

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

ROYAL CROWN LTD.,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	4:09CV3184
)	
V.)	
)	MEMORANDUM
DUNCAN AVIATION, INC.,)	AND ORDER
)	
Defendant.)	
_____)	

The law firm of Perry, Guthery, Haase & Gessford, P.C., L.L.O. (the law firm) represents a party to this action. My wife and I are about to engage in estate planning with two members of the law firm. My wife and I are also likely to make a testamentary appointment of one of those lawyers to serve as our personal representative and trustee. Under these circumstances, I have decided that I must recuse myself from this case. *See, e.g., Compendium of Selected Opinions*, § 3.6-2 (November, 2009) (*Compendium*) (where an attorney-client relationship exists between a judge and a lawyer whose law firm appears in the case, the judge should ordinarily recuse absent remittal).

While recusal might not be required (or remittal of disqualification might be allowed) because of the innocuous nature of our estate planning and the short duration of the relationship with the law firm, *cf. Compendium*, § 3.6-2 (h)(1) (stating that “[t]he standard is fact specific and may not give rise to a reasonable question of partiality where the representation does not relate to significant matters, is of short duration, or is otherwise minimal and casual.”), the testamentary appointment of one of the law firm’s members makes this situation “a horse of a different color” and that convinces me that recusal (without the possibility of remittal) is the more appropriate course. Therefore,

IT IS ORDERED that I recuse myself from this case. The Clerk shall forward this matter to the Chief Judge for reassignment. The Clerk shall also provide Magistrate Judge Zwart with a copy of this memorandum and order.

DATED this 1st day of March, 2010.

BY THE COURT:

Richard G. Kopf
United States District Judge