

Tenth Circuit Rules in Favor of Appellants in Case Supported by Jenner & Block Amicus Brief

News

July 5, 2024

On July 5, the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in favor of the appellants in *Whitson v. Hanna*, reversing a district court decision, and holding that the Sheriff's Department and the County were responsible for the actions of a Sedgwick County Sheriff who sexually assaulted an intellectually disabled woman while transporting her between two jails.

Associate Mary Marshall, with supervision from Partner Jessica Ring Amunson, authored an amicus brief on behalf of Rights Behind Bars, National Police Accountability Center, the Southern Center for Human Rights, and MacArthur Justice Center, in support of the plaintiff. In the brief, they argued that trying to distinguish an assault based on whether it was done for personal gratification was an untenable and unconstitutional distinction. They also argued that incarcerated individuals who are assaulted by those responsible for their care deserve justice regardless of underlying motivations.

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Former associate Danny Li also supported the project.

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