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Statement of Gloria Allred

Today we are here to announce that yesterday we filed a lawsuit in the Orange County Superior Court. We represent Plaintiffs, Richard Corey, Matthew Dawson, and Nicholas Petkas against California Department of Parks and Recreation, Kevin Pearsall, and DOES 1 through 100. We filed this lawsuit because all of our clients were and are employees of the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

The Plaintiffs allege that they have learned there was a hidden camera which recorded male state employees as they were changing into their uniforms in the employee locker room at Bolsa Chica State Beach. Their male supervisor, Kevin Pearsall, has been arrested and charged with “five felony counts of eavesdropping, and more than 2 dozen misdemeanors of secretly filming and unlawful dissemination of private recordings.” All three of our clients fear that they were secretly recorded by their supervisor while they were naked or semi-naked, changing into their uniforms.

Our complaint alleges Sexual Harassment in Violation of the California Fair Employment and Housing Act; Gender Discrimination in Violation of the California Fair Employment and Housing Act; and, Failure to Prevent Harassment

and Discrimination in Violation of the California Fair Employment and Housing Act.

Our complaint alleges that, “Under the California Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA), employers have an affirmative and mandatory duty to take all reasonable steps necessary to prevent and promptly correct harassment and discrimination, thereby ensuring a workplace free of sexual harassment.”

Our lawsuit also alleges “Plaintiffs are informed and believe that Pearsall engaged in some related form of surreptitious recording in Department facilities at Huntington State Beach, and that had the Department acted reasonably, the recording at Bolsa Chica would have stopped or have been prevented by discovery and/or an investigation of surreptitious recording at Huntington State Beach.”

The lawsuit further alleges that, “Perhaps as far back as 2019, and on information and belief no later than approximately August of 2024, defendant Pearsall placed one or more concealed camera devices in the men’s employee locker room/changing room areas at Bolsa Chica. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and based upon such information and belief allege that Pearsall effectuated concealed recording via a device that appeared to be a USB memory stick but contained a built-in hidden camera, and that the device captured audio and video recordings of male employees, in states of undress and/or engaged in bodily functions without the knowledge or consent of those employees.”

“Defendant Pearsall placed the concealed recording device(s) in the men’s employee locker room/changing room at Bolsa Chica because he sought to record males who were undressed for purposes of his own sexual gratification. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that Pearsall transmitted photographs of nude and partially nude male employees captured by the device to at least two other individuals for the sexual gratification of those other individuals.”

Some of our clients “were not informed by Bolsa Chica or law enforcement officials that surreptitious recordings had been made in the men’s employee locker room/changing room at Bolsa Chica until on or about June 24, 2026.”

We are seeking damages according to proof at trial.

We believe that the California Department of Parks and Recreation had a duty to protect our clients from this extreme and outrageous secret filming of their genitals and other private body parts. Failure to comply with their legal responsibilities towards their employees has resulted in the harm that our clients are experiencing today.

Men do not have to suffer in silence from the sexual harassment that is inflicted on them in the workplace by their employers or agents of their employers. We are very proud that they came forward today, and we expect that others will also be joining our lawsuit to fight back along with our current clients.

We look forward to fighting for justice for these courageous employees and we believe that their courage in coming forward to assert and vindicate their rights to be free of sexual harassment will inspire others to also come forward to assert their rights.

We look forward to our day in court.

Gloria Allred Attorney at Law & John S. West Attorney at Law
Representing Richard Corey, Matthew Dawson, and Nicholas Petkas

July 2, 2026