

Bond Case Briefs

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COLLECTIVE BARGAINING - COLORADO

School District No. 1 in County of Denver v. Denver Classroom Teachers Association

Supreme Court of Colorado - January 14, 2019 - P.3d - 2019 WL 179170 - 2019 CO 5

Teachers' union brought action against school district for breach of collective bargaining agreements.

After a jury trial, the District Court found the district liable. District appealed and union cross-appealed. The Court of Appeals affirmed. A petition for certiorari was granted.

The Supreme Court of Colorado held that collective bargaining agreements were ambiguous, and thus interpretation was properly submitted to jury.

Provisions in collective bargaining agreements between school district and teachers union, which required extra payment for "In-Service Education," were fairly susceptible of being interpreted to include English learning acquisition training, and thus interpretation of agreements was factual question properly submitted to jury on union's breach of contract claim against district for failing to compensate teachers; even though agreements had management rights clause, English learning acquisition training could be understood as training or education given to employed teachers, and such training could reasonably be deemed program of instruction or training intended to increase skills and competence of teachers who work with English language learners.