

NEWS RELEASES

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# Husch Blackwell Prevails in Discrimination Lawsuit for CoxHealth

## **JURY MAKES SHORT WORK OF PLAINTIFF'S CLAIMS OF RACE, NATIONAL ORIGIN, WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION**

Husch Blackwell earned a victory in Missouri state court for CoxHealth, the Springfield-based healthcare system and seventh-largest private employee in the state of Missouri, in connection with an employment law dispute with a former employee. After less than two-and-a-half hours of deliberation, a jury returned a verdict finding in favor of CoxHealth on all claims.

The lawsuit was filed with the Circuit County Court of Greene County, Missouri. The plaintiff, a Certified Nursing Assistant, alleged race, national origin, workers' compensation, and disability discrimination. The lawsuit also contained claims of retaliation and sought actual, compensatory and punitive damages, including an award of costs, expenses, expert witness fees, and attorneys' fees.

"Our client was confident that it complied with all workplace rules and regulations and that these claims were without merit," said Husch Blackwell partner Bryan Wade, the lead lawyer on the matter. "Our team is grateful to have been trusted with this important litigation and the opportunity to demonstrate our case to the jury."

The Husch Blackwell team was led by Wade and included partner Ginger Gooch. The case is *Vicky Franco v. Lester E. Cox Medical Centers and Cynthia Myler*, Circuit Court of Greene County, Missouri, Case No.1731-CC00456.