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William B. Schendel  
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Thomas F. Coleman, Ex. Dir.  
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Re: Univ. of Alaska v. Tumeo

Dear Tom,

Let me thank you very much for your part in our recent victory in Tumeo. I think it is the first published appellate court victory for domestic partner benefits, without regard to the sex of the partners. As such, it was great that it came out right.

As you may guess, the Supreme Court's opinion has received wide publicity. I've received phone calls from The Chronicle of Higher Education, all the Alaska media (including the Associated Press), and from attorneys around the country. I believe the opinion will soon be summarized in U. S. Law Week and Bureau of National Affairs specialty publications. It is perceived to be the leading opinion on the subject at the moment.

All this would not have been possible without the assistance of the amici, and especially Spectrum. In particular, I think that your briefing on the legislative background to the Alaska statute, especially the research you did on similar statutes in Maryland, Montana, Oregon, etc., was very impressive. As I expressed several times during the briefing process, I was particularly worried about the legislative history argument that the University raised, yet unable to do the necessary research regarding foreign statutes; you came through in that area, and wrote up the results of your result in a persuasive manner.

I think that it was also useful to have Spectrum on board in order to "round out" the viewpoints expressed by the same sex amici. Part of the formula in constructing a winning argument is to assure the court that the result being sought is within the realm of responsible public policy. Spectrum's brief, focusing as it did on extending benefits to unmarried opposite sex couples as well as same sex couples, gave the Court some assurance that it had the benefit of a full spectrum of reasoned public policy.

My clients and I were proud to be sitting at the same table with Spectrum and you.

Thank you again.

Sincerely yours,



William B. Schendel  
Attorney at Law

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