

Statement of Gloria Allred Regarding Hope Davila

Today we filed a lawsuit in the United States District Court in Connecticut on behalf of Hope Davila against Hugh Douglas. Our lawsuit alleges that Mr. Douglas assaulted and battered Hope on the night of September 22, 2013. Mr. Douglas was formerly an ESPN analyst but according to reports he was fired from ESPN. Mr. Douglas is also a former professional NFL football player for the New York Jets, Philadelphia Eagles and the Jackson Jaguars.

Mr. Douglas was approximately 6"2" and weighed approximately 280 pounds on the night of the alleged incident. Hope was only 5'5" and weighed approximately 120 pounds on the night of September 22, 2013.

Douglas was arraigned in a criminal case in Connecticut on September 24, 2013 and was charged with third-degree assault and second-degree strangulation of Hope. The incident was alleged in the criminal case to have taken place on September 22, 2013 at the Marriott Hotel in Hartford, CT. On February 10, 2014 he was permitted to plead no contest to a breach of the peace to resolve the case and was sentenced. The sentence did not require Mr. Douglas to spend any time

in jail.

Hope was very upset that over her objection Mr. Douglas was permitted to enter a plea to breach of the peace. She felt that she was being denied her day in court in the criminal case. She wanted a jury to be able to decide what happened. That was taken away from her by the plea.

The District Attorney's office thought that there was enough evidence to file significant charges against Mr. Douglas. Later, however, it appeared to be the District Attorney's position that it was Hope's word against Mr. Douglas' word so it was better to accept the plea; however, this was the situation when they filed it. In many cases where assault is alleged it does involve one person's word against another. Often allegations of assault arise when the couple has been in an intimate relationship and there are no witnesses to the assault other than the two people in the relationship. Hope was and is looking forward to testifying before a jury and would like them to judge whether Mr. Douglas or Hope is the one who should be believed about what happened the night in question.

Hope is profoundly disappointed that she was not allowed to testify to a criminal jury regarding what she said happened to her and that she

was prevented from testifying about her injuries. She is upset that she was not able to present evidence to a jury, including photos of her injuries and her medical records which reflect her injuries.

The purpose of our civil lawsuit is to make Mr. Douglas accountable to Hope and allow a civil jury to hear the evidence that she would like to have had presented to a criminal jury. Athletes are often given special treatment by prosecutors. This case should let athletes know that their fame does not matter. They need to be accountable. Pleading no contest does not give them a pass.

We are holding this news conference today because we believe that our client was unfairly attacked in the press by Mr. Douglas' attorney when she was not allowed to defend herself because of the pending criminal case. For example, his attorney claimed that our client was seeking money. The truth is that she is seeking justice. In our system that means monetary damages to compensate her for her injuries, including medical bills, if liability is proven. Why shouldn't someone who has been injured seek to be compensated for her injuries?

In addition, press accounts have indicated that in a police report Douglas had told the police that Hope's injuries were caused by "rough

sex". We intend to show evidence to rebut that. Hope's injuries are reflected in her medical records. On the night in question she was taken by ambulance to the hospital.

It is very important to our client that Mr. Douglas be accountable and that he be required to answer and testify in open court to a jury without his helmet, shoulder pads, protective gear and without his teammates running interference for him. We are demanding that he come to court and be judged by a jury.

In this civil case our client will hopefully get the justice that she feels that she deserves. Mr. Douglas' lawyer said that celebrities can be targets. That may be true, but how often do we hear about celebrities taking advantage of their celebrity status with women?

In the OJ Simpson case, a criminal jury acquitted OJ Simpson, and it was a civil jury that gave the victims' families a measure of justice. We look to a civil jury in this case to carefully consider all of the evidence and render a just verdict.

Gloria Allred
Attorney at Law
Representing Hope Davila
April 28, 2014