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**Sprenger + Lang Announces Class Action Lawsuit Against Becker County, Minnesota for Monitoring and Recording Attorney/Client Privileged Telephone Calls**

**Minneapolis, MN (October 15, 2008)** – Sprenger + Lang, PLLC announced today that it has filed a civil rights class action lawsuit in the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota against Becker County, Minnesota and several law enforcement officials. The lawsuit alleges that Becker County illegally monitored and/or recorded confidential and privileged telephone calls between inmates at the jail and their attorneys.

According to the complaint, inmates of the Becker County jail and attorneys representing inmates are informed in writing that attorney/client telephone calls are confidential and are not subject to monitoring or recording. Based on this written guarantee of privacy and attorney/client privilege, inmates and their attorneys have used the jail's telephones to discuss confidential details of the inmates' cases, including defenses and legal strategies.

The complaint alleges that information obtained from the illegal monitoring and recording of attorney/client privileged telephone calls may have been used against the inmates during the County's prosecution of the inmates' criminal cases. The plaintiffs, a former inmate and two criminal defense attorneys, allege that the Becker County jail's practice of monitoring and recording attorney/client privileged telephone calls violates their constitutional rights, and both federal and state law.

"The right to the assistance of an attorney when a person is charged with a crime and the right to have private, confidential communications with that attorney are basic rights protected by the U.S. Constitution. The Becker County jail's practice of monitoring and recording attorney/client privileged communications violates these fundamental rights," said Mara Thompson of Sprenger + Lang, one of the attorneys representing the plaintiffs.

**ABOUT THE FIRM**

Sprenger + Lang, PLLC, with offices in Minneapolis and Washington, D.C., has obtained some of the country's largest gender, age, and race discrimination judgments on behalf of tens of thousands of discrimination victims. Sprenger + Lang has successfully represented classes of plaintiffs against companies such as Morgan Stanley, Burlington Northern, CBS, C.H. Robinson, Northwest Airlines, First Union, Amtrak, and Ceridian Corporation. Sprenger + Lang has also litigated large cases involving employee benefit claims, including claims under the Employee Retirement & Income Security Act (ERISA), Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), and the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act (WARN). The firm is featured in the book Class Action, which inspired the award-winning film North Country. Sprenger + Lang is also committed to helping protect the rights of consumers through class action litigation. Our cases in this area include claims of illegal practices in student loan processing, home mortgage servicing, and consumer service contracts. Sprenger + Lang has the resources to aggressively investigate and pursue relief on behalf of consumers who have been

defrauded, overcharged and otherwise taken advantage of by companies large and small. More information is available on the firm's website [www.sprengerlang.com](http://www.sprengerlang.com).

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