

22 Trials Digest 17th 1, 2014 WL 2600180 (Cal.Super.) (Verdict and Settlement Summary)

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Superior Court, Los Angeles County, California.

Jordan v. City of Long Beach

TOPIC:

Synopsis: City of Long Beach employee claims termination motivated by retaliation

Case Type: Labor & Employment; Retaliation; Labor & Employment; Termination/Constructive Discharge; Labor & Employment; Discrimination; Labor & Employment; Family & Medical Leave

DOCKET NUMBER: BC450055

STATE: California

COUNTY: Los Angeles

Verdict/Judgment Date: April 25, 2014

JUDGE: [William A. MacLaughlin](#)

ATTORNEYS:

Plaintiff: [Jeffrey A. Rager](#), Rager Law Firm, Torrance, CA; [John A. Girardi](#), Girardi & Keese, Los Angeles, CA

Defendant: [Thomas J. Feeley](#), Law Offices of Thomas J. Feeley, Los Angeles, CA

SUMMARY:

Verdict/Judgment: Plaintiff

Verdict/Judgment Amount: \$1,168,165

Range Amount: \$1,000,000 - 1,999,999

\$693,165 to plaintiff for economic damages

\$475,000 to plaintiff for noneconomic damages

Trial Type: Jury

Jury Poll: Not reported.

Deliberations: Not reported.

EXPERTS:

Plaintiff: [Jennifer McNulty](#), C.P.A., Economist, Vavoulis, Weiner & McNulty LLC, Los Angeles, CA; [Anthony Reading](#), Ph.D., Psychologist, Beverly Hills, CA

Defendant: [Stephanie Rizzardi](#), M.B.A., Economist, Rizzardi Economic Associates, San Marino, CA; [Jeffrey Lulow](#), Ph.D., Psychologist, Encino, CA

FACTS/CONTENTIONS:

According to Plaintiff: Plaintiff Sharon Jordon, 52, worked for 16 years as a secretary for defendant city of Long Beach. She said that throughout the years, she received consistently good performance appraisals.

On July 14, 2008, plaintiff's husband suffered a stroke, and from that point forward, plaintiff claimed, her supervisor sought to keep tabs on her seriously ill husband. Plaintiff allegedly rebuffed those efforts, and her supervisor reportedly began to criticize her work.

Thereafter, on July 22, 2009, plaintiff took a medical leave under FMLA for the stress, anxiety and depression caused by her supervisor. Upon returning to work, plaintiff claimed, she requested a transfer, which was denied.

Plaintiff filed a complaint of discrimination Sept. 8, 2009.

Thereafter, her performance was criticized. Plaintiff was told she needed to drop her complaint of discrimination.

Plaintiff refused and was ultimately terminated July 22, 2010.

Plaintiff alleged defendant retaliated against her for filing a charge of discrimination and failed to accommodate her transfer request.

SETTLEMENT DISCUSSIONS:

According to Plaintiff: Demand: \$475,000. Offer: \$50,000.

CLAIMED DAMAGES:

According to Plaintiff: As a result of her termination, plaintiff lost her medical insurance and she was forced to relocate her comatose husband. Her husband subsequently died in January 2011. As a result of the termination, plaintiff also lost her home and moved to Georgia.

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