

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 11, 2021

Christian University Sued for Discrimination

Employee Alleges University Refused to Hire Him for a Full-Time Position Because He Is Gay

Seattle, Wash. – Jéaux Rinedahl, an adjunct nursing instructor at Seattle Pacific University's School of Health Services/Lydia Green Nursing Program in Seattle, has sued the Christian university for sexual orientation discrimination.

The lawsuit states that Jéaux Rinedahl, a devout Christian and gay man, was an excellent adjunct nursing instructor, loved by his students, respected by his peers, and someone who received consistent positive reviews. But according to the lawsuit, after Mr. Rinedahl applied for a full-time, tenure-track Assistant/Associate Professor of Nursing position in the undergraduate nursing program, he was told that the university rejected his application and would not consider him for the position because of his sexual orientation. According to his claims, SPU told Mr. Rinedahl that although he could still serve as an adjunct (part-time) instructor, he was not eligible for the full-time professor position because he is gay.

"Despite the equality that courts have recognized in establishing that gay men and women cannot be discriminated against, it breaks my heart that SPU still treats us differently as being unequal to all others who teach at the university," Rinedahl says.

Mr. Rinedahl is represented by Erin Norgaard, Brian Dolman, and Dan Kalish of [HKM Employment Attorneys](http://www.hkm.com). "This is sexual orientation discrimination in violation of state and city law," said Norgaard. "The sad part is that Professor Rinedahl holds SPU's nursing program in high regard and loves the students and his colleagues, and, by all accounts, the feeling appears mutual. We hope the university does the right thing and allows Professor

Rinedahl to apply and be fully considered for the full-time position based on his experience and excellent credentials.”

A petition has been started to encourage SPU to provide Professor Rinedahl with a full-time faculty position. This petition, along with a copy of the complaint and other information about the case, can be found at <https://hkm.com/rinedahl>.

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SOURCE: HKM Employment Attorneys LLP