



San Diego City Attorney Jan I. Goldsmith

NEWS RELEASE

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IRENE MCCORMACK JACKSON LAWSUIT SETTLEMENT APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL IN CLOSED SESSION

San Diego, CA: The lawsuit filed by Irene McCormack Jackson based upon claims of sexual harassment has been settled.

Under the settlement, the City of San Diego will pay Ms. McCormack Jackson \$250,000 as full settlement of all claims including attorney fees, as well as claims against former mayor Bob Filner. The settlement was negotiated between City Attorney Jan Goldsmith and Gloria Allred with assistance from retired Judge Lawrence Irving.

California law holds the City strictly liable for sexual harassment conduct of a supervisor (including a mayor) directed at a City employee. Legal liability extends to physical and emotional injuries, lost income and other costs plus recovery of attorney fees.

Trial of the case was scheduled for February 2015. Both sides were gearing up for the expense of one year preparation for trial that would have included retention of expert witnesses, dozens of depositions of witnesses, legal motions and other court proceedings. The trial could have gone on for weeks, if not longer.

"This settlement avoids a year of intense and expensive litigation that probably would have cost the parties more than this settlement amount and would have been grueling for all parties," said City Attorney Jan Goldsmith. "Irene McCormack Jackson was courageous to come forward when she did. This was a very difficult situation for her and she handled it with dignity. We wish her well."

Goldsmith also praised opposing counsel Gloria Allred. "Ms. Allred and her legal team are real professionals. We were able to resolve this claim at a very early stage in the litigation, thereby avoiding substantial costs, because both legal teams handled the negotiations professionally, exchanged information and participated in mediation in good faith," said Goldsmith.

As for other cases, Goldsmith stated his office will continue to review and evaluate each claim separately. "Keep in mind that Ms. McCormack Jackson was a City employee whose claim was based upon continuous conduct over a six month period," Goldsmith said.

Ms. McCormack Jackson has chosen to leave City employment effective April 1, 2014.

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