



September 2009

New Information

Case Updates

Four years ago, AAUW supported teacher and coach [Roderick Jackson](#) when his [retaliation case went before the U.S. Supreme Court](#). Now his case is, finally, officially over. Jackson sued his employer, the Board of Education in Birmingham, Alabama, after he was fired for complaining about the unequal funding, facilities, and equipment of his girls' basketball team compared to the boys' basketball team. In 2005, the Supreme Court, in a precedent-setting ruling, said that Title IX protects teachers that are retaliated against for challenging sex discrimination against students. Jackson therefore had the right to sue under Title IX for the retaliation he experienced.

After the ruling, Jackson's case returned to district court, where he would have had to prove that the retaliatory discrimination did occur, but the parties opted to settle instead. Part of the terms of the agreement required the Board of Education to take necessary steps to provide female athletes with facilities comparable to those used by male athletes, to appoint a Title IX coordinator at the school, and to adopt a Title IX compliance policy and grievance procedure.

In 2008, Jackson filed court papers alleging that he was still being retaliated against and that the school was not adequately fulfilling the settlement agreement. - On September 3, 2009, the U.S. District Court [ruled](#) that the Birmingham Board of Education complied with the original settlement agreement, formally ending the eight-year-old case.

Jackson has spoken on numerous occasions at AAUW meetings where members have appreciated first hand his heroism and dedication to equity

Title IX in High School Athletics Project Update: In collaboration with the Legal Aid Society (LAS) of San Francisco, AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund will release a new Program in a Box in late September on Title IX enforcement in high school athletics. - The Women's Sports Foundation is co-branding some of their relevant materials on this topic for AAUW member use and working with AAUW and LAS to develop a webinar for interested members to be held in late October. If you or your branch are interested in Title IX and high school athletics issues, please contact laf@aauw.org as soon as possible so we can involve you in the upcoming project release at the end of September.

Reminders

Case Support Travel Grant:

LAF liaisons can apply for the [Case Support Travel Grant](#) (formerly known as the Plaintiff Travel Grant) to have speakers connected with LAF-supported cases speak at their state or regional meetings. Eligible speakers include past and current LAF-supported plaintiffs, their lawyers, and related experts. Grants cover the cost of travel, lodging, and meals for the selected speaker. The application deadline is **October 15**.

Case Support: LAF is actively reviewing new case support applications. 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 on the [campus outreach page](#) and send it to laf@aauw.org.

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

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

