

LAWYER TO THE BROKENHEARTED

You don't want to mess with Gloria Allred. Just ask Herman Cain and Tiger Woods.

Interview by **ANDREW GOLDMAN**

"He never called her to say, 'I'm sorry, I deceived you and I take responsibility.'"

During a news conference with your client Sharon Bialek, you said that Herman Cain "decided to provide her with his idea of a stimulus package." Are humorous phrases a hallmark of yours? In some instances? Yes. Is it in every? No. Is it appropriate in every one? No. Is it appropriate in some? Yes. Do feminists have a sense of humor? Yes.

After becoming the first woman admitted to the Friars Club, you walked into its steam room with a tape measure singing Peggy Lee's "Is That All There Is?" Would you have tolerated a man telling a similar joke about women's breasts? This came at the end of a long battle that I waged to open its health-club facilities to women, who had been excluded. There's a long tradition in that club to tell jokes. I'm not against sex. I am against sexism. There's a big difference.

In the late 1960s, when you were still teaching high school in Watts, you were raped at gunpoint on a Mexican vacation. You became pregnant and had an abortion and nearly died. Do you credit these horrible experiences for your career path? When I entered law practice 36 years ago, I came to understand that my life experience is very similar to many other women's. There are literally millions of women who have been the victim of violence.

In your 2006 memoir, "Fight Back and Win," you recount representing the family of a murdered transgender teenager and fighting a California judge who refused to pursue a rape case because the supposed victim was a prostitute. But lately your critics say your causes lack that heft. In the last 10 years alone, our firm has won over \$250 million for victims of discrimination. The majority have been women. We handle significant cases. For example, in New Jersey we are representing nine cocktail servers who contend they were fired because they did not meet the stereotype of youthful feminine sexiness that their employer desired.

At a 2010 news conference you hosted for a porn actress named Joslyn James, who had a



relationship with Tiger Woods, you said that Woods should contact Joslyn and "apologize for lying to her." Is getting an apology the job of an attorney? Tiger Woods led her to believe that she was the only one that he was having an intimate relationship with and that he wasn't having that kind of relationship with his wife. He asked Joslyn to give up her career in adult films, which was her only source of income, because he was jealous. And she did. When the scandal broke, he dropped her like a hot potato. You may think a broken heart and hurting a woman is O.K. I don't.

If you're having an affair with a famous married man, would you really be shocked to be dropped like a hot potato in the midst of a scandal? I wouldn't characterize it the way you have.

I'm quoting you. He never called her to say, "I'm sorry, I deceived you and I take responsibility for that." She finally spoke out because there was a businessman selling golf balls with her face on them, without her knowledge or consent. We don't think it's funny that a man takes a golf club and strikes a woman's face. We don't think domestic violence is a laughing matter.

How does producing golf balls condone beating women? You didn't see the face of Nicole Brown Simpson with her black eye that O. J. Simpson gave her prior to his killing her. There have been batterers who have used golf clubs to injure women. Obviously you don't consider domestic violence the important issue I do.

Both Jocelyn James and Ginger Lee, the former adult-film actress you said was forced into hiding after receiving flirtatious tweets from Anthony Weiner, followed their news conferences with gigs dancing nude at Atlanta's Pink Pony. What do you think of your clients' making money off of their fame? Although I didn't arrange the appearances, women need to earn a living. I'm proud that my clients are working to support themselves and those who depend on them. ♦