

LOS ANGELES
Daily Journal

SPECIAL ISSUE: Year in Review
Will the 2000 election result shake up the future of litigation? **PAGE 10**

DECEMBER 15, 2000
Verdicts
& Settlements

**RELIGIOUS
DISCRIMINATION**

A city engineer won \$1 million after he was replaced on a project and denied a promotion allegedly due to spiritual beliefs. **PAGE 21.**

EMPLOYMENT LAW

Race Discrimination

Religious Discrimination

VERDICT: \$1,183,790 plus attorney fees and costs (\$1 million in compensatory damages, including future economic damages and pain and suffering. After the verdict, in a statement of decision on Aug. 14, 2000, the plaintiff was awarded back pay totaling \$183,790.)

CASE/NUMBER: Rez v. City of Los Angeles / BC183018.

COURT/DATE: Los Angeles Superior Central / Nov. 20, 2000.

JUDGE: Hon. Ralph W. Dau.

DISBURSEMENT: \$650,000 (economic); \$350,000 (non-economic).

ATTORNEYS: Plaintiff - Allen B. Felahy (Felahy & Associates, Long Beach).

Defendant - Molly Roff Sheridan (City Attorney's Office, Los Angeles).

TECHNICAL EXPERTS: Plaintiff - David T. Fractor, Ph.D., economist, Pasadena.

MEDICAL EXPERTS: Plaintiff - Perry Maloff, psychiatrist, Covina.

Defendant - William Josephs, psychologist, Van Nuys.

FACTS & CONTENTIONS: The plaintiff, a 48-year-old engineer for the City of Los Angeles, contended that he was replaced on a project and denied a promotion because of his national origin and religious beliefs.

The defendant contended there was no discrimination and that its decisions were based upon legitimate business reasons.

INJURIES: Nervous breakdown, severe emotional distress, high blood pressure.

JURY TRIAL: Length, 12 days; poll, 10-2 (liability), 9-3 (damages); deliberation, two days.

SETTLEMENT DISCUSSIONS: The plaintiff demanded \$275,000.

The defendant offered \$15,000, increased to \$40,000 before trial.

POST-TRIAL MOTION: Motion for attorney fees of \$378,054 is pending.