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FORMER CAL STATE SAN BERNARDINO ASSOCIATE DEAN WINS \$6 MILLION IN GENDER HARASSMENT VERDICT

THU, 10/23/2025

A jury has awarded \$6 million to former California State University San Bernardino Associate Dean Anissa Rogers, who claims she was the victim of gender harassment while working at the university's Palm Desert campus. The October 20 judgment followed a three-week trial in Los Angeles County Superior Court.

In 2023, Rogers and former CSUSB Provost Clare Weber filed a lawsuit, alleging "severe or pervasive" harassment by CSUSB Palm Desert Dean Jake Zhu. They say the university did not act to resolve the gender-based harassment and ignored evidence that there existed a culture of fear and intimidation for female employees at the school.

"This case exposed what women inside Cal State have been saying for years: the mistreatment of women within the Cal State system is not just a series of one-off incidents; the problem is systemic and structural," said Rogers' attorney Andrew H. Friedman of Helmer Friedman, LLP. "This verdict should serve as a loud message to CSU to clean up its act and take complaints of employment violations seriously. Cal State can no longer ignore the systemic twin problems of gender-based mistreatment and retailation that is endemic. The jury saw the importance of holding this institution to account, and we're very appreciative of that."

Weber's case is expected to go to trial some time in 2026

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