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Statement of Gloria Allred

Recently (May 6, 2015) we held a news conference to announce that we would seek to have a defamation lawsuit dismissed that had been filed by a former NFL player Ray McDonald against our client, a young woman who had alleged to law enforcement that she had been sexually assaulted by Ray McDonald.

We stated at our press conference that California law seeks to protect victims who report to the police what they believe are crimes against them or others, even if no charges are ever filed. At the time, I stated that this law is meant to encourage reporting to law enforcement so that victims or witnesses can report without being sued.

Today, we are happy to announce that Santa Clara Superior Court Judge William Elfving agreed with our legal position and granted our special motion to strike all five causes of action in Mr. McDonald's lawsuit meaning that McDonald's lawsuit against our client is dismissed.

We are very happy about this victory for our client in this case.

As a result of the Court's ruling today, NFL players and other celebrities should now understand that suing persons for defamation who allege to law enforcement that they are victims of crime by NFL players or others will be a losing strategy for the celebrity and that the celebrity will be punished by the courts for having filed the lawsuit against the person who made accusations to the police. The punishment will consist of the plaintiff NFL player's case being dismissed and the losing party being required to pay the prevailing party's attorney's fees and cost related to defending against the lawsuit.

We will now continue with the cross complaint which we filed on behalf of our client against Mr. McDonald alleging assault and battery, negligence, intentional infliction of emotional distress and false imprisonment. In addition, the District Attorney of Santa Clara County has not yet made a decision as to whether or not Mr. McDonald will be prosecuted for what our client has alleged to the police that he has done to her.

We will continue to fight back against Mr. McDonald and we are very happy that a California Court has affirmed, once again, that under California law that individuals who have alleged to the police that they were sexually assaulted are protected from being sued for defamation by those whom they have accused of having committed crimes against them.

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