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## **Statement of Gloria Allred**

Today we are here to announce that this morning we filed a defamation lawsuit on behalf of our client, Summer Zervos, against President-elect Donald Trump.

The lawsuit alleges that Ms. Zervos had been subjected to unwanted sexual touching by Donald Trump and that she had told family and friends about the incidents not long after these incidents occurred.

She did not go public or take any action against Mr. Trump at that time, however, because she decided that Mr. Trump's behavior had either been an aberration, a test, or that he may even have regretted or been ashamed of his behavior.

The lawsuit alleges the following:

“In October 2016, that all changed. On October 7th, when Trump's own recorded, crude and vulgar comments to Billy Bush on the Access Hollywood tapes recorded in 2005 were broadcast, it became clear that Trump's sexually inappropriate behavior towards Ms. Zervos was entirely consistent with Trump's own words, and his belief that he had the right to sexually assault women – and even to boast about it. Then at the October 9th presidential debate, Trump told the world a boldface lie: he stated in response to a direct question from Anderson Cooper that he had not ever done any of the things that he had bragged about to Billy Bush.”

Ms. Summer further alleges in the lawsuit:

“For the first time, Summer Zervos saw Trump's behavior towards her for what it was: that of a sexual predator who had preyed on her and other women. She realized that she was just one of many women who had been

victimized by Trump's predatory conduct. Ms. Zervos could no longer rationalize or excuse Trump's behavior by telling herself that his behavior had been a mistake or an isolated incident for which he might even be ashamed. Trump had no shame. His own boasting to Billy Bush made clear that his behavior was intentional.

Ms. Zervos knew that Donald Trump had lied – to the country and to the world – and knew that the statements he made to Billy Bush were not just words or “locker room” talk, but were evidence of his pattern of misconduct towards women. Ms. Zervos felt a responsibility to inform the public of the true facts. It was unacceptable to stand by and allow a presidential candidate to lie openly, with impunity, to the American public. She came forward – as a number of other Trump victims did – to inform the public of the facts she knew were true, to make clear that Donald Trump had kissed and groped her without her consent, repeatedly.”

The lawsuit goes on to allege, “And what did Donald Trump, the liar and misogynist do, to cover up his lies? He lied again, and debased and denigrated Ms. Zervos with false statements about her.

Trump immediately lied, saying that he “never met [Ms. Zervos] at a hotel or greeted her inappropriately.” He quickly went further, describing Ms. Zervos's experience, along with those of others, as “made up events THAT NEVER HAPPENED;” “100% fabricated and made-up charges;” “totally false;” “totally phoney [sic] stories, 100% made up by women (many already proven false);” “made up stories and lies;” “[t]otally made up nonsense.” He falsely stated: “Every woman lied when they came forward to hurt my campaign, total fabrication. The events never happened.” During the last presidential debate, he stated that these women were either being put forward by the Clinton campaign, or were motivated to come forward by getting “ten minutes of fame,” and nothing more.”

Ms. Zervos alleges in her lawsuit:

“But it was Donald Trump who was lying when he falsely denied his predatory misconduct with Summer Zervos, and derided her for perpetrating a “hoax” and making up a “phony” story to get attention. “

The lawsuit sets forth the impact that these events had on Ms. Zervos. The lawsuit alleges as follows:

“In doing so, he used his national and international bully pulpit to make false factual statements to denigrate and verbally attack Ms. Zervos and the other women who publicly reported his sexual assaults in October 2016. Trump knew that his false, disparaging statements would be heard and read by people around the world, and that these women, including Summer Zervos, would be subjected to threats of violence, economic harm, and reputational damage. In his effort to win the Presidency and counter the damage to his election prospects based on his own recorded words with Billy Bush, Trump knowingly, intentionally and maliciously threw each and every one of these women under the bus, with conscious disregard of the impact that his repeatedly calling them liars would have upon their lives and reputations.”

“His statements are plainly defamatory and caused serious harm. “

“This lawsuit seeks to make Donald Trump accountable for the significant damage he has caused Ms. Zervos – a woman who had the fortitude and courage to come forward and speak truth to power, so that the nation would be informed about the true Donald Trump.”

Enough is enough. Truth matters. Women matter. Those who allege that they were the victims of sexual misconduct or sexual assault by Mr. Trump matter.

Prior to filing this lawsuit today Ms. Zervos volunteered to take a polygraph examination regarding her allegations of Mr. Trump’s sexually inappropriate conduct towards her.

The lie detector test was administered by a very experienced and recognized polygrapher. She passed the lie detector test. The polygraph examiner concluded that she was telling the truth.

Because truth matters, prior to filing this lawsuit, on November 11, 2016 at a news conference with Ms. Zervos, I called on then President-elect Donald

Trump to retract his statements that the accusers are “liars” and that their allegations are “ fabrications” and “ fiction” I said then that retraction would undo some of the damage that Mr. Trump has inflicted on his accusers.

Over two months have passed since I challenged Mr. Trump to retract, but he has failed to issue a retraction. Ms. Zervos is now left with only one option, that is to file a lawsuit against Mr. Trump.

Even now, however, Ms. Zervos is willing to dismiss her lawsuit if he will retract his false statements about her and acknowledge that what Summer alleged about Mr. Trump’s sexually inappropriate conduct towards her is and was the truth.

We fully expect that Mr. Trump will use every means at his disposal to try to delay this case and avoid having to give his testimony under oath in a deposition in this case and before a jury in a court of law.

We believe that the justice system will provide Ms. Zervos the opportunity to litigate her case even though she is suing the most powerful individual on this planet.

That is the essence and beauty of our system of justice. No one is above the law, including the President-elect, soon to be President of the United States.

In the syllabus to the United States Supreme Court case of Clinton v. Jones, the Reporter of Decisions stated that “The Court explained that the President, like other officials, is subject to the same laws that apply to all citizens, that no case had been found in which an official was granted immunity from suit for his unofficial acts, and that the rationale for official immunity is inapposite where only personal, private conduct by a President is at issue.”

Therefore, in order to obtain justice and allow the truth to be determined we believe that it is necessary for Mr. Trump to answer Ms. Zervos’ allegations in a court of law, rather than in his bedroom by tweeting in the middle of the night.

Summer is very brave to have brought this lawsuit. She knows that she will be attacked by Mr. Trump and his supporters and defenders, but she is willing to

endure and suffer unwarranted attacks against her in order to vindicate her rights.

We applaud her courage and hope that millions of people will support her in her journey to justice.

Gloria Allred  
Attorney at Law  
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