

---

# Kluwer Trademark Blog

## Trademark case: Alliance for Good Government v. Coalition for Better Government, USA

Brian Craig (Wolters Kluwer Legal & Regulatory US) · Thursday, August 12th, 2021

The district court's attorney fee award was reasonable and did not violate First Amendment freedom of speech.

In a trademark infringement case between two civic organizations that promote political candidates in Louisiana, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit affirmed a judgment by the district court awarding over \$148,000 in attorney fees. In a split 2 to 1 decision, the majority concluded that the district court properly added the principal and attorney for defendant Coalition for Better Government as a party post-judgment, as the principal litigated in an unreasonable manner by submitting meritless court filings and behaving unreasonably during discovery. The majority decided that the attorney fee award is reasonable and does not violate First Amendment freedom of speech. Circuit Judge James Dennis wrote a strongly worded dissenting opinion arguing that the majority does violence to the text of the Lanham Act by expanding the statute into noncommercial political speech protected by the First Amendment (*Alliance for Good Government v. Coalition for Better Government*, May 19, 2021, Higginbotham, P.).

Case date: 19 May 2021

Case number: No. 20-30233

Court: United States Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit

A full summary of this case has been published on [Kluwer IP Law](#).

---

*To make sure you do not miss out on regular updates from the Kluwer Trademark Blog, please [subscribe here](#).*

## Kluwer IP Law

The **2022 Future Ready Lawyer survey** showed that 79% of lawyers think that the importance of legal technology will increase for next year. With Kluwer IP Law you can navigate the

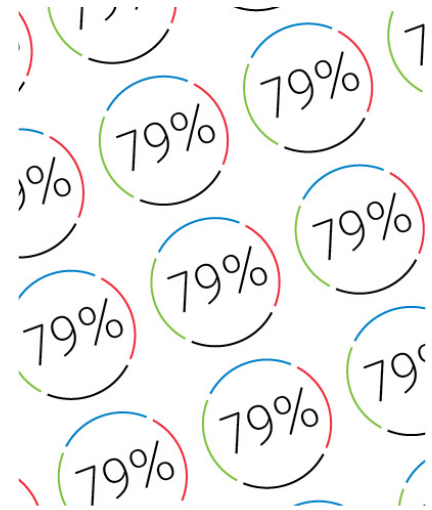
increasingly global practice of IP law with specialized, local and cross-border information and tools from every preferred location. Are you, as an IP professional, ready for the future?

Learn how **Kluwer IP Law** can support you.

79% of the lawyers think that the importance of legal technology will increase for next year.

**Drive change with Kluwer IP Law.**

The master resource for Intellectual Property rights and registration.



2022 SURVEY REPORT  
The Wolters Kluwer Future Ready Lawyer  
Leading change

Experience how the renewed **Manual IP** enables you to work more efficiently



[Learn more →](#)



This entry was posted on Thursday, August 12th, 2021 at 3:31 pm and is filed under [Case law](#), [Fees](#), [Infringement](#), [United States](#)

You can follow any responses to this entry through the [Comments \(RSS\)](#) feed. You can leave a response, or [trackback](#) from your own site.