

# Firm Prevails in Third Circuit Free Speech Appeal

**August 2018**

On August 28, 2018, the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit overturned an earlier District Court ruling and in favor of Williams & Connolly pro bono client Kelly Conard. Ms. Conard had sued her governmental employer for first amendment retaliation and defamation, but her lawsuit was dismissed. Associate **Eric Hamilton** argued the appeal, which involved questions relating to the applicable standard to apply to protected speech involving former governmental employees. In a precedential opinion, the court adopted Conard's arguments and remanded the case to the trial court, where discovery will now proceed. The court's opinion "thank[ed] Conard's attorneys on this appeal for having represented her in a fine way on a pro bono basis."

The Williams & Connolly team representing Ms. Conrad included **Nicholas J. Boyle** and **Eric J. Hamilton**.