

Ex-Professor Sues Over Tenure Denial

SAN JOSE — A former black studies professor has sued San Jose State University for denying her tenure, citing gender and race bias.

Cynthia Mahabir was turned down for a tenured position despite recommendations from three separate peer review committees, said her attorney, Jody LeWitter.

Ms. Mahabir's suit accuses San Jose

State President Robert Caret of discriminating against her because she is a black woman.

But James R. Lynch, an attorney representing San Jose State, said discrimination had no part in the decision. He said Caret felt Ms. Mahabir had not published enough scholarly papers while at San Jose State.

Ms. Mahabir, 52, began teaching at the school's Afro-American Studies Department in the fall of 1987 and was put on a tenure track two years later. She applied for tenure in 1994, receiving unanimous approval from peer review committees representing her department, the school of social work and the university at large.

But the tenure process also includes a recommendation from the dean of the school, Sylvia Rodriguez-Andrews, who advised against tenure, and a final decision by Caret. The basis of the dean's recommendation is unknown.

— Associated Press