

June 2009

New Information

Case Support

In late May, the Educational Foundation board voted to divide \$18,000 in funding between the five current Legal Advocacy Fund-supported plaintiffs:

- [*Jaureguito v. Feather River Community College*](#) (CA)
- [*Mansourian, et al. v. Regents of the University of California, et al.*](#) (CA)
- [*Schuster v. Berea College*](#) (KY)
- [*Thein v. Feather River Community College*](#) (CA)
- [*Wartluft. v. Feather River Community College*](#) (CA)

Amicus Brief

On June 5, 2009, AAUW joined the National Partnership for Women & Families in signing an amicus brief to be filed with the U.S. 4th Circuit Court of Appeals in the sexual harassment case *Harris v. Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City*. Harris says that she encountered persistent harassment in her job at the Baltimore Department of Public Works, including being called “b---h” and being forced to sit at a table covered in pornographic images of women. The district court awarded summary judgment to the city, finding that the treatment Harris endured was not perpetrated “because of sex” and was not sufficiently severe or pervasive.

The amicus brief argues that the district court improperly discounted evidence that harassment was directed at Harris, and that, in any case, actions not specifically directed at a plaintiff should be considered in determining whether sexual harassment meets the standard of severe or pervasive. Further, it argues that displays of pornography and use of epithets like “b_ _ _h” are inherently gender-motivated harassment.

Reminders

Sexual Assault on Campus Project: LAF is crafting a manual and a Program in a Box focused on campus sexual assault policies in collaboration with the AAUW Research Department, Harvard University Law Professor and Title IX expert Diane Rosenfeld, her students, and Students Active for Ending Rape. The materials will be released in fall 2009.

Title IX in High School Athletics Project: In collaboration with the AAUW Research Department and the Legal Aid Society of San Francisco, LAF plans to release a new tool kit and Program in a Box in the fall on Title IX enforcement in high school athletics. These materials will focus on the rights of girl athletes and how schools can and should be approached to ensure title IX implementation and enforcement.

Case Support: If you would like to make a case recommendation, please contact laf@aauw.org. Recommendation forms are accepted on a rolling basis.

Campus Outreach: If you would like to receive funding for an LAF Campus Outreach Program in your community, please fill out the form in the second paragraph on the [campus outreach page](#) and send it to laf@aauw.org.

Online: For the latest LAF news, visit the AAUW website. The [LAF landing page](#) is updated several times a week to include links to news articles on relevant LAF issues. The LAF staff also regularly contribute to [AAUW Dialog](#).

Please consider making a [tax-deductible donation to LAF](#) to help balance the scales of justice for women.