

VERDICTS & SETTLEMENTS

Orange County Public Law Library
Santa Ana, Californiawww.dailyjournal.com

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2014

EMPLOYMENT LAW

DISCRIMINATION

Sexual Assault and Battery

SETTLEMENT: \$100,000.

CASE/NUMBER: Helen Crawford v. Navitas Utility Corporation; Navitas Assets LLC, Thomas Hartline, and Does 1 through 100, inclusive / 30-2013-00650569.

COURT/DATE: Orange Superior / Sept. 17, 2014.

JUDGE: Hon. Linda S. Marks.

ATTORNEYS: Plaintiff - David R. Flyer, Raquel Flyer (Flyer & Flyer PLC, Newport Beach); Stan A. Smith (Stan A. Smith PLC, Laguna Niguel).

Defendant - Kerry G. Wright, David A. Sergenian (Glaser, Weil, Fink, Howard, Avchen & Shapiro LLP, Los Angeles); John A. Gibson (Gibson Law Group PC, Costa Mesa).

MEDICAL EXPERTS: Plaintiff - Thea Reinhart, Ph.D., clinical psychology, Irvine.

FACTS: Plaintiff Helen Crawford filed a suit against her former employer defendant Navitas Utility Corp. and the president of the company, defendant Thomas Hartline.

Hartline is 50 percent owner of Navitas Utility Corp. and Navitas Assets LLC.

PLAINTIFF'S CONTENTIONS: Plaintiff claimed Hartline sexually harassed her during her employment with the Navitas companies. The harassment included forcing himself into her hotel room on business trips, giving her unwanted gifts and refusing to take them back, and asking her to engage in sexual relations with him.

Plaintiff contended that after the sexual harassment was reported to the Navitas defendants nothing was done. Plaintiff claimed Hartline's harassment turned into sexual assault and battery until plaintiff suffered an emotional breakdown and was forced to go on disability from employment.

Plaintiff claimed that Hartline was liable for her emotional distress and loss of employment when she was forced to go on disability. Plaintiff also claimed that the Navitas defendants were liable to plaintiff because they knew of Hartline's harassment and did nothing to stop it.

RESULT: The case settled for \$100,000. Plaintiff dismissed some intentional causes of action against the corporate entities per agreement.

MEDIATOR: Orange County Superior Court Judge Stephen Sundvold, ret., JAMS.

FILING DATE: May 20, 2013.