

## Press Release

### **Freeborn Attorney Kirk Watkins Receives Excellence in Pro Bono Service Award from U.S. District Court and Chicago's Federal Bar Association Chapter**

**CHICAGO – May 30, 2017** – [Freeborn & Peters LLP](#) is pleased to announce that [Kirk Watkins](#), an Associate in the firm's Litigation Practice Group, has received an Award for Excellence in Pro Bono Service from the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois in conjunction with the Chicago Chapter of the Federal Bar Association.

Mr. Watkins, who was honored at the 18th Annual Excellence in Pro Bono and Public Interest Service Award Ceremony in Chicago on May 24, was recognized for his work on behalf of Raul C. Gomez in the *Gomez v. Randall, et al.*, Case No. 11 C 1793. Magistrate Judge Mary M. Rowland of the Northern District nominated Mr. Watkins for the award, which honors attorneys for their contributions in helping people most in need of assistance before the federal court.

"The firm is very proud of Kirk's work on the Gomez case, and we congratulate him on the much-deserved recognition for his commitment to pro bono legal service," said Freeborn's Co-Managing Partner [Michael A. Moynihan](#).

Mr. Watkins represented Mr. Gomez, an inmate in state prison in Joliet, Ill., in a civil rights case in federal district and appellate court in Chicago. The case concerned injuries that Mr. Gomez sustained from a stray shotgun pellet wound as a bystander to an altercation in prison. Mr. Gomez filed claims of excessive force and failure to receive treatment against the defendants, which included two prison guards and a medical technician. Mr. Watkins has worked on the case since 2011, helping to reverse an early dismissal and ultimately prevailing on multiple motions leading up to trial, culminating with a favorable settlement for Mr. Gomez.

At Freeborn, Mr. Watkins concentrates his practice on complex commercial litigation, including corporate and securities litigation, ERISA litigation, post-closing disputes, shareholder and derivative disputes, fiduciary liability matters, and class action defense matters. He earned his J.D. (*cum laude*) from Northwestern University School of Law and his Bachelor of Arts from Northwestern University.

#### **ABOUT FREEBORN & PETERS**

Freeborn & Peters LLP is a full-service law firm, headquartered in Chicago, with international capabilities and offices in Springfield, Ill.; Richmond, Va.; New York City; and Tampa, Fla. Freeborn is always looking ahead and seeking to find better ways to serve its clients. It takes a proactive approach to ensure its clients are more informed, prepared and able to achieve greater success – not just now, but also in the future. While the firm serves clients across a very broad range of sectors, it has also pioneered an interdisciplinary approach that serves the specific needs of targeted industries.

Freeborn is a firm that genuinely lives up to its core values of integrity, effectiveness, teamwork, caring and commitment, and embodies them through high standards of client service and responsive action. Its

lawyers build close and lasting relationships with clients and are driven to help them achieve their legal and business objectives.

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