The NYAG sued to destroy the NRA and seize its assets. The NYAG lost that bid before the jury entered the box, because its political prosecution violated the First Amendment.

So, after vowing to wield state power against the NRA, at trial Letitia James was in the opposite posture: suing to recover funds for, not from, the Association.

In that pursuit, James did manage to obtain a jury verdict of $6 million in the NRA’s favor for dated abuses of the Association by a few long ago terminated vendors and insiders. In fact, the NYAG was forced to drop every single claim alleging “whistleblower retaliation” against lower-level NRA employees, along with several allegations concerning insider transactions.

Although a few allegations about whistleblowers and “related party” transactions survived, the NYAG conceded that the NRA adopted an unassailable whistleblower policy after 2020. And of 10 related-party transactions of which the NRA was accused at trial, the jury found that the NRA Audit Committee properly reviewed and ratified 8 of them.

The NYAG did sue one current NRA executive: Secretary and General Counsel John Frazer. The jury ruled against the NYAG, finding no cause to remove him.

The NYAG did not bother to contest what the evidence showed: that political animus drove this lawsuit and other New York government hostilities. The jury was not permitted to rule on what legal effect, if any, the government’s viewpoint-based animus should have. But the United States Supreme Court will hear a related case brought by the NRA against New York officials next month.

The NRA looks forward to concluding these proceedings – eager to discuss its record of good governance for the better part of the last decade.