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Today we are here to announce that Sarah Tressler, age 30, has filed a charge of gender discrimination with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (E.E.O.C) in Houston, Texas, and has requested that the E.E.O.C. investigate her claim of gender discrimination in the termination of her employment.

Sarah had been employed full time as a reporter for the Houston Chronicle from January 19, 2012 to March 27, 2012, and had been performing well in her job. Prior to her full time employment she had worked freelance for that publication from April 2011 to January 2012.

For many years she has worked toward the goal of having a full time career as a journalist.

Sarah has an M.A. in Journalism from New York University (January 2009). She has also been a stringer for US Weekly in Los Angeles and had been an intern and then a freelance writer for “L.A. City Beat”. She is also an instructor at the School of Communications at the University of Houston. In 2010 and part of 2011 she also volunteered over 200 hours with MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston.

In order to support herself Sarah started performing as an exotic dancer beginning when she was 22 years old. Her only other job at that time was as a barista at Starbucks earning \$7.25 an hour. She needed the extra money to help pay for college and other expenses.

She has danced on and off ever since then to help pay her bills.

When she danced she did so as an independent contractor and she was never an employee of any club.

Therefore, when she was asked by the Houston Chronicle about her prior employment, she did not list dancing, since she was not an employee of any clubs.

Sarah feels that when she was terminated, that termination was sexually discriminatory in violation of the Title VII of the Civil Rights Act.

Most exotic dancers are female, and therefore to terminate an employee because they had previously been an exotic dancer would have an adverse impact on women, since it is a female dominated occupation. Terminations like this would also discourage women from trying to improve their lives.

Sarah also believes that it seems highly unlikely that men who are independent contractors have been terminated if they have failed to list in Houston Chronicle employment applications work which they have done legally.

Therefore, Sarah has filed a charge of gender discrimination with the U.S.

E.E.O.C. in connection with her termination from the Houston Chronicle and she has asked the E.E.O.C. to open an investigation into her termination.

Sarah's work as a dancer is lawful and is not a crime. It does not, has not and will not affect her ability to perform her job as a journalist.

Sarah has demonstrated a great deal of courage in speaking out about her experience.

We look forward to the results of the E.E.O.C. investigation.

Gloria Allred
Attorney at Law
representing Sarah Tressler

May 10, 2012