

NEWS RELEASE

January 27th, 2020

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Megan Crowson, (608) 255-6663

Deaf Woman Denied Right to Interpreter in Court Takes Case to Wisconsin Supreme Court

Madison, Wis. – Attorney Susan R. Tyndall of Habush Habush & Rottier S.C. is acting as counsel, filing a “friend of the court” brief in the Wisconsin Supreme Court, for several organizations championing the rights of citizens with handicaps, *Amicus Curiae* Disability Rights Wisconsin, National Disability Rights Network and National Association of the Deaf, in a case considering individuals’ rights to an interpreter in court and to a meaningful appeal.

In a recent involuntary commitment hearing held by the Waukesha County Circuit Court, a 19-year-old woman who is deaf was denied access to an interpreter and therefore was unable to understand the hearing or defend against the allegations. The organizations contend that the circuit court infringed upon the young woman’s due process rights by proceeding on two occasions within three days without any interpretation services.

On February 10th, 2020 at 1:30pm, the Wisconsin Supreme Court will hear this case, addressing not only the young woman’s rights, but also the rights of anyone who may require an interpreter. On behalf of the organizations, we have argued that interpreters are required to prevent such harm to Wisconsin citizens in future cases. We encourage those who are deaf and/or advocates of equal rights in the justice system to attend the hearing to help demonstrate to the court that these issues are important to the community. Pro bono interpreters will be available.

“Adopting these rules will help level the playing field for people with disabilities, granting them better access to the courts and an ability to defend themselves, rights undeniably infringed upon here, and will fulfill the express public policy of this state. Justice requires no less.” – Susan R. Tyndall, Counsel for *Amicus Curiae*

About Habush Habush & Rottier

Habush Habush & Rottier has served Wisconsin as a personal injury law firm since 1930. The firm handles cases from auto accidents to complex and difficult claims involving death or catastrophic injuries from medical negligence, product or machine defects, and construction negligence. The firm has more National Board of Trial Advocacy certified trial lawyers than any other law firm in the United States. The firm also lists more past presidents of state and national trial lawyer associations, attorneys named among the best lawyers in America and law school instructors than any other personal injury law firm in Wisconsin. The firm has offices located throughout Wisconsin including Milwaukee, Waukesha, Madison, Appleton, Green Bay, Racine, Kenosha, Lake Geneva, Wausau, West Bend, Rhinelander, Sheboygan and Stevens Point.

###