

## Four Women Sue UCLA for Female Supervisor's Sexual Misconduct

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Los Angeles, CA

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Four female employees of UCLA filed lawsuits against UCLA and UC Regents yesterday, as well as their individual supervisors, in Los Angeles County Superior Court. The plaintiffs' claims fall under California's Fair Employment and Housing Act ("FEHA"), which protects the rights of employees against workplace harassment, discrimination, and retaliation based on sex.

Claiming more than \$120 million in damages, the plaintiffs allege that, from 2016 through 2017, their female supervisor sexually harassed them in their workplace. The alleged harassment included unwanted sexual behavior such as slapping or squeezing their buttocks, caressing their upper inner thighs, and making vulgar, sexual comments about their bodies. The plaintiffs further allege that, upon submitting an internal UCLA sexual harassment complaint and/or retaining legal counsel for such harassment, they were discriminated and retaliated against by other supervisors in their workplace.

The plaintiffs also allege that UCLA and UC Regents failed to prevent the harassment, discrimination and retaliation they suffered, which also falls under the protective measures of the FEHA. Moreover, the plaintiffs argue that the UCLA complaint process was protracted, ineffective and confusing. For example, the complaints allege that the harassing supervisor continued to work with and supervise the plaintiffs for several weeks after being notified of their complaints, and only one of the four women was considered to be a complainant in UCLA's internal complaint system.

"These lawsuits exemplify the shameful posture of institutions of higher education today," explains Darren M. Richie, attorney for the plaintiffs in the lawsuits. "Instead of proactive prevention and vigilance against predatory and harassing behavior on their campuses, the modus operandi of these institutions is to be willfully blind, and if that doesn't work, to shift the blame around, sometimes even onto the victims of sexual misconduct. Where's the accountability? Leaders like Chancellor Gene Block of UCLA need to enact a real seachange in the institutional culture of willful blindness toward predators and harassers in their midst."

Plaintiffs are represented by Richie Litigation, P.C., an indomitable litigation firm committed to fighting for the rights of the wronged. For more information, contact Richie Litigation, P.C. at (213) 265-7888 or [law@richielitigation.com](mailto:law@richielitigation.com).

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