

VIRGINIA LAWYERS WEEKLY

Vol. 23, No. 32

January 12, 2009

www.valawyersweekly.com

VIRGINIA'S LARGEST VERDICTS OF 2008

DISCRIMINATION

#1

\$15.2 million

Worldwide Network Services LLC v. DynCorp Int'l LLC

Type of Case: Racial discrimination

Court: U.S. District Court, Alexandria

Attorneys: Michele A. Roberts, Anthony T. Pierce, Debra A. Drake, Washington

Summary: An all-white jury found that DynCorp International LLC was motivated by racial discrimination in the termination of its subcontract with Worldwide Network Services LLC. DynCorp had awarded the contract to Worldwide as part of its communications and information technology work for the U.S. State Department in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In addition to affirming the jury verdict, which included \$10 million in punitive damages, Judge Gerald Bruce Lee awarded Worldwide \$1.82 million in attorneys' fees and \$2.55 million for contract claims based on unpaid invoices. Key testimony described a company dinner at which a DynCorp employee was recognized for "taking down" Worldwide and a letter purporting to be from Worldwide's African-American president was read aloud in Ebonics.

The case is on appeal to the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.



ROBERTS



PIERCE



DRAKE

AKIN GUMP
STRAUSS HAUER & FELD LLP