

## **SUMMARY STATEMENT**

*Christiansen v. Potlatch #1 Financial Credit Union*

Docket No. 48256

This case concerned whether a trial court can appropriately grant summary judgment against a party when it failed to rule on that party's pending motion to compel discovery. Eric Christiansen filed a nine-count complaint against respondents, Michael Moser and Potlatch #1 Financial Credit Union ("P1FCU"), following a decision by the Lewiston Roundup Association ("LRA") to stop executing contracts with Christiansen for the production of motorsport events at the LRA's facility. The complaint alleged that Moser, a P1FCU employee and LRA member, improperly accessed information from Christiansen's P1FCU account and shared it with the LRA so that it could recreate his business model and produce motorsport events without him. The district court granted summary judgment in the Respondents' favor on each of Christiansen's claims. Christiansen appealed, arguing that the district court erred in granting summary judgment, failing to rule on Christiansen's motion to compel discovery, and denying Christiansen's motion to continue the summary judgment hearing.

The Idaho Supreme Court vacated the district court's orders and judgment in favor of Respondents and remanded the matter for further proceedings. The Court held that the district court abused its discretion in failing to rule on the merits of Christiansen's motion to compel discovery prior to considering Respondents' motions for summary judgment. Consequently, the Court vacated the district court's summary judgment orders and award of attorney fees, concluding that, on remand, the district court must first rule on the merits of Christiansen's motion to compel before determining how to proceed with any remaining motions.

\*\*\*This summary constitutes no part of the opinion of the Court, but has been prepared by court staff for the convenience of the public.\*\*\*