



## **Jackson Walker Wins Summary Judgment for Spaeth Communications Against Mike Leach**

Jackson Walker L.L.P. secured a big win for its client, Spaeth Communications, Inc., in a defamation case filed by former Texas Tech head football Coach Mike Leach in the 99th Judicial District Court in Lubbock County, Texas.

Mike Leach was terminated from Texas Tech after an investigation into allegations that he mistreated a student athlete who had suffered a concussion. Leach sued Spaeth Communications, the cable television network ESPN, and former ESPN college football analyst Craig James, alleging claims for defamation, tortious interference and conspiracy. The events surrounding Leach's dismissal received substantial media attention. Leach purportedly sued Spaeth Communications for its work on behalf of the James family.

In its defense of Spaeth Communications, Jackson Walker focused on positioning the case for summary dismissal prior to trial. The district court granted Spaeth Communications' motion for summary judgment, which was based on substantial truth, among other grounds, dismissing all claims. The court also granted summary judgment for co-Defendants ESPN and James.

Jackson Walker partners Scott McLaughlin and Shannon Teicher, and associate Ryan Pittman represented Spaeth Communications. Mr. McLaughlin is a labor and employment trial lawyer, Ms. Teicher specializes in media law trial work and Mr. Pittman similarly focuses his practice on media defense.

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