

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Dickenson v. Benewah County, Docket No. 49694

This is an appeal of a whistleblower case brought by Rodney Bryan Dickenson against the Benewah County Sheriff's Office ("BCSO"), Benewah County Board of Commissioners, and former Benewah County Sheriff, David Resser (collectively, the "County"). BCSO told Dickenson his employment was being terminated for violating law enforcement policy and ethics. Dickenson alleged his termination violated Idaho's Whistleblower Act because he was terminated for secretly recorded meetings with Sheriff Resser and Undersheriff Anthony Eells to document malfeasance and the illegal activities of some deputies. After unsuccessful attempts at administrative appeals, Dickenson filed a complaint in district court alleging wrongful termination from his employment as a sergeant in violation of Idaho Code sections 6-2101-2109, "because he communicated in good faith, with reasonable basis in fact, regarding a violation or suspected violation of the law." The County moved for summary judgment on Dickenson's complaint, which the district court granted, concluding Dickenson could not show he was fired for engaging in a protected activity. Dickenson timely appealed. The Idaho Supreme Court affirmed the district court's decision and held that the record was inadequate to reach the merits of Dickenson's claim under the Whistleblower Act.

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