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Course: EDAL 560 K-12 Law
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Case Analysis

James E. Johnson's v Independent School District Number 709

Case Analysis Relevant Facts: Relator James Johnson, a tenured mathematics teacher since 1967, was terminated by the Independent School District No. 709 in Duluth. He received a letter on September 17, 1987, from the Director of Secondary Education, Richard Wallin, who outlined various directions Johnson must follow to improve his teaching performance. The district expressed its concerns regarding Johnson's teaching methods, interpersonal skills, and ability to implement the school curriculum. "On January 13, 1988, Johnson was charged with inefficiency in teaching, conduct unbecoming a teacher, and insubordination, and was suspended without pay, effective immediately." The charges concerning his deficiencies were as follows: "(1) poor rapport with students; (2) insufficient communications with parents; (3) lack of student progress; (4) inappropriate use of class time; and (5) failure to follow the school's adopted mathematics curriculum" (LEAGLE, n.d.). Johnson brought his issue before the court and was found guilty. A hearing to determine the court's decision lasted 29 days. On May 11, 1989, the examiner issued his "findings and concluded that while there were insufficient grounds for terminating on the basis of conduct unbecoming a teacher, there was substantial evidence to recommend termination for insubordination and inefficiency in teaching" (LEAGLE, n.d.).

Legal Issue: Whether the school board's decision to terminate Johnson's employment was supported by substantial evidence.

Opinion of the Court: Yes.

Reasons for the Court Opinion: Because the court found that there was sufficient evidence to support the school board in their decision to revoke Johnson's employment.

Reference

In Re Termination Of James E. Johnson. (n.d.). LEAGLE. Retrieved on October 31, 2021, from <https://www.leagle.com/decision/1990794451nw2d3431768>

Your total Score = 50/50

Overview & Comments

Excellent summary Nicole.

Summary of Relevant Facts - Superb

Description of the legal issues - Very precise

Court's answer - Perfectly concise

Reasons for Court's Opinion - Excellent

Very useful references

As always, thanks for the great detailed work, Nicole.

Thought for YOUR day

For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."

Jeremiah 29:11 (NLT)