 3586

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

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

18 Plaintiffs,

19 vs.

20
21 US AIRLINE PILOTS ASSOCIATION, and
22 US AIRWAYS, INC.,

23 Defendants.

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

**MEMORANDUM OF POINTS
AND AUTHORITIES IN
OPPOSITION TO PLAINTIFFS'
APPLICATION FOR
PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION**

SEHAM, SEHAM, MELTZ & PETERSEN LLP

1 **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

2 **I. Introduction** 1

3 **II. Applicable Legal Standard** 1

4 **III. Balance of the Hardships: Plaintiffs Concede that the Requested Relief Will**

5 **Merely Shift the Same Alleged Hardship to a Different Group of Pilots**..... 2

6 **IV. Likelihood of Success on the Merits** 3

7 a The McIlvenna Grievance: Single Neutral Arbitrator 4

8 b Count One: Furlough Out of Order 6

9 c Count Two: Alleged Failure to Negotiate in Good Faith..... 7

10 d Count Three: Alleged Breach of Duty of Fair Representation..... 12

11 **V. The Norris LaGuardia Act Restricts Issuance of Injunctive Relief** 12

12 **VI. Conclusion** 16

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

1 **TABLE OF AUTHORITIES**

2 **CASES**

3 *Acha v. Beame,*
4 438 F. Supp. 70 (S.D.N.Y. 1977) 2

5 *Barthelemy v. Air Line Pilots Ass’n,*
6 897 F.2d 999 (9th Cir. 1990) 11

7 *Bernard v. Airline Pilots Ass’n,*
8 873 F.2d 213 (9th Cir. 1989) 2

9 *Bodecker v. Local Union No. P-46,*
10 640 F.2d 182 (8th Cir. 1981) 13

11 *Camping Constr. Co v. Dist. Counsel of Iron Workers,*
12 915 F.2d 1333 (9th Cir. 1990) 13, 15

13 *Dellwood Foods v. Kraftco Corp.,*
14 420 F. Supp. 424 (S.D.N.Y. 1976) 2

15 *Direx Israel, Ltd. v. Breakthrough Med. Corp.,*
16 952 F.2d 802 (4th Cir. 1991) 2

17 *Int’l Ass’n of Machinist and Aerospace Workers v. Tenn. Valley Auth.,*
18 976 F. Supp. 1114 (M.D. Tenn. 1997) 13, 15

19 *Lombard v. Bd. of Educ. of City of New York,*
20 400 F. Supp. 1361 (E.D.N.Y. 1975) 2

21 *Next Plateau Records v. ZYX Records,*
22 1992 U.S. Dist LEXIS 10066 (S.D.N.Y. 1992) 2

23 *Raich v. Gonzales,*
500 F.3d 850, 857 (9th Cir. 2007) 1

San Antonia Cmty. Hosp. V. Southern Cal. Dist. Council of Carpenters,
125 F.3d 1230 (9th Cir. 1997) 14

Scotts Co. v. United Indus. Corp.,
315 F.3d 264 (4th Cir. 2002) 2

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23

STATUTES

29 U.S.C. § 621(a)(1) and (3), Age Discrimination in Employment Act..... 3

29 U.S.C. §§101 et seq., The Norris LaGuardia Act (“NLGA”) 12-16

29 U.S.C. §104(f)..... 15-16

29 U.S.C. §107..... 12, 14, 15

29 U.S.C. §113(c) 13

45 U.S.C. § 151 *et seq.*, The Railway Labor Act (“RLA”)..... *passim*

1 **I. Introduction**

2 This brief is submitted by the US Airline Pilots Association (“USAPA”) in
3 opposition to the Plaintiffs’ Application for Preliminary Injunction. (Dkt. No. 12).¹
4 Pursuant to the Court’s order dated October 24, 2008, USAPA’s submission shall not
5 repeat matters contained in the existing briefing except to the extent necessary to
6 understand any further briefing.

7 While this brief focuses primarily on the balance of the hardships and merit-
8 based arguments, it will also serve to put the Court on notice of a development that is
9 dispositive of the jurisdictional issue. Specifically, USAPA and US Airways have
10 agreed to allow the McIlvenna Grievance to be submitted for final adjudication to a
11 single neutral arbitrator, thereby rendering moot Plaintiffs’ argument that the futility
12 exception applies to the otherwise exclusive jurisdiction of the System Board.

14 **II. Applicable Legal Standard**

15 Under traditional Ninth Circuit precedent a party moving for preliminary
16 injunctive relief must demonstrate: “(1) a strong likelihood of success on the merits, (2)
17 the possibility of irreparable injury to the plaintiff if preliminary relief is not granted, (3)
18 a balance of hardships favoring the plaintiff, and (4) advancement of the public interest
19 (in certain cases).” *Raich v. Gonzales*, 500 F.3d 850, 857 (9th Cir. 2007). Where a
20 movant for injunctive relief has failed to demonstrate a showing of likelihood of success
21

22 _____
23 ¹ USAPA refers herein to the relevant filings by each document’s docket number.
Specific cites within each document are indicated by page and line numbers.

1 on the merits, he must demonstrate “that the balance of the hardships **tips sharply** in his
2 favor.” *Bernard v. Air Line Pilots Ass’n*, 873 F.2d 213, 217 (9th Cir. 1989) (emphasis
3 supplied).

4 Conversely, if the balance of hardships does not favor the moving party, then the
5 movant should be required to demonstrate a clear likelihood of success. *See Direx*
6 *Israel, Ltd. v. Breakthrough Med. Corp.*, 952 F.2d 802, 808 (4th Cir. 1991) (“if ‘the
7 plight of the defendant [is] not substantially different from that of the plaintiffs,’ that is,
8 if there is no imbalance of hardship in favor of the plaintiff, then ‘the probability of
9 success begins to assume real significance,’ and interim relief is more likely to require a
10 clear showing of a likelihood of success.”); *Scotts Co. v. United Indus. Corp.*, 315 F.3d
11 264, 271 (4th Cir. 2002); *Next Plateau Records v. ZYX Records*, 1992 U.S. Dist LEXIS
12 10066 at *17 (S.D.N.Y. 1992); *Acha v. Beame*, 438 F. Supp 70, 79 (S.D.N.Y. 1977);
13 *Lombard v. Bd. of Educ. of City of New York*, 400 F. Supp. 1361, 1362 (E.D.N.Y.
14 1975); *Dellwood Foods v. Kraftco Corp.*, 420 F. Supp. 424, 427-428 (S.D.N.Y. 1976)
15 (injunction denied because the court found that “the balance of hardships is nearly
16 equal” and the plaintiff did not demonstrate a likelihood of success on the merits).
17
18

19 **III. Balance of the Hardships: Plaintiffs Concede that the Requested Relief**
20 **Will Merely Shift the Same Alleged Hardship to a Different Group of**
21 **Pilots**

21 Plaintiffs admit both in their Preliminary Injunction Application and in their
22 Supplemental Filing that if their request for preliminary injunction is granted, the
23

1 “hardships from the Company’s need to furlough pilots should fall on the US Airways
2 pilots.” (Dkt. No. 12, 12:21-22; *see also* Dkt. No. 19, 3:3) (noting that if the injunction
3 issues, “[c]areers of US Airways pilots will be disrupted.”). Therefore, there can be no
4 question that the balance of the hardships is equal at best, as Plaintiffs’ request for a
5 preliminary injunction seeks to shift the hardship of system-wide furloughs squarely on
6 the shoulders of the more senior pre-merger US Airways pilots.

7
8 USAPA submits that the balance of hardships actually tips decisively **away** from
9 the Plaintiffs. The relief sought by the Plaintiffs would work a manifest injustice by
10 mandating that a thirty-seven year old pilot with only three years seniority retains his
11 job, while a pilot fifty-six years of age with twenty years seniority will be left jobless.
12 (Dkt. No. 38, Cleary Decl. ¶¶ 27-29). Such a result tips the balance of hardships sharply
13 against the granting of preliminary injunctive relief. Putting more senior and
14 economically vulnerable workers on the street does not serve the interests of equity, nor
15 does it advance the public interest.²

16 **IV. Likelihood of Success on the Merits**

17 Pursuant to the Court’s order, we shall not present here those jurisdictional
18 arguments that have already been briefed by USAPA and US Airways, but merely
19 identify them here for facility of reference:
20

21 ² The United States Congress has found and declared that older workers are
22 “disadvantaged in their efforts to ... regain employment when displaced from jobs” and
23 that “the incidence of ... long-term employment with resultant deterioration of skill,
morale, and employer acceptability is, relative to the younger ages, high among older

- 1 • Plaintiffs do not state a valid claim against USAPA for breach of the duty of fair
2 representation and, therefore, have no grounds for asserting federal court
3 jurisdiction on the basis of a hybrid claim. (Dkt. No. 36, 6:1-9:8; Dkt. No.47,
4 2:3-6:8).
- 5 • Plaintiffs have failed to plead and cannot demonstrate that resorting to the
6 congressionally-mandated System Board of Adjustment would be futile. (Dkt.
7 No. 30, 6:13-11:14; Dkt. No. 36, 10:14-12:12; Dkt. No. 47, 7:16-10:19; Dkt. No.
8 48).
- 9 • Plaintiffs’ DFR claim is barred by the six month statute of limitations (Dkt. No.
10 36, 9:9-10:13; Dkt. No. 47, 6:9-15).
- 11 • Plaintiffs’ DFR claim is not ripe for adjudication. (Dkt. No. 36, 12:13-13:16; Dkt
12 No. 47, 6:9).
- 13 • Section 8 of the Norris-LaGuardia Act requires Plaintiffs to first exhaust RLA-
14 mandated administrative remedies prior to seeking judicial relief. (Dkt. No. 36,
15 13:17-15:16; Dkt. No. 47, 11:5-14).
- 16 • The National Mediation Board has exclusive jurisdiction over airline
17 representation disputes. (Dkt. No. 36, 15:17-16:22).
- 18 • Plaintiffs lack standing under the RLA. (Dkt. No. 36, 17:1-14; Dkt. No. 47,
19 10:20-11:4).

20 The arguments below are more oriented toward merit-based issues that have not been
21 previously briefed by the parties.

22 a. The McIlvenna Grievance: Single Neutral Arbitrator

23 In response to the arguments contained within the motions to dismiss of USAPA
and US Airways concerning the failure of Plaintiffs to properly plead futility necessary
to establish subject-matter jurisdiction (Dkt Nos. 30 & 36), Plaintiffs argued in their

workers; their numbers are great and growing and their employment problems grave....”
Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, 29 U.S.C. § 621(a)(1) and (3).

1 responses to those motions that the elements of futility were satisfied and hybrid
2 jurisdiction existed because:

3 (1) USAPA has the power to keep a grievance from a neutral; (2) USAPA
4 (and the Company) would keep a grievance from a neutral; and (3)
5 USAPA would do so because of hostile motivation.

6 (Dkt. No. 44, 8:9-11, 11:7-9).

7 Plaintiffs' argument that USAPA *could* and USAPA and US Airways *would*
8 prevent Plaintiffs from reaching a neutral arbitrator is based on Captain McIlvenna's
9 grievance and his request that "a neutral arbitrator only hear [his] case." (Dkt. No. 44,
10 8:9-11, 9:21-10:4; *see also* Dkt. No. 37, Ex. A at 3). USAPA originally responded to
11 Mr. McIlvenna's request and advised him that "the Association respectfully declines to
12 waive its Board members." (Parrella Decl. ¶ 6). However, subsequently and upon
13 further consideration, the USAPA Officers have advised the Chairman of the USAPA
14 Board of Pilot Representatives Grievance Committee to notify Mr. McIlvenna that his
15 grievance *will be presided over and decided by a single neutral arbitrator.* (*Id.* at ¶ 7)
16 (emphasis supplied).³ Therefore, according to Plaintiffs' own argument, even if
17 USAPA was found to be hostile, such hostility would "not support futility because,
18 despite the [alleged] hostility, the grievance [will now] be decided by a neutral
19 arbitrator." (Dkt. No. 44, 14:1-2) (*citing Ritza v. Int'l Longshoremen's &*
20 *Warehousemen's Union*, 837 F.2d 365, 370 (9th Cir. 1988) ("The district court's
21

22 _____
23 ³ US Airways has agreed to proceed in this manner and Mr. McIlvenna was notified by
letter dated October 28, 2008. (Parrella Decl. ¶ 7).

1 conclusion that any hostility ... is cured by the availability of neutral arbitration was
2 neither clearly erroneous nor incorrect as a matter of law.”)).

3
4 b. Count One: Furlough Out of Order

5 The Plaintiffs’ Complaint alleges three causes of action, the first of which is
6 alleged against US Airways and is titled “Breach of CBA: Furlough Out of Order.”
7 (Complaint ¶¶ 73-87). USAPA agrees with the contract interpretation advocated by
8 Plaintiffs’ First Count, but maintains that this Court has no jurisdiction to adjudicate the
9 merits of the resulting dispute with the Company.

10 Count One alleges that the Company’s failure to furlough “all pilots on the New
11 Hire Seniority List before it furloughs [pre-merger] West Pilots” is a “direct breach” of
12 the Transition Agreement. (Complaint ¶ 83 (a) and (b)). Although the Complaint
13 makes no reference to a specific section of the Transition Agreement, it is USAPA’s
14 position that Count One is solidly grounded on the plain terms of that document.

15
16 Section II.B.7 of the Transition Agreement provides that new pilots hired
17 “during the Separate Operations” will be placed by their date of hire on a “third
18 seniority list” and will be “junior to all pilots on the pilot seniority lists of America
19 West and US Airways on the effective date of this Letter of Agreement....”⁴ Section II.
20 B.7 contains two key temporal references: “during the Separate Operations” and “on
21 the effective date of this Letter of Agreement.” USAPA interprets these temporal
22

23

⁴ Complaint, Ex. B; Transition Agreement § II.B.7. (emphasis supplied).

1 references to signify that this third list is in effect *now* and that the list – with all its
2 seniority implications – should govern during the period of Separate Operations.
3 Therefore, it is USAPA’s position that the plain terms of the Transition Agreement
4 mandate that the Company is prohibited from furloughing any pre-merger West pilot
5 while a pilot on the new-hire seniority list remains employed by the Carrier. (Dkt. No.
6 37, First Brennan Decl. ¶ 19, Ex. B.).

7
8 As briefly discussed in USAPA’s original Motion to Dismiss⁵, on August 29,
9 2008, USAPA initiated a grievance seeking the same relief the Plaintiffs seek pursuant
10 to Count One. (*Id.*). The grievance documents filed by USAPA describe the matter as
11 one of “urgency” and calls on the Company to “immediately cease and desist” from
12 furloughing any pre-merger West pilots until *all* the pilots – East and West – have been
13 furloughed from the New Hire List. (*Id.*). USAPA has also sought and obtained the
14 accelerated processing of this grievance. (*Id.* at ¶ 21).

15 As previously briefed, it is USAPA’s position that the System Board of
16 Adjustment would have exclusive jurisdiction over this contractual dispute. (Dkt. No.
17 36, 10:14-12:1).

18
19 c. Count Two: Alleged Failure to Negotiate in Good Faith

20 Count Two alleges that the Company has breached the Transition Agreement
21 “because it has not been negotiating with USAPA in good faith to institute Integrated
22

23 ⁵ USAPA Motion to Dismiss, Dkt. No. 36, 10:16-11:6.

1 Operations by adopting a single collective bargaining agreement that would implement
2 the Nicolau List.” (Complaint ¶ 91). Plaintiffs, with apparent inconsistency, have
3 argued that the Company has violated an *implied contractual* obligation to negotiate in
4 “good faith” toward a single CBA incorporating the Nicolau List, while at the same
5 time arguing that the System Board lacks jurisdiction over such a contractual dispute
6 because the remedy sought by Plaintiffs would “modify or supplement” the existing
7 terms of the parties’ agreement. (Dkt. No. 45, 17:14; Dkt. No. 44, 12:3-12). Plaintiffs
8 seek, as a remedy, a court order that would compel the Company to implement the
9 current furloughs in accordance with the Nicolau List. (Complaint ¶ 113 A(2)).
10

11 If the Court determines that it is appropriate to evaluate the merits of Plaintiffs’
12 Count Two breach of contract claim, we respectfully submit that the Court first observe
13 that the language of Paragraph 91 of the Complaint tacitly concedes that, under the
14 terms of the Transition Agreement, the implementation of any integrated seniority list
15 would necessitate, as a prerequisite, the achievement of “Integrated Operations by
16 adopting a single collective bargaining agreement.” This concession is appropriate in
17 view of the plain language of the Transition Agreement, which prohibits the
18 implementation of the Nicolau List in the absence of full operational pilot integration,
19 including the negotiation of a single collective bargaining agreement:
20

21 US Airways Group, [America West Holdings Corporation], US Airways
22 and America West (together, the “Airline Parties”) intend that, following
23 the consummation of the Merger Agreement, America West and US

1 Airways will continue to operate with two separate pilot workforces until
2 the two pilot workforces are integrated under the provisions herein...⁶

3 * * *

4 The pilot workforces of America West and US Airways will remain
5 separate and covered by their respective collective bargaining agreements
6 (the "Separate Operations") until Operational Pilot Integration as provided
7 in Section VI.A.⁷

8 * * *

9 US Airways, America West and the Single Carrier may not use an
10 integrated seniority list prior to Operational Pilot Integration as defined
11 in Section VI.A below.⁸

12 * * *

13 Except as provided in paragraph B. below, the airline operations of
14 America West and US Airways, with respect to pilots, shall be merged no
15 later than twelve (12) months following the later of (i) completion of
16 integrated pilot seniority list and (ii) negotiation of the Single Agreement
17 provided that if by that date a single FAA operating certificate has not
18 been issued, the airline operations, with respect to the pilots, will be
19 merged effective with the first bid period following thirty (30) days after
20 the issuance of such certificate.⁹

21 These Transition Agreement provisions are echoed by ALPA's own Merger and
22 Fragmentation Policy, which allows *no exception* to the black and white rule that there
23 can be no implementation of a single seniority list in the absence of a single collective
bargaining agreement.

⁶ Complaint, Ex. B; Transition Agreement at 1. (emphasis supplied).

⁷ *Id.* at § II.A (emphasis supplied).

⁸ *Id.* at § IV.C (emphasis supplied).

⁹ *Id.* at § VI.A (emphasis supplied).

1 *In no event*, except by mutual agreement of all parties, will the company
2 be given the right to use the merged seniority list prior to the successful
3 conclusion of the merged working agreement.

4 (Complaint, Ex. C, p. 12, § N(2))(emphasis supplied). In short, both the Transition
5 Agreement and ALPA Merger Policy flatly prohibit the injunctive remedies that the
6 Plaintiffs now seek.

7 Putting to one side the indisputable absence of a single collective bargaining
8 agreement, there is no basis for the allegation that US Airways has violated a
9 contractually-based obligation to negotiate in good faith. First, even assuming there
10 was an implied good faith obligation for the Company to refrain from revisiting the
11 terms of the Nicolau list, there are no facts to support the allegation that this has
12 occurred. USAPA passed its first seniority proposal to the Company on September 30,
13 2008 and has yet to receive a response from US Airways. (Mowrey Decl. at ¶ 8).

14 Second, and more importantly, the express language of the Transition
15 Agreement, provides that its terms can be modified by the Union and the Company.
16 (Complaint, Ex. B, Transition Agreement § XII(B)). Therefore, seniority remains an
17 appropriate subject of bargaining under the specific terms of the Transition Agreement
18 itself.

19 Third, as has already been briefed to this Court, even in the absence of such
20 specific contractual language, the Railway Labor Act allows parties to re-visit and
21 modify contractual seniority provisions even *after* these provisions have been
22 implemented (Dkt. 36, 7:13-8:4; Dkt. No. 47, 3:7-6:8).
23

1 Fourth, the Plaintiffs have conceded the point that USAPA is permitted to re-visit
2 seniority:

3 Plaintiffs allege hostile discrimination without challenging either the
4 merits of USAPA’s seniority policies or whether USAPA can properly
5 revisit seniority. ... Rather, Plaintiffs allege that USAPA **improperly**
revisited the seniority issue.

6 (Dkt. No. 45, 9:23-24) (accusing USAPA of “mischaracterizing” the Plaintiffs’ claims
7 by suggesting that Plaintiffs argue against USAPA’s right to re-visit the seniority issue).
8 Plaintiffs’ claims against USAPA are based, instead, on USAPA’s alleged failure to
9 consider “minority interests.” (Dkt. No. 45, 7:17, 8:22; Complaint, ¶¶ 98-102). But, if
10 the Plaintiffs concede that the Union is free to re-visit seniority, it cannot be that the
11 Company is barred from responding. Indeed, the Company would violate the Railway
12 Labor Act if it failed to respond to seniority-related bargaining proposals based on
13 supposed obligations it had to third parties. *Barthelemy v. Air Line Pilots Ass’n*, 897
14 F.2d 999, 1007 (9th Cir. 1990) (*citing Virginia R.R. v. Fed’n*, 300 U.S. 515 (1937))
15 (“the RLA ‘imposes the affirmative duty on the employer to treat only with the true
16 representative, and hence the negative duty to treat no other.’”).

17
18 Thus, Plaintiffs’ request that this Court order implementation of the ALPA-
19 created Nicolau list prior to negotiation of a single CBA would violate the express terms
20 of the Transition Agreement, ALPA Merger Policy and USAPA’s statutory right to
21 negotiate new terms of employment as the certified representative of all US Airways
22 pilots.
23

1 d. Count Three: Alleged Breach of Duty of Fair Representation

2 Count III alleges that USAPA has violated the duty of fair representation that it
3 owes to the Plaintiffs. (Complaint ¶¶ 95-109).

4 USAPA has already briefed the argument as to why Plaintiffs do not state a valid
5 claim against USAPA for breach of the duty of fair representation and, therefore, have
6 no grounds for asserting federal court jurisdiction on the basis of a hybrid claim. (Dkt.
7 No. 36, 6:1-9:8; Dkt. No.47, 2:3-6:8). In further response to Plaintiffs’ allegations
8 concerning USAPA’s failure to consider the interests of West Pilots (Dkt. No. 45, 5:23-
9 7:17), and in conformance with the Court’s October 24th order (Dkt. No. 51) to identify
10 any evidentiary issues that may arise at the October 29th hearing, USAPA submits
11 herewith the Declaration of Randal E. Mowrey, which describes USAPA’s current
12 negotiation position on seniority integration and the consideration of West Pilot
13 interests contained therein.

14
15 **V. The Norris LaGuardia Act Restricts Issuance of Injunctive Relief**

16 USAPA has previously briefed the Court with respect to jurisdictional issues arising
17 from the Norris LaGuardia Act (“NLGA”).¹⁰ This section will provide the Court with
18 supplementary briefing concerning the remedial limitations imposed by that Act.

19 Section 7 of the NLGA restricts the jurisdiction of the federal courts “to issue a
20 temporary or permanent injunction in any case involving or growing out of a labor
21

22 _____
23 ¹⁰ See USAPA Motion to Dismiss (Dkt. No. 36, 13:17-15:16); USAPA Reply (Dkt. No. 47, 11:5).

1 dispute.” 29 U.S.C. § 107. This case grows out of a “labor dispute” within the meaning
2 of the NLGA.¹¹ The “definition [of labor dispute] is extraordinarily broad, and the
3 Supreme Court has so interpreted it.” *Camping Constr. Co v. Dist. Counsel of Iron*
4 *Workers*, 915 F.2d 1333 (9th Cir. 1990).¹²

5 This litigation arises out of a dispute by members of the pilot bargaining unit at
6 US Airways regarding the negotiation of contractually created seniority, which
7 undoubtedly concerns the “association or representation,” 29 U.S.C. § 113(c), of US
8 Airways pilots for purposes of negotiating the terms of their employment. Therefore,
9 the “matrix” of the controversy – *i.e.*, the context within which this controversy has
10 originated and developed – is the dispute between the former US Airways pilots and the
11 former America West Pilots, over representation of the pilots in collective bargaining
12 with the employer. As is evident from the face of the complaint, the dispute that
13 resulted in this lawsuit thus has its origins in the employment relationship and as it
14 meets the terms of NLGA § 113, it is therefore a “labor dispute” to which the
15 jurisdictional restrictions of the NLGA apply.
16
17
18

19 ¹¹ See USAPA Motion to Dismiss (Dkt. No. 36, 14:20-23).

20 ¹² In applying the Supreme Court’s broad interpretation of the term “labor dispute,”
21 courts have rejected the contention that intra- and inter-union disputes do not constitute
22 “labor disputes” for purposes of the NLGA. See *Bodecker v. Local Union No. P-46*,
23 640 F.2d 182, 185 (8th Cir. 1981) (holding that a suit by union members against their
union and their employer seeking to enjoin implementation of an amendment to the
collective bargaining agreement was a “labor dispute.”); *International Ass’n of*
Machinists v. TVA, 976 F. Supp. 1114 (M.D. Tenn. 1997) (inter-union suits are subject
to NLA).

1 “The [NLGA] is an anti-injunction statute that prevents district courts from
2 issuing ‘any restraining order or temporary or permanent injunction in a case involving
3 or growing out of a labor dispute, except in strict conformity with the provisions of this
4 Act.’” *San Antonio Cmty. Hosp. v. Southern Cal. Dist. Council of Carpenters*, 125 F.3d
5 1230, 1234 (9th Cir. 1997) (*citing* 29 U.S.C. § 101). As a prerequisite for issuing any
6 such injunction the court must, in the first place, “hear[] the testimony of witnesses in
7 open court (with opportunity for cross-examination) in support of the allegations of a
8 complaint made under oath, and testimony in opposition thereto, if offered...” 29
9 U.S.C. § 107.
10

11 NLGA § 7 also mandates that a hearing in support of a request for injunctive
12 relief “shall be held after due and personal notice has been given, in such a manner as
13 the court shall direct, to all known persons against whom relief is sought. . .” 29 U.S.C.
14 § 107. Finally, pursuant to NLGA § 8, the plaintiffs are required to “prove” that they
15 made “every reasonable effort to settle the dispute” prior to seeking injunctive relief.
16 *San Antonio Cmty. Hosp.*, 125 F.3d at 1234 (*citing* 29 U.S.C. § 108).¹³
17

18 Once a plaintiff has provided testimony in open court in support of its request for
19 injunctive relief, the Court must make findings of fact “[t]hat unlawful acts have been
20 threatened and will be committed unless restrained or have been committed and will be
21
22

23 ¹³ See USAPA Motion to Dismiss (Dkt. No. 36, 14:12-15:16).

1 continued unless restrained.” 29 U.S.C. § 107(a).¹⁴ Most important, § 7 of the NLGA
2 imposes the following limitation on the Court’s authority to issue an injunction:

3 [N]o injunction or temporary restraining order shall be issued on account
4 of any threat or unlawful act excepting against the person or persons,
5 association, or organization making the threat or committing the unlawful
6 act or actually authorizing or ratifying the same after actual knowledge
7 thereof.

8 29 U.S.C. § 107(a).

9 Even assuming, *arguendo*, that Plaintiffs had complied with the NLGA
10 procedural requirements set forth above, Section 104(f) of the NLGA would nonetheless
11 restrict the issuance of injunctive relief in this matter. *See Camping Constr. Co.*, 915
12 F.2d at 1341. (section 104 “sets forth a list of specific acts against which the federal
13 courts may under no circumstances issue an injunction.”). Section 104(f) of the NLGA
14 provides in relevant part that:

15 No court of the United States shall have jurisdiction to issue any
16 restraining order or temporary or permanent injunction in any case
17 involving or growing out of any labor dispute to prohibit any person or
18 persons participating or interested in such dispute . . . from . . .
19 [a]ssembling peaceably to act or to organize to act in promotion of their
20 interests in a labor dispute.

21 ¹⁴ The court must also make findings of fact “[t]hat the public officers charged with the
22 duty to protect complainant’s property are unable or unwilling to furnish adequate
23 protection.” 29 U.S.C. § 107(e). Other requirements of § 7 largely track the standard
preliminary injunction inquiry regarding irreparable injury, the balance of harms, and
the lack of an adequate remedy at law, *see* 29 U.S.C. § 107(b), (c), (d), but as to all of
these elements the statute requires that the court make findings of fact based on
testimony in open court.

1 29 U.S.C. § 104(f). This section of the NLGA has been interpreted to restrict the
2 issuance of injunctions aimed at prohibiting collective bargaining negotiations. *Int'l*
3 *Ass'n of Machinists and Aerospace Workers v. Tenn. Valley Auth.*, 976 F. Supp. 1114
4 (M.D. Tenn. 1997) (citing *Bodecker v. Local Union No. P-46*, 640 F.2d 182, 185-86 (8th
5 Cir. 1981)).

6 The Plaintiffs' Preliminary Injunction Application effectively requests that this
7 Court dictate collective bargaining between USAPA and US Airways and order US
8 Airways to implement a bargaining proposal that was formulated by the internal policies
9 of decertified union – namely the “Nicolau Award.” The subject of the injunctive relief
10 requested by Plaintiffs pertains directly to ongoing collective bargaining between US
11 Airways and USAPA and seeks to prohibit the parties from “assembling peaceably to
12 act or to organize to act in promotion of their interests in a labor dispute” within the
13 meaning of Section 104(f) of the NLGA. Therefore, under the mandate of the NLGA,
14 the court is without jurisdiction to issue the injunctive relief requested by Plaintiffs.
15

16 **VI. Conclusion**

17 Based on the pleadings, evidence, arguments, record, and any argument, live
18 testimony, or evidence to be presented in the hearing, USAPA respectfully submits that
19 Plaintiffs' Application for Preliminary Injunctive relief should be denied.
20
21
22
23

1 Respectfully Submitted,

2 Dated: October 28, 2008

3 By:

/s/ Lee Seham

4 Lee Seham, Esq. (*pro hac vice*)
lseham@ssmplaw.com
5 Stanley J. Silverstone, Esq. (*pro hac vice*)
ssilverstone@ssmplaw.com
6 Lucas K. Middlebrook, Esq. (*pro hac vice*)
lmiddlebrook@ssmplaw.com
7 SEHAM, SEHAM, MELTZ & PETERSEN, LLP
445 Hamilton Avenue, Suite 1204
8 White Plains, NY 10601
Tel: (914) 997-1346
9 Fax: (914) 997-7125

10 Nicholas P. Granath, Esq. (*pro hac vice*)
ngranath@ssmplaw.com
11 SEHAM, SEHAM, MELTZ & PETERSEN, LLP
2915 Wayzata Blvd.
12 Minneapolis, MN 55405
Tel 612 341-9080
13 Fax: 612 341-9079

14 Stanley Lubin, Esq. State Bar No. 003076
stan@lubinandenoch.com
15 LUBIN & ENOCH, PC
349 North 4th Avenue
16 Phoenix, AZ 85003-1505
Tel: 602 234-0008
17 Fax: 602 626 3586

18 ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANT
US AIRLINE PILOTS ASSOCIATION

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 Opposition To Plaintiffs’ Application For
5 Preliminary Injunction;
6 • Declaration of Randal E. Mowrey (With Exhibits);
7 • Certificate of Service

8 were electronically filed with the Clerk of Court using the CM/ECF system, which will
9 send notification of such filing to the following:

10 Marty Harper Kelly J. Flood Andrew S. Jacob
11 mharper@stklaw.com kflood@stklaw.com ajacob@stklaw.com

12 Shughart Thompson & Kilroy, P.C.
13 Security Title Plaza, Suite 1200
14 Phoenix, AZ 85012
15 Tel. 602 650-2000
16 Fax. 602 264-7033

17 Who are admitted counsel for the Plaintiffs in this matter, and,

18 Robert A. Siegle Rachel S. Janger
19 rsiegel@omm.com rjanger@omm.com

20 O’Melveny & Meyers LLP
21 400 S. Hope St.
22 Ste 177
23 Los Angeles, CA 90071-2899, and,

Sarah A. Asta Karen Gillen
Sarah.Asta@USAirways.com Karen.gillen@USAirways.com

Who are admitted counsel for Defendant US Airways, Inc. in this matter.

And further that paper hard copies were provided to The Honorable Neil V. Wake, District
Court Judge, 401 W. Washington Street, SPC 52, Phoenix, AZ 85003.

1 On October 28, 2008, by:

2
3 */s/ Lucas K. Middlebrook*

Lee Seham, Esq. (*pro hac vice*)

ssmpls@aol.com

4 Stanley J. Silverstone, Esq. (*pro hac vice*)

ssilverstone@ssmplaw.com

5 Lucas Middelbrook, Esq. (*pro hac vice*)

lmiddlebrook@ssmplaw.com

6 SEHAM, SEHAM, MELTZ & PETERSEN, LLP

445 Hamilton Avenue, Suite 1204

7 White Plains, NY 10601

8 Tel: (914) 997-1346

Fax: (914) 997-7125

9 Nicholas Paul Granath (*pro hac vice*)

ngranath@ssmplaw.com

10 SEHAM, SEHAM, MELTZ & PETERSEN, LLP

11 2915 Wayzata Blvd.

Minneapolis, MN 55405

12 Tel. 612 341-9080

13 Fax. 612 341-9079

14 LOCAL COUNSEL:

15 Stanley Lubin, Esq., Lic. 003076

stan@lubinandenoch.com

16 LUBIN & ENOCH, PC

349 North 4th Avenue

17 Phoenix, AZ 85003-1505

18 Tel: 602 234-0008

Fax: 602 626 3586

19 Attorneys for Defendants: US Airline Pilots Association (“USAPA”)