



# TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION LOCAL 555

REPRESENTING THE RAMP, OPERATIONS, PROVISIONING, AND FREIGHT AGENTS OF SOUTHWEST AIRLINES  
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September 17, 2024

Brothers and Sisters,

Your Local Executive Board wanted to inform you that the first arbitration for our Aircraft Cleaning Group Grievance took place on Monday, September 16, 2024.

The Company continues to fight our Local on this matter, including a successful appeal of an earlier decision through the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. This appeal ruled that our Local had not met the timeframes set forth in the "Black Book" contract, when the aircraft cleaning grievance was originally submitted in 2015.

This first arbitration is focused only on the timeliness of the filing of the grievance. Considering that our new contract was ratified on March 21<sup>st</sup> of this year, your Local Executive Board wanted to ensure that this grievance was filed in a timely manner following the guidelines that the 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court laid out. A victory in this arbitration would allow our Local to take the next steps to hold an arbitration over the merits of the case. The merits being that the Company has been continuously, and knowingly, violating "Article 5 – Classifications" of our Collective Bargaining Agreement by using contract companies to perform aircraft cleaning.

Given the significance of this arbitration and how it could potentially impact our membership systemwide, we decided that this arbitration would be presented by a combination of our legal representatives and executive board members. Together, we are prepared to face the Company on this matter and fight for what TWU Local 555 deserves, ensuring job security for our Members, while protecting the integrity of our contract.

We are hoping to have a decision by the end of the year and will continue to provide updates on the status of this Group Grievance as they become available.

In solidarity,

Abilio Villaverde  
President