



NEW YORK CITY LAW DEPARTMENT
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Press Release

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**CITY PREVAILS IN CASE AGAINST DEMONSTRATORS
CLAIMING UNWRITTEN POLICY TO DISCRIMINATE
AGAINST PROTESTORS**

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New York, December 18, 2006— The City of New York was victorious today in a three week trial against 300 demonstrators who claimed discrimination by the New York City Police Department. The protestors alleged they were denied Desk Appearance Tickets (“DAT”), and wrongly detained in jail longer than other non-protestors with similar charges. A Manhattan Federal Court jury rejected nearly all of their claims.

"We are very pleased that, after hearing and carefully considering all the evidence, the jury understood that the city never had an unwritten policy to deny demonstrators equal treatment under the law," said lead attorney Susan Halatyn, Senior Counsel, Special Federal Litigation Division.

The protestors participated in 45 separate demonstrations from April 1, 1999 through July 13, 2001. The protests were over a wide range of topics and not about one specific issue. Under certain circumstances, a detainee may be given a DAT and released from a police precinct rather than be transported to Central Booking for arraignment. The City maintained that there was only a brief time period during which a written policy directed that all arrestees at events with more than 20 people be denied DATs and summonses — between May 1, 2001 and July 13, 2001. While the jury found that the written policy was not equally applied, it rejected plaintiffs' claims with respect to the two years prior to the written policy. Less than 50 of the more than 300 plaintiffs were arrested during the pendency of the written policy.

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