

Contact: Gloria Allred
Phone: 323-653-6530
Email: gallred@amglaw.com

Statement of Gloria Allred

Today we filed a civil rights lawsuit on behalf of Rose Trevis against Hawleywood's Barber Shop in Long Beach, CA.

On March 4, 2016 Rose and her domestic partner Laura Lozano were walking in Long Beach, California when Rose decided to get a haircut at a nearby barber shop.

Rose and Laura entered Hawleywood's Barber Shop and Rose asked a barber there for a haircut. The barber stated that Hawleywood's only provided services to customers who had appointments. Rose then asked for an appointment time and asked if there were any available that day.

The barber then stared at Rose as if he was examining Rose's appearance and stated "We don't cut women's hair". Rose is a transgender male with a masculine gender expression. Rose was surprised by the barber's response and replied "Who says I am a woman?" The barber replied "Like I said, we don't cut women's hair".

The barber then walked to the back of the shop and summoned another individual who also appeared to be a barber at the shop. As the second barber approached Rose, he looked him up and down and then asked if he could help him.

Rose again asked to receive a haircut. The second barber replied "We don't cut women's hair". Rose again stated "Who says I'm a woman?"

Rose told the second barber that refusing to provide services on account of gender was discrimination. Rose alleges that the second barber replied that the business has "the right to refuse services to anyone" and that the business "is an old school barber shop" and therefore they do not service women.

After Rose pointed out that Hawleywood's policy was illegal discrimination, the second barber stated "we don't care". Laura then asked if her presence in the shop was the reason

that employees were refusing to serve Rose. The second barber responded “We don’t cut women’s hair and women are not even allowed in the shop.”

Rose felt ashamed and humiliated by Hawleywood’s denial of service and left the shop. Later he discovered that on its website, Hawleywood’s advertises its barber shops as “men’s sanctuary.”

The website further claims “One thing you won’t see at Hawleywood’s is a woman. You all know how distracting a woman can be and who wants a straight razor shave with a buxom blonde in the joint?”

A business that excludes women, refuses to serve women and that confirms a discriminatory policy in its advertising is in violation of the law. Furthermore, a business that refuses to serve a customer based on gender identity or perceived gender identity also violates that customer or potential customer’s civil rights.

We have, therefore, filed a lawsuit today against Hawleywood’s alleging discrimination based on gender in violation of California’s Unruh Civil Rights Act and alleging discrimination based on perceived gender in violation of that same Act (California Civil Code Section 51.)

We are seeking an injunction (a court order mandating that Hawleywood’s barber shop eliminate its policy and practice of illegally discriminating on the basis of gender or perceived gender and mandating that it stop refusing to provide accommodations or services for those reasons in their place of business).

We are very proud of Rose for coming forward to fight this battle against a business which engages in such open and blatant sex discrimination and stereotyping of women.

It is 2016 and neither Rose nor I will tolerate the type of discrimination that he was forced to suffer.

Gloria Allred
Attorney at Law
Representing Rose Trevis
March 29, 2016