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Nebraska Supreme Court Upholds Decision Terminating a State Trooper Affiliated with the Ku Klux Klan

OMAHA, Neb. (March 3, 2009) – On Friday, February 27, the Nebraska Supreme Court upheld the decision to terminate a state trooper due to his membership in a group affiliated with the Ku Klux Klan.

Baird Holm's David Kramer and Quinn Vandenberg submitted an amicus brief pro bono on behalf of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) in support of the district court's decision to uphold the termination of the state trooper. The ADL, which fights bigotry by monitoring hate groups and extremists, filed the brief urging the Court to uphold the termination of Henderson due to his knowing and willful affiliation with a group associated with the Ku Klux Klan. The Nebraska Supreme Court's decision was made based in part on the analysis used in this brief.

After an initial hearing, the Court asked the parties to brief and argue several issues raised by ADL in its amicus brief. Following re-argument, the Supreme Court issued a decision upholding a district court's decision vacating an arbitrator's award which reinstated a state trooper to employment. He was fired because he was a member of the Knights Party, a group tied to the KKK.

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