

16-1432 SVEEN V. MELIN

DECISION BELOW: 853 F.3d 410

LOWER COURT CASE NUMBER: 16-1172

QUESTION PRESENTED:

In 2002, Minnesota enacted legislation providing, in relevant part, that "the dissolution or annulment of a marriage revokes any revocable ... beneficiary designation ... made by an individual to the individual's former spouse." Minn. Stat. § 524.2-804, subd. 1. Thus, if a person designates a spouse as a life insurance beneficiary and later gets divorced, Minnesota law provides that the beneficiary designation is automatically revoked. At least twenty-eight other states have enacted similar revocation-upon-divorce statutes.

The question presented is:

Does the application of a revocation-upon-divorce statute to a contract signed before the statute's enactment violate the Contracts Clause?

CERT. GRANTED 12/8/2017