

MOSCOW, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19TH, 2023, AT 10:00 A.M.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO

RODNEY BRYAN DICKENSON,)	
)	
Plaintiff-Appellant,)	Docket No. 49694
)	
v.)	
)	
BENEWAH COUNTY SHERIFF,)	
DAVID C. RESSER as SHERIFF; and)	
BENEWAH COUNTY through its)	
BOARD OF COMMISISONERS,)	
JACK A. BUELL, as its CHAIR; and)	
JOHN DOES 1-10,)	
)	
Defendants-Respondents.)	
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Appeal from the District Court of the First Judicial District of the State of Idaho, Benewah County. Barbara Duggan, District Judge.

Douglas A. Piece, Attorney at Law, Coeur d’Alene, attorney for Appellant.

Lake City Law Group, PLLC, Coeur d’Alene, attorney for Respondents.

This is an appeal of a whistleblower case against the Benewah County Sheriff’s Office (“BCSO”), Benewah County Board of Commissioners, and former Benewah Sheriff, David Resser (collectively, the “County”). BCSO told Rodney Bryan Dickenson that his employment was terminated for violating law enforcement policy and ethics. Dickenson recorded meetings with the sheriff and undersheriff to, as Dickenson alleges, document malfeasance and illegal activities of some deputies. After being informed the County intended to terminate him, Dickenson requested a pre-termination hearing before the Benewah County Commissioners in June 2019. The Commissioners affirmed Dickenson’s dismissal after an executive session. Dickenson filed a complaint in district court alleging wrongful termination from his employment as a sergeant in violation of Idaho Code section 6-2101. The County moved for summary judgment on Dickenson’s complaint, which the district court granted, concluding Dickenson could not show he was engaged in a protected activity. Dickenson timely appeals.