

VF Law Establishes Precedent Protecting Attorney-Client Privilege in Oregon Supreme Court Win

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PORTLAND, OR—VF Law is pleased to announce that Partner Ryan Harris successfully argued *Hill v. Johnson* before the Oregon Supreme Court. The court’s decision upheld that communication regarding potential legal malpractice falls under the umbrella of attorney-client privilege. Thus, the court held that such communication cannot be used later against a client.

The case stems from a situation wherein plaintiff Thomas Hill filed a malpractice suit against his former attorney, Ronald M. Johnson, who sought documents and communications related to Johnson’s divorce that Johnson had shared with his attorneys. An earlier court decision found that the client must disclose the attorney’s files, but Harris and VF Law sought to have that decision overturned on appeal. That earlier case, now reversed, establishes a greater precedent in Oregon to what qualifies as protected legal communication.

The case law effectively sets what types of communication in malpractice cases between attorneys and their clients are protected. Thus, clients can rest assured that their discussions regarding malpractice cases with their attorneys cannot later be used against them in legal proceedings.