



Districts of Kansas & Western Missouri

Civil Jury Verdict Report

D. Kan. & W.D. Mo.

Issue 8 – December 2022

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DECEMBER 2022 CIVIL VERDICT SUMMARY

Parties: *LoganTree LP v. Garmin International, Inc.*
Case No.: 6:17-cv-01217 Judge: Hon. Eric F. Melgren
Location: D. Kan. (Wichita, KS)
Attorneys: (P) – James Sherry & Hossain Arnold Shokouhi
(D) – Adam Seitz & Megan Redmond

This patent infringement case brought by LoganTree LP alleged that Garmin's accelerometer-based activity trackers infringe its U.S. Patent No. 6,059,576 (the '576 Patent). The jury was asked to decide whether Garmin had infringed three separate Claims of the '576 Patent.

Verdict: The jury answered "No" as to all three Claims resulting in a full defense verdict.

Parties: *Reddiar v. Wilkie*
Case No.: 4:20-cv-00410-SRB Judge: Hon. Stephen R. Bough
Location: WDMO (KC, MO)
Attorneys: (P) – Mark Meyer & Edward Stump
(D) – Elizabeth Hatting & Nicholas Kennedy

Plaintiff, Dr. Venugopal Sankaranarayana Reddiar brought this Civil Rights suit alleging retaliation and reprisal creating a hostile work environment. Plaintiff claimed the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) terminated him in retaliation for engaging in the EEO process or other protected activities.

Verdict: The jury found in favor of the plaintiff, Dr. Reddiar, and awarded \$210,000.00 in damages.

Parties: *Sterling Owens v. Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas*

Case No.: 2:21-cv-02185 Judge: Hon. Kathryn H. Vratil

Location: D. Kan. (KC, KS)

Attorneys: (P) – Bert Braud, Dennis Egan & Cooper Mach
(D) – Ryan Denk & Spencer Low

Plaintiff Owens was hired as a lineman in March of 2013 by The Kansas City Board of Public Utilities (“BPU”), an administrative agency of the defendant Unified Government. Mr. Owens asserted that the defendant discriminated against him based on race, retaliated against him and maintained a racially hostile work environment, all in violation of 42 U.S.C. § 1981.

Verdict: The jury found in favor of defendant on all claims: the race discrimination claim; the hostile work environment claim and the retaliation claim.

Parties: *Rayfield v. Miller, et al.*

Case No.: 21-4059-cv-c-MDH Judge: Hon. M. Douglas Harpool

Location: WDMO (Jefferson City, MO)

Attorneys: (P) – Kirk Holman & Brandon Corl
(D) – H. Peter Huber & Eliot Gusdorf

Plaintiff Mayfield worked for the Missouri House of Representatives from August 29, 2011, until his termination on August 6, 2020; he served as a Legislative Specialist II at the time. Defendant Miller was Assistant Chief Clerk in 2013 and was plaintiff’s direct supervisor until 2018, until she was promoted to Chief Clerk. Plaintiff alleged he was wrongfully terminated under the First Amendment in retaliation for his advocating via e-mail for a mask mandate in the Capitol building during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Verdict: The jury found in favor of the plaintiff, awarding unspecified actual and punitive damages.

Parties: *Eric Bowers v. The Fat Plant Society, LLC, et al.*
Case No.: 4:21-cv-00788-GAF Judge: Hon. Gary A. Fenner
Location: WDMO (KC, MO)
Attorneys: (P) – David A. Weber
(D) – Sara Weilert Gillette & Jaime Warren Fernandez

Plaintiff claimed copyright infringement based upon his copyrighted image being posted on a website and represented to be copyright-free.

Verdict: The jury determined the copyright infringement was innocent and awarded plaintiff \$6,000.00.

DID YOU KNOW?

The United States Courthouse in Wichita, which serves as one of three courthouse locations for the United States District Court for the District of Kansas, was constructed in 1932 and housed the U.S. Post Office until 1968. The postal workroom was converted into two courtrooms in 1986. The courthouse has been listed in the *National Register of Historic Places* since 1989. Bedford limestone was primarily utilized in constructing the building, which was designed in art deco architectural style. The lobby mural *Pioneers in Kansas* was painted by J. Ward Lockwood (1894-1963), whose southwestern landscapes were based on observed reality utilizing contrasting paint surfaces.

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