

Iowa Supreme Court Unanimously Reverses Murder Conviction

DES MOINES, IOWA (December 2020) — Following a conviction for Second Degree Murder in Dubuque County, the family of Fontae Buelow turned to The Weinhardt Law Firm to handle the appeal. The Firm's advocacy resulted in unanimous reversals of the conviction in both the Iowa Court of Appeals and the Iowa Supreme Court.

Described in state-wide media as “a murder case that is dividing Dubuque.” Mr. Buelow was convicted of murder for the stabbing death of his girlfriend. Mr. Buelow maintained that she stabbed herself. The young woman had a long history of suicide attempts and severe mental illness that the jury was not allowed to know about because the trial judge ruled that her medical records and other first-hand accounts of her behavior were barred by evidence rules related to hearsay and character evidence.

The Iowa Supreme Court agreed with the Firm's argument that evidence of mental health problems and documented suicidal behaviors is admissible and could have changed the outcome of the trial. Mr. Buelow's conviction was overturned. The case was widely covered by the media. The Des Moines Register covered the case [here](#). KCRG, a Cedar Rapids television station, covered the case [here](#).

About The Weinhardt Law Firm

The Weinhardt Law Firm is a boutique firm that specializes in the litigation of complex civil and criminal cases. The firm has extensive experience in all types of civil and criminal matters, but its attorneys concentrate their practices in complex business disputes, the defense of white collar criminal matters, and high-profile investigations.

The firm practices in federal and state courts in Iowa and across the United States. The Weinhardt Law Firm is located at 2600 Grand Avenue, Suite 450, Des Moines, less than 10 minutes from the U.S. Courthouse and the Polk County Courthouse, and eight minutes from the Des Moines International Airport. To learn more, visit www.WeinhardtLaw.com or call (515) 244-3100.