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Chris Kluwe Agreement With Vikings A Game-Changer For LGBT Awareness In Professional Sports

MINNEAPOLIS – (August 19, 2014) Chris Kluwe and the Minnesota Vikings have resolved their differences with respect to Kluwe’s departure from the team and allegations that he raised in January 2014. As a result of their agreement, the Vikings will continue to actively work to build awareness of LGBT issues within its organization as well as within professional sports.

“As one of the most respected sports franchises in the country, the Vikings have committed to continue to positively impact how homophobia is dealt with in professional sports,” says Clayton Halunen, the Minneapolis-based attorney who Kluwe hired to represent him in his claims against the Vikings.

“Vikings ownership and management is truly putting its money where its mouth is,” says Halunen. “The team will make contributions to a number of local and national LGBT-related non-profits that will have a substantial and material benefit in the fight for LGBT rights through education and training. One of the charities is the Mathew Shepard Foundation - a charity run by the parents of a young college student who was beaten and left to die on a fence in Laramie, Wyoming because he was gay. The organization travels throughout the United States with its ‘Erase Hate’ campaign to educate law enforcement on hate crime recognition and prosecution.” Some of the other charities are sports-related and include one run by retired and openly gay NFL player, Wade Davis.

According to Halunen, “As Chris always stated, this is not about money but about changing the culture of professional sports that tolerates homophobia at any level.” “For Chris,” says Halunen, “This agreement with the Vikings is a big step forward in that direction.”

Kluwe will receive no proceeds from the agreement. As we said from the start, this dispute was never about money or ego. We were adamant from the start that what we wanted was for Chris’s name and reputation as both a football player and human being to be cleared,” says Halunen.

“To its credit, the Vikings conducted a thorough and objective investigation into Kluwe’s allegations,” says Halunen. “And they made public enough parts of that investigation to corroborate Chris’s story.”

“Chris Kluwe is a man of the utmost integrity,” Halunen adds. “He isn’t afraid to stand up for what he believes in, and that’s something that everyone can respect. It’s been a privilege to serve as his attorney for the seven and one-half months it took to reach this agreement.”

About Halunen & Associates

With offices in Minneapolis and Chicago, the law firm of Halunen & Associates offers experienced legal representation to protect people who have suffered a hostile work environment, experienced retaliation and illegal discrimination on the job. Halunen also offers experienced legal representation to individuals who are blowing the whistle on corporate fraud and on government fraud under the False Claims Act and other statutes. For more information on Halunen & Associates, visit the firm’s website at www.halunenlaw.com.

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