

HIGH-STAKES BUSINESS TORTS SUIT ENDS IN SUMMARY JUDGMENT FAVORING HODGSON RUSS CLIENTS

When a sales manager gave two weeks notice to end his employment with a wholesale supplier of paper products in New York State, his employer monitored his computer use and searched his home, resulting in a lawsuit commenced against him and his new employer and colleagues seeking seven-figure damages and equitable relief under conversion of property, misappropriation of trade secrets, breach of fiduciary duty, tortious interference with contractual and business relationships, and unfair competition theories of liability. At the close of discovery, Hodgson Russ partner Christian J. Soller successfully moved for summary judgment on behalf of the former employee as well as his new employer and colleagues, resulting in the dismissal of the complaint on the basis that any information taken was either returned or too easily ascertainable to warrant protection and result in any competitive disadvantage to the plaintiff company.

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