



NEW YORK CITY LAW DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL

Michael A. Cardozo, Corporation Counsel

Press Release

Web: [nyc.gov/html/law/home.html](http://www.nyc.gov/html/law/home.html)

For Immediate Release

**NEW YORK CITY LAW DEPARTMENT PREVAILS
IN SEXUAL HARASSMENT CASE AGAINST POLICE DEPARTMENT**

JURY REJECTS PLAINTIFFS' CLAIMS OF A HOSTILE WORK ENVIRONMENT AND INTERNAL RETALIATION.

Contact: Kate O'Brien Ahlers, Communications Director, (212) 788-0400, kahlers@law.nyc.gov

New York, February 14, 2003-- A jury in the U.S. District Court in Brooklyn rejected the claims by Police Lieutenant Michele Jarman-Brown and her husband, retired Capt. Robert Brown, that she was subjected to a hostile work environment during 19 months as an undercover officer. Jarman-Brown had charged that nine police officers and supervisors had been involved in creating the hostile work environment and retaliating against her and her husband after she complained about the alleged abuse.

The nine officers and supervisors maintained that Jarman-Brown had concocted the story when she realized she was going to be transferred out of her assignment. During the two-and-a-half-week trial, it appeared that Jarman-Brown may have even planted a copy of Hustler magazine in her own desk in order to support her claims.

The plaintiffs ultimately withdrew their claims against four of the police officers and the judge, Honorable Jack B. Weinstein, dismissed the claims against two additional police officials before submitting the case to the jury. The jury rejected the story told by Jarman-Brown and her husband as they returned a verdict in favor of the remaining defendants Lt. Falco, Capt. Alifano and retired Inspector Storch, with the exception of the award of one dollar to retired Capt. Robert Brown.

Patricia Miller, an Assistant Corporation Counsel in the Law Department's Labor and Employment Law Division, who defended the City and the police officers at trial, stated: "The defendants have said all along that plaintiffs' claims of hostile work environment and retaliation were fabricated. The plaintiffs chose to malign the individual defendants in the press. The only vindication for these officers and the Police Department is this jury's verdict." Ruby Brown, a Senior Counsel in Labor and Employment, rounded out the Law Department's legal team.

The New York City Law Department is one of the oldest, largest and most dynamic law offices in the world, ranking among the top three largest law offices in New York City and the top three largest public law offices in the country. Tracing its roots back to the 1600's, the Department's 650-plus lawyers handle more than 100,000 cases and transactions each year in 17 separate legal divisions. The Corporation Counsel heads the Law Department and acts as legal counsel for the Mayor, elected officials, the City and all its agencies. The Department's attorneys represent the City on a vast array of civil litigation, legislative and legal issues and in the criminal prosecution of juveniles. Its web site can be accessed through the City government home page at www.nyc.gov or via direct link at www.nyc.gov/html/law/home.html.

###