PRO BONO IN ACTION

Winston Wins Compensatory & Punitive Damages for Inmate Whose Medical Needs were Ignored

AUGUST 13, 2024

Winston attorneys obtained an extremely favorable verdict for our client who sued an Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) prison warden for deliberate indifference to his serious medical needs. Following a federal trial, a jury awarded our client compensatory damages as well as punitive damages.

Our client was injured after the prison warden refused to honor his alternate cuffing permit. The permit, which was approved by a prison doctor, allowed our client's hands to be secured at his sides or in the front instead of behind his back to alleviate his chronic shoulder pain and injuries. The prison warden denied renewal of the cuffing permit without any explanation. Consequently, our client suffered reinjury and sharp and ongoing shoulder pain after his hands were cuffed behind his back during a routine shakedown.

"The Winston team triumphed over major evidentiary hurdles to secure this victory for our client, and we are thrilled he received both compensatory and punitive damages. Our client, understandably, burst into tears when the verdict was read," said Chicago partner **Eric White**.

"We hope the punitive damages award sends a clear message to IDOC officials that they cannot capriciously deny medical permits, or they will face serious consequences," added Eric White.

The Winston team that secured this victory included Chicago attorneys **Eric White**, **Maureen Rurka**, and **Ted Day**. They were assisted by CSR & pro bono administrator **Ken Berry** and trial technician **Rudy Radic**.

This representation is part of the Winston's Pro Bono Racial Justice & Equity CEASE Initiative. In 2020, Winston pledged 100,000 pro bono hours—an investment of $50 million—to advance racial equity. Learn more <u>here</u>.

<u>Learn more about Winston's commitment to excellence in serving the public interest here</u>.

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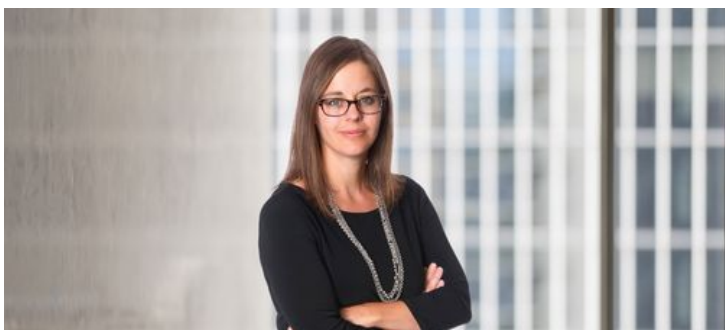
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