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REAL ESTATE

Re/Max loses appeal for new trial in bias case

A Colorado Springs real-estate agent has won another round in his bout with Re/Max.

Last week, a U.S. District Court judge refused to grant Re/Max a new trial in the case involving Edward Tyler, who sued Re/Max Mountain States Inc., claiming it



**Emily
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refused to sell him a real-estate franchise because he is black.

In February 1998, a jury agreed that the company had intentionally discriminated against Tyler on the basis of

race and awarded him at least \$100,000 in damages — \$65,226 in economic losses and \$35,000 in compensatory damages. The award could grow because Re/Max is required to pay attorney fees and other costs, lawyers for Tyler have said.

Re/Max filed a motion seeking a new trial after the jury verdict, the first step in the appeal process. Now that the request has been denied, the real-estate giant will appeal directly to the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver within the next 30 days, said Daryl "Jes" Jespersion, president of Re/Max International.

"We're disappointed we didn't get a retrial, but we're anxious to file an appeal," Jespersion said.

Re/Max officials have argued that the company's reasons for rejecting Tyler were justified. They also pointed out that the person who made that decision is black.

Tyler said last week's judgment "makes me feel vindicated. Every step of the way, I've won."