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Wrongful Discharge/Discipline: Damages & Settlements Over \$100,000

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Two suburban Chicago police officers that were allegedly fired for speaking out about a fellow officer's purported use of cocaine, are awarded **\$1.75 million** in compensatory damages, \$120,000 in liquidated damages, and \$245,000 in punitive damages. *Sims v. Schultz*, #03C381, Pacer Doc. 229; *Wiseman v. Schultz*, #03C382, Pacer Doc. 100 (N.D. Ill. 2007).

A chief probation officer, who was fired after 35 years of service with excellent evaluations, has recovered **\$3,466,159** for wrongful termination. *Dieter v. Lassen Co.*, 1999 (12) Calif. Bar Journal "Trials Digest" (E.D. Cal. 1999). {N/R}

A truck driver who was falsely accused of intentionally destroying the brake pedal recovered a jury verdict of **\$850,000**. The award, which was 65% against the employer and 35% against the union, has been upheld by a federal appeals court. *Schoonover v. Consol. Frtwys.*, 147 F.3d 492; 1998 U.S. App. Lexis 13012 (6th Cir. 1998). {N/R}

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LAPD sergeant, fired for attending a "hot tub party" while on duty, recovers \$1.55 million for due process defects at his termination hearing; earlier jury verdict of \$2.9 million reduced. *Gibson v. City of Los Angeles*, U.S. Dist. Ct. #CV 82-3392 RG (C.D. Cal. 1988). [88 (165) FP 14-15] Note: The Ninth Circuit later ordered the city to pay him **\$631,000** plus a 20-year pension.

Pennsylvania municipality pays former chief **\$560,000** for an attempted wrongful termination. Plaintiff alleged psychological injuries caused by the defendants. *Farnell v. Bor. of Phoenixville*, #94-3185, 38 (10) ATLA L.Rptr. 373 (E.D.Pa. 1995). {Editor's file ref. #5609} [1995 FP 126]

So. California city pays former fire chief **\$415,000** in retaliatory discharge claim; he refused to lift a "stop work" order and criticized a city council decision on fire safety. *Doe v. City* {ID Confidential}, 108 (96) L.A.D.J. (V&S) 7 (1995). [1995 FP 158]

Ex-officer agrees to **\$400,000** settlement from her former employer. She had been accused of misconduct in a drug investigation. *Prokey v. Town of Sanford*, U.S. Dist. Ct. (D.Me. 1991). [1992 FP 30-1]

A California private sector employee who was terminated after speaking up on behalf of a gay coworker was awarded **\$313,440** by an Orange County Superior Court. *Hewus v. Weber Precision Graphics*, reported in the Calif. Bar Journal Trial Digest, June 2002. {N/R}

Fed. appeals court affirms **\$253,188** in damages (plus atty. fees) to police officer who was terminated because of a false claim he had falsified a speeding ticket. *Palmer v. City of Monticello*, 31 F.3d 1499 (10th Cir. 1994). {N/R}

California court awards **\$106,628** to an untenured worker who was unfairly fired for theft. *Eiden v. T.A.I.S., Orange Co. Super.Ct.* #714579, 109 (52) L.A.D.J. (V&S) 6 (1995). [1996 FP 94-5]