

Contact: Gloria Allred
Phone: 323-653-6530
Email: gallred@amglaw.com

Statement of Gloria Allred

Today we filed a civil lawsuit against Scott Bennett. Mr. Bennett, a California resident was convicted recently in a criminal case in Oklahoma of rape by instrumentation and sexual battery of Shelby Pfeffer. He was sentenced to 5 years in prison and he must register as a sex offender.

We filed a civil lawsuit in Los Angeles County Superior Court this morning on behalf of Shelby against Mr. Bennett. We allege sexual battery, sexual assault, false imprisonment, intentional infliction of emotional distress, negligent infliction of emotional distress and violation of The Ralph Act, Civil Code §51.7.

Shelby is seeking damages according to proof of trial and the damages to her have been significant.

She is here today, however, because the media is seeking to have access to the Hard Rock security video that shows Mr. Bennett sexually assaulting her in the hallway of the Hard Rock Hotel in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

The judge heard arguments this week on whether or not the video, that was viewed by the criminal case jury should be released to the media.

The judge has indicated that he will make his decision this month, no later than July 28th.

Shelby is opposed to the video's release. She feels that she has suffered enough and does not want the video released to the public.

It is one thing for the parties to know the facts of her case, but it is very different for the video to be viewed on television or placed on the internet for all to see.

Shelby is very brave to have spoken out about her horrific experience of being raped.

I am honored to represent her in her civil case as she continues to seek the full measure of justice that she deserves.

Gloria Allred
Attorney at Law
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