

KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU TOP EXECUTIVE ADMITS TO FIRING MAN FOR SUPPORTING GAY MARRIAGE

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According to court documents filed this week, Sam Moore, former president of Kentucky Farm Bureau, admitted under oath his company fired a man in 2005 for publicly supporting gay marriage.

At the time, Rev. Todd F. Eklof, the minister at Clifton Unitarian Church in Louisville, Kentucky, had also been working as a video producer for KFB, Kentucky's largest agriculture organization and insurance company. In November 2004 he told his congregation he would no longer perform weddings for anyone until he's free to perform them for gays and lesbians too. After his stance was reported by the local news media, Eklof claims KFB officials reprimanded and demoted him, and asked for his resignation. He was fired less than two months later and has been in the process of suing the company ever since.

Until now KFB officials have claimed Eklof was fired for "serious attendance and performance issues." But during his May 30th deposition, Sam Moore, who was president of the organization at the time of Eklof's dismissal, admitted it was his public stance supporting gay marriage that got him fired. Moore, who still serves on KFB's Board of Directors, is the first KFB executive to corroborate Eklof's claim that he was fired for supporting gay marriage.

Excerpt from Moore's Deposition

Q. What did you know about why he was terminated?

A. The issue of taking his public stance on a very controversial issue?

Q. And that was?

A. The marriages, I think, I think that was the main thing.

KFB officials have also claimed that Eklof's stance violated a company policy against employees taking "public stances on high profile issues." But Eklof, who took many such stances before he was fired, claims no such policy ever existed. During their depositions, Eklof's former supervisor, Gary Huddleston, and KFB's Chief Executive Officer, David S. Beck, claimed they were never aware of Eklof's other stances. Yet, according to Sam Moore's sworn testimony, he and Beck had spoken numerous times about the matter.

A. We have had conversations about the inappropriateness of doing that, yes.

Q. "We" would mean who?

A. Some of the board members, and I'm sure Mr. Beck.

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