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Statement of Gloria Allred

On July 19, 2013, Kanye West, a world-famous musician, wrongfully assaulted a videographer who was simply exercising his free speech and doing his job. On August 21, 2013 we filed a lawsuit on behalf of that videographer Daniel Ramos (a.k.a. Danny) against Kanye West.

Danny was outside of the Tom Bradley International Terminal arrivals at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) on July 19, 2013, with a number of other professional photographers. Danny and the photographers were gathered on the sidewalk area in front of LAX to photograph celebrities who might emerge from the terminal. Mr. West exited the terminal and saw the gathered group of photographers. Danny, who was standing about 10 feet away from Mr. West called out to him and said “Kanye, can we talk to you, Kanye? Danny then said “What’s’ going on? Why can’t we talk to you? I mean why?”

Danny asked Mr. West that question because one week earlier on July 12, 2013, Mr. West had shouted at a photographer. “Don’t talk to me. I don’t want to hear paparazzi talk to me or anybody I know.”

After hearing Danny ask on July 19, why Mr. West would not speak to him, Mr. West stopped walking, put his bag down at his car and turned and spoke to Danny. Danny in response said twice “I don’t want to fight with you.” Then without warning or provocation, Mr. West suddenly attacked Danny and attempted to wrestle Danny’s camera from his hands.

Danny held onto his camera and fell down onto his knees onto the paved sidewalk with enough force that he sustained injuries to his right hip, was in great pain, and had to be transported in an ambulance to the emergency room.

As a result, we filed a lawsuit against Kanye West in L.A. County Superior Court alleging assault, battery, negligence and interference with Danny's civil rights. (California Civil Code 52.1). Article 1, Section 1 of the California Constitution guarantees certain inalienable rights to persons in this state and has been designed specifically to include the fundamental right to pursue a lawful occupation. We allege that at the time of the attack described in our lawsuit that Mr. West sought to prevent Danny from pursuing his occupation as a professional video photographer and that in perpetrating that attack on Danny, that Mr. West attempted to interfere and actually interfered with Danny's exercise and enjoyment of his fundamental rights to pursue a lawful occupation which is secured by Article 1, Section 1 of the California Constitution.

We were seeking general and punitive damages according to proof at trial. In addition, we were seeking injunctive relief. We asked the Court for an order preventing Mr. West from touching, striking, annoying, contacting, molesting, attacking, threatening or otherwise interfering with, directly or indirectly, Daniel Ramos and or the right of Danny and all persons, seeking to pursue the occupation of photographer.

This case was set for trial next week on April 14, 2015. However, today we filed a dismissal because the case was settled to the satisfaction of the parties. We cannot discuss the details of the settlement, except to say that one important aspect of it was an apology by Kanye West to our client, Daniel Ramos. After the apology, a picture was taken of Mr. West shaking Mr. Ramos' hand (below).

We are very proud of our client Danny Ramos and his courage in bringing and pursuing this case which was so important to him and many other celebrity photographers. We believe that this case sent an important message. Celebrities are not above the law, and they have no right to physically attack someone simply because they were asked a question.



Kanye West (right) apologizes to Daniel Ramos (left)

Gloria Allred
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Representing Daniel Ramos
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