

Can You Lose Your Job For Participating In Protests?

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Aaron Holt was quoted in *Yahoo! Finance* discussing how the First Amendment depends on when and how you protest if it protects you from your employer. “In short, it depends on who you work for and where you live,” said Aaron. If you work for a public employer, you work for the government, and you have a right to political speech if it’s a matter of political, social or other concern to the community, he said. Aaron cited *Connick v. Myers*, a U.S. Supreme Court case that established a balancing test for public employees based on whether an employee’s speech was a personal grievance or a matter of public importance. “If it’s a matter of public importance, then the employee’s right to make that speech, to protest, to voice their opinion outweighs the employer’s interest, which is the government, in maintaining an effective workplace,” he said.

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