

PRESS RELEASE

1939 Harrison Street, Suite 307
Oakland, CA 94612

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510/452-5000 TEL
510/452-5004 FAX
www.sl-employmentlaw.com

CONTACT:

Jody LeWitter
Siegel LeWitter Malkani
(510) 452-5000 x 307
jlewitter@sl-employmentlaw.com

Jonathan H. Siegel
Jody I. LeWitter
Latika Malkani
Jean R. Krasilnikoff
Ashley Pellouchoud
Pawanpreet K. Dhaliwal

**Napa Jury Finds Napa District Attorney's Office Retaliated Against & Fired
Deputy District Attorney Jose Rossi for Requesting Reasonable
Accommodation for his Disabilities**

On February 27, 2018, a Napa superior court jury found that Napa County retaliated against and fired Deputy District Attorney Jose Rossi for speaking up for the reasonable accommodations that he needed as a disabled employee. The jury awarded Mr. Rossi \$570,081. A motion requesting payment of Mr. Rossi's attorney's fees and costs is anticipated.

Mr. Rossi was a deputy district attorney for Napa for 22 ½ years. Prior to his requests for reasonable accommodations, Mr. Rossi was a well-known and highly successful prosecutor with a long-standing reputation for prosecuting complicated white-collar crimes, the first tax evasion case in the county, creating a domestic violence deterrence program, and prosecuting animal rights, murder and other high-profile cases. Until his requests for reasonable accommodations, Mr. Rossi received all satisfactory or exceeds performance reviews over his entire career.

Mr. Rossi was fired by retired District Attorney Gary Lieberstein, current District Attorney Allison (Jennifer) Haley and current Assistant District Attorney Paul Gero, on December 19, 2014. The jury found that Mr. Rossi was fired because he asked for reasonable accommodations for his disabilities, after the jury heard evidence, including numerous emails from the then District Attorney, Gary Lieberstein, and the current District Attorney, Allison Haley, expressing animus towards the County's duty to reasonably accommodate Mr. Rossi.

Mr. Rossi stated, "I have waited three long years to clear my name. I feel vindicated and thankful. I hope this will never happen to another employee in the District Attorney's office."

Mr. Rossi's counsel, Jody LeWitter, of Siegel LeWitter Malkani, Oakland, California, stated, "This sends a message that those charged with doing justice and enforcing the law must do justice for their own employees and enforce the

**SIEGEL
LEWITTER
MALKANI**
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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laws protecting disabled employees. The District Attorney's office is not above the law."

Mr. Rossi was represented by Jody LeWitter, Jonathan Siegel and Jean Krasilnikoff of Siegel LeWitter Malkani, Oakland, California. The County of Napa was represented by Greg Dyer and Monika Troike of Jones Dyer in Sacramento.

For more information: Jody LeWitter, (510) 452-5000 x 307,
jlewitter@sl-employmentlaw.com.

Attached photo: Jose Rossi & his Legal Team, in front of Department G, Napa Superior Court. From left to right, Jody LeWitter, Jose, Rossi, Jonathan Siegel, Jean Krasilnikoff.

