

Press Release

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Philosophy Professor Takes on College with Help from Hahn Loeser + Parks LLP

June 30, 2004 — Cleveland, OH — Hahn Loeser + Parks LLP has taken, on a pro bono basis, the controversial case between James Tuttle, Ph.D. and Lakeland Community College. What began in March of 2003 with a letter of complaint from a student has escalated to a lawsuit, filed today in U.S. District Court by Hahn Loeser on behalf of Dr. Tuttle.

“Lakeland’s decision to silence an instructor with dissenting views must not be allowed to stand. Nothing less than the soul of post-secondary education is at stake,” said Hahn Loeser Partner, Jeffrey A. Brauer.

Dr. Tuttle, a former professor of Philosophy at Lakeland Community College in Kirtland, Ohio, has filed a complaint in the U.S. District Court against the school, Dean James L. Brown, Ph.D. and President Morris W. Beverage, Jr. for allegedly reducing his teaching “duties” as punishment for disclosing his religion to his students during philosophy class.

Dr. Tuttle is asking the court to enter a judgment finding that the defendants have violated federal and state law by denying him his First Amendment rights as secured to him by the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution. By retaliating against Dr. Tuttle, the defendants have denied Dr. Tuttle’s due process rights, as secured to him by the Constitution according to the complaint.

Dr. Tuttle has asked the court to order the defendants to reinstate him to his prior position, together with all rights of seniority and benefits, including his selection of classes as is customary at his level of seniority. The complaint also requests the

court to order the defendants to cease directing Dr. Tuttle to refrain from referencing his own religious views in his coursework at Lakeland.

“Dr. Tuttle’s case represents the type of matter that we at Hahn Loeser + Parks value greatly,” says Robert J. Fogarty, Partner at Hahn Loeser. “On the surface, the case is about one person’s response to an attack on his rights, but more broadly, this case symbolizes the importance of protecting the Constitution. Hahn Loeser has a more than 80 year history of representing and protecting the legal rights of our clients and we are pleased to represent Dr. Tuttle in this milestone case.”

Established in 1920, Hahn Loeser + Parks LLP is a full-service law firm of more than 100 attorneys with offices in Cleveland, Columbus, and Akron, Ohio; and South Florida. More information on the Firm can be found at www.hahnlaw.com.

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