

## **SUMMARY STATEMENT**

*Irish v. Hall*

Docket No. 44794

In an appeal arising out of Kootenai County, the Idaho Supreme Court vacated the district court's order granting a directed verdict in favor of Jeffrey and Dona Hall. Dennis and Wanda Irish brought a defamation action against the Halls after the Halls changed their home wireless internet designation to read, "[D]ennis & [W]anda Irish stocking u2." At the conclusion of the Irishes' presentation of evidence at trial, the district court granted the Halls' motion for a directed verdict. The district court concluded the statement conveyed via the wireless designation was an opinion, and as such was protected under the First Amendment. The Irishes appealed the district court's order, and the Halls cross-appealed, challenging the district court's denial of attorney fees. On appeal, the Supreme Court held the statement "[D]ennis & [W]anda Irish stocking u2" was ambiguous and thus was for the jury to decide whether or not the statement was defamatory as alleged by the Irishes. Accordingly, the Court held that the district court erred when it granted the Halls' motion for a directed verdict, and the district court's order was vacated.