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Jury awards \$7.5M more to former Kaiser doctor

Thursday, Dec. 11, 2008

The Associated Press

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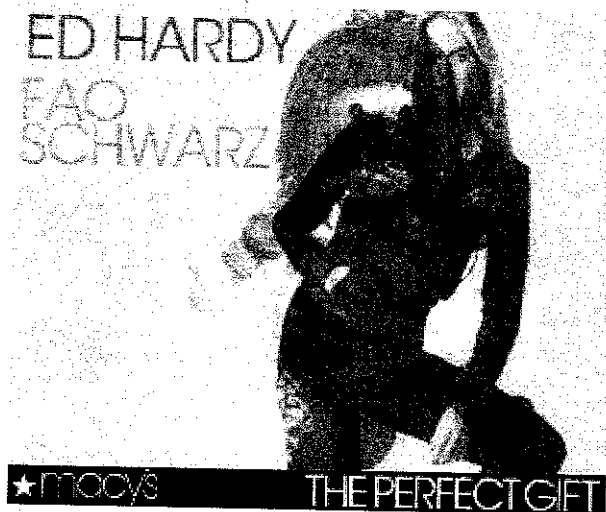
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LOS ANGELES -- A Los Angeles jury has ordered Kaiser Permanente to pay \$7.5 million in punitive damages to a radiologist who was forced to resign from one the company's hospitals in 2006 after complaining about patient care.

The jury's decision on Thursday means Kaiser owes Dr. Michael Martinucci a combined \$11.4 million. The same panel on Monday awarded the doctor \$3.9 million in compensatory damages.

Kaiser says it will appeal Thursday's decision, saying it was "shocked and disappointed by the verdict."



Martinucci sued Kaiser after leaving the company, claiming he was forced to quit because he complained about work standards at the Hollywood hospital.

Martinucci was hired at Kaiser in 2003 and resigned three years later after his supervisor and a human resources staffer accused him of being racist and making sexual advances toward a male technologist.

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