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**Statement of Gloria Allred regarding Sexual Harassment Trial Victory and the
“Me Too” Movement**

Two years ago this month, women who alleged that they had been victimized by powerful men began to speak out in record numbers. The press called it the “Me Too” movement after a hashtag on the internet, but this movement has been evolving for many years. Victims who had been previously paralyzed with fear broke through their fear and insisted on speaking out and speaking up. They decided that they would take the risks inherent in being heard in order to become the change they wished to see in the world and to make the sexual predators and those who had sexually harassed them accountable for the harm that had been inflicted on them in their homes, their workplaces and in their communities.

Lauren Reeves is one of those very courageous women who came forward, but she contacted us three years ago. We believed that what we found that Lauren was subjected to in her workplace was egregious and that is why we filed a lawsuit for her. Becoming a plaintiff in a lawsuit against a powerful billionaire is a David and Goliath or Davida vs. Goliath undertaking, but Lauren placed her faith in us, the law, the court and the jury system in her journey to justice. As a result, the jury having heard the evidence found in her favor. Lauren is a true hero,

because she refused to be deterred by unfair and often false attacks on her. She spoke truth to power and has become a role model for others who are still seeking justice. This is a significant victory for Lauren and the “Me Too” movement.

Especially significant is the punitive damages award in Lauren’s case. The jury awarded \$650,000. in compensatory and \$4,350,000. in punitive damages. Punitive damages are only awarded when a jury finds that a defendant acted with malice and that his conduct shocked the conscience of the community. In most cases, punitive damages are not awarded but the jury found that it was appropriate in this case. Their statement is a strong and powerful one.

Employers in California have a duty to obey the law. They must provide a workplace that is safe from sexual harassment so that employees are able to do their job. The jury found that Mr. David’s workplace was not one that the law requires. We thank the jury for standing up for the rule of law and the right of all employees to be able to be afforded respect, dignity and the workplace protections that California law requires. We are proud of Lauren, and our trial team. We are also proud of the jury and their verdict. We look forward to our next trial against Alki David.

Gloria Allred

Attorney at Law

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Representing Lauren Reeves