



NEW YORK CITY LAW DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL

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Press Release

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For Immediate Release

**JURY UNANIMOUSLY FINDS THAT RETIRED NYPD DETECTIVE
WAS NOT SEXUALLY HARASSED**

SUPPORTS CITY'S CONTENTION THAT RETIRED DETECTIVE'S ALLEGATIONS WERE BASELESS

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New York, Nov. 30, 2005 – A jury in a federal lawsuit today unanimously found for the City and ruled that Joann Karmel, a retired female New York City Police Department detective, was not subjected to sexual harassment and retaliation during her assignment to the Queens District Attorney's detective squad. It also exonerated Karmel's two former supervisors, Sergeant Franco Russo and Captain Harold Knorr. The jury deliberated for less than a day after a trial that lasted six weeks. The case was heard in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York.

"We are very pleased that the jury rejected the plaintiff's false accusations and completely exonerated the Police Department and its squad in the Queens District Attorney's office," noted Patricia Miller, a senior counsel in the New York City Law Department's Labor & Employment Law Division, who tried the case for the City with Pamela Richardson, another Labor attorney.

The case, *Karmel v. NYPD*, involved a former detective who alleged she had been sexually harassed on the job. Karmel claimed she was permanently psychologically disabled and could no longer hold a job of any kind. She sued the Police Department and 16 individual male and female members of the Police Department 2000, including by other detectives at the Queens District Attorney squad, several doctors and a nurse from the Police Department's Psychological Evaluation Unit, and the sergeant from the department's Equal Employment Opportunity office. (On the eve of trial, Karmel dropped all but the NYPD and the two aforementioned defendants from her complaint.) The City had maintained throughout the trial that the plaintiff's allegations were at best gross exaggerations and at worst complete fabrications. The jury found for the City and the individual defendants early today. In addition to Pat Miller and Pamela Richardson, Ruby Bradley of the Law Department's Labor and Employment Law Division also worked on the case.

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 90,000 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.

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