

Plaintiffs

Iowa State Education Association

The ISEA represents preK-12 educators, education support professionals, community college faculty, Area Education Agency professionals, retired educators, and aspiring educators with union contracts covering over 50,000 employees. The ISEA promotes quality public education by placing students at the center of everything we do while advocating for education professionals.

Mike Beranek is a retired third-grade teacher from Western Hills Elementary School in West Des Moines. He was elected president of the ISEA in April 2018 by ISEA member delegates.

Dan Gutmann

Dan Gutmann is a 6th-grade focused reader teacher and a co-teacher in 8th grade English/Language Arts at Weeks Middle School in Des Moines. Before this year, he taught special education at Jackson Elementary for seven years. He is a community organizer and former Urbandale School Board member. He advocates for public education, equity, and the LGBTQ community.

Alyson Browder

Alyson Browder is a 7th-grade English teacher in Norwalk Community Schools and is in her 10th year of teaching. She has an extensive classroom library of over 1,700 books and is an advocate for diverse literature that is culturally relevant, representative of all kids and their families, and has messages of empathy and empowerment.

Mari Butler

Mari Butler is the Perry School District librarian and head high school speech coach. Before coming to Perry, she taught secondary English Language Arts in Mount Pleasant. She received her bachelor's from Wartburg College and her master's in School Library from UNI.

Hailie Bonz

Hailie Bonz is a senior at Urbandale High School. She is also the student body president and a student representative on the school board.

She is an advocate for youth leadership and an activist for intellectual freedom. Over the years, Hailie's love for books has seeped into various aspects of her life – from her dedicated volunteering at the public library to the numerous English and literary courses she has eagerly embraced, Hailie's intellectual curiosity is fueled by the spectrum of viewpoints she encounters through books. As a sophomore, she translated her lifelong passion into advocacy when she vehemently opposed book banning at a school board meeting in September 2021. Since then, she's been fighting to preserve students' agency to exercise intellectual freedom and access to books.

Laurie Halse Anderson

Laurie Halse Anderson is a *New York Times* bestselling author whose writing spans young readers, teens, and adults. Her 2019 memoir-in-verse, *SHOUT*, about surviving sexual assault at the age of thirteen and a manifesta for the #MeToo era, has received widespread critical acclaim and is Laurie's eighth *New York Times* bestselling book. *SHOUT* was named a Best Book of the Year by TIME and NPR, among others. Her titles also include the groundbreaking National Book Award finalist and Printz Honor Book *Speak* as well as the critically acclaimed novels *Wintergirls*, *The Impossible Knife of Memory*, *Fever 1793*, and *Chains*. In 2023, she was awarded the [Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award](#), which is given annually to a person or organization for their outstanding contribution to children's and young adult literature. Anderson has also received both the Margaret Edwards Award and the ALAN Award for her contributions to young adult literature. She has also been honored by the National Coalition Against Censorship in recognition of her fight to combat the censoring of literature.

Challenged titles in Iowa: SPEAK/Macmillan, SHOUT/Penguin Young Readers

Malinda Lo

Malinda Lo is the *New York Times* bestselling author of seven novels, including most recently *A Scatter of Light*. Her novel *Last Night at the Telegraph Club* won the National Book Award, the Stonewall Book Award, the Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature, a Printz Honor, and was an LA Times Book Prize finalist. Her books have received 15 starred reviews and have been finalists for multiple awards, including the Andre Norton Award and the Lambda Literary Award. Malinda's short fiction and nonfiction has been published by *The New York Times*, NPR, *The Horn Book*, and multiple anthologies. Malinda has been honored by the Carnegie Corporation as a Great Immigrant, and she is a two-time nominee for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award.

Born in China, Malinda immigrated to the United States as a child with her family to escape the oppression of the Communist government. Growing up in Boulder, CO, Malinda was taught that America was a place of freedom and possibility. Banning books due to the themes, ideas, or viewpoints shared through them is in direct contradiction to these ideals. Malinda writes LGBTQ-centered stories to help young adults who are still on their coming-of-age journeys to discover who they are, and who live in communities where their identities are stigmatized.

She earned a B.A. in Economics and Chinese Studies from Wellesley College; a Master's Degree in Regional Studies—East Asia from Harvard University; and a Master's Degree in Cultural Anthropology from Stanford University. She lives in Massachusetts with her wife and their dog.

Challenged titles in Iowa: LAST NIGHT AT THE TELEGRAPH CLUB/Penguin Young Readers, A SCATTER OF LIGHT/Penguin Young Readers)

Counsel

Dan Novack is Vice President and Associate General Counsel. He counsels imprints on First Amendment, copyright, and publishing law and is the primary legal contact for the company's Intellectual Freedom task force.

Christy Hickman is General Counsel and Associate Executive Director of Advocacy Services at ISEA. She is the primary legal contact for ISEA members.