

# Husch Blackwell Beats Suit Alleging It Tried to Silence Critic of Wealthy Client

A Missouri ruling is likely to end a contentious nine-year dispute between a local activist who claims that Husch Blackwell LLP, an AmLaw 100 firm – used the legal system to squelch his speech rights, according to **Bloomberg Law**.

Reporter **Samson Habte** explains that the court's April 23 opinion highlights the difficulty of proving two types of tort claim – malicious prosecution and abuse of process – that disgruntled litigants could try to use to turn the tables on opposing parties and their lawyers.

The dispute started when John T. Impey ran for a school board seat and campaigned against a \$3 million bond proposal that L.J. Hart & Co. and its owner, Larry Joe Hart, underwrote. Husch Blackwell brought defamation and tortious interference lawsuit against Impey on Hart's behalf.

The firm obtained a preliminary injunction that prohibited Impey from repeating some accusations against Hart; but when the campaign ended – and the bond initiative failed – Husch Blackwell advised Hart to drop the defamation case.

**Read the Bloomberg article.**