

Alabama Court of Civil Appeals Affirms Summary Judgment for The Anniston Star

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In *Little v. Consolidated Publishing*, a libel suit by a public official against *The Anniston Star*, the City Councilman claimed the newspaper libeled him by publishing statements of another councilman that there was “buzz” in the community that the plaintiff had recommended a female contractor because of a personal relationship.

The newspaper had received summary judgment at the trial level. The Alabama Court of Civil Appeals had reversed the summary judgment in a 3-2 opinion. However, after a petition for rehearing was filed, the Court requested oral argument and, on May 13, 2011, withdrew the prior opinion and issued a 3-2 opinion *AFFIRMING* summary judgment for *The Anniston Star*.