

Advocacy Update

January 31 – February 4, 2011

Supreme Court Victory in Sex Discrimination Case (January 31) - This was a case that I profiled for you all a couple of month ago: *Thompson vs. North American Stainless*. The basic premise of the case was: It is a Title VII case involving sex discrimination in employment. The plaintiff, Miriam Regalado filed a Title VII complaint against her employer, North American Stainless Steel, for discriminating against her and treating her disrespectfully because she was a woman. The company found out about the complaint and proceeded to fire her fiancé who worked at the same company (Thompson). The question in this case was whether or not Thompson had standing to sue under the retaliation clause of Title VII because he was not the one who actually complained about sex discrimination.

The Supreme Court ruled in favor of Thompson, reversing the Sixth Circuit Court ruling. This is a big victory for Title VII and the expansion of protection for people that file sex discrimination suits. If you want to read more of the analysis, [CLICK HERE](#).

Wikipedia Posts Overwhelmingly Written by Men (January 31) - This is a very interesting article about the lack of female voice in the information that gets posted on Wikipedia. As more and more people turn to online sources like Wikipedia for research and information the shortage of female authors is a major concern. This shortage of female contribution leads to a disturbingly slanted interpretation of information and disproportionately masculine focus. Currently, only 15% of Wikipedia contributors are women. The article is an interesting read and raises some interesting points...[read it here](#).

FGCU Title IX Case Decided in Favor of the University (February 3) - After months in the court system, Bonnie Yegidis Title IX lawsuit against Florida Gulf Coast University was decided by a jury in favor of FGCU. Yegidis, the former Provost at FGCU, filed suit in 2007 after she was forced to resign for, what she claimed, was raising concerns about sex discrimination at the school. Three others lawsuits against FGCU regarding similar claims were recently settled out of court for \$4.2 million. In Yegidis' case, the jury determined that there was not sufficient evidence linking her forced resignation to her bringing attention to claims of sex discrimination at the University. The act of filing Title IX complaints or raising Title IX concerns is a protected action and one cannot be fired for doing so. But, in this case, the jury determined that Yegidis' forced resignation was not the result of her bringing attention to Title IX complaints. [Read more](#).

Back pay and Benefits Ordered Paid to Female Workers in Green Bay, Wis. (February 3) – The Green Bay Dressed Beef company has been ordered to pay \$1.65 million in back pay, interest and benefits to 970 female employees. During a scheduled compliance review, the Department of Labor found the company had been discriminating against its female employee and ordered them to implement compensatory measures. Secretary of Labor, Hilda Solis said, "This is the 21st century in the United States of America. There is no such thing as a 'man's job.' I am pleased that my department has been able to work out a resolution with Green Bay Dressed Beef, and that the settlement not only compensates the victims of discrimination but also provides jobs for many of these women." [Read more](#).