

Decision on Lawyer Fees Ruled Illegal

NASHVILLE (AP) -- A Federal judge has struck down a Tennessee Supreme Court ruling that requires lawyers to quote prices when they advertise their services.

In an opinion issued yesterday, U.S. District Judge L. Clure Morton wrote that the ruling was unconstitutional because it violated lawyers' First Amendment rights to free speech.

Nashville attorney Bart Durham had filed suit challenging the state court's ruling.

Durham, who peddled his legal services from a van at a recent Nashville flea market, said the Supreme Court was "limiting the right of the public to know, because there are a lot of things you can't put a price on. It resulted, as a practical matter, in my not being able to advertise the practice of criminal law at all."