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Morrie's 394 Hyundai in MN Liable for Retaliation Against Employee; Must Pay \$200,000

On Oct. 9, a jury found *Morrie's 394 Hyundai, LLC*, of St. Louis Park, MN, liable for retaliation against former employee Victoria McVey and awarded her \$200,000 in damages.

The jury found two kinds of retaliation: for reporting gender discrimination in violation of the Minnesota Human Rights Act and for using personal sick leave benefits to care for her child in violation of the Minnesota Parenting Leave and Accommodations Act.

McVey was the dealership's sole female parts counterperson and a top performer when Morrie's Hyundai terminated her. She alleged Morrie's had treated her differently than her male colleagues in the almost three years she worked there.

When McVey brought her concerns about gender discrimination to the human resources director, she was accused of being "abrasive" and "difficult to approach." She was also criticized for her lawful use of family leave time to care for her sick child.

Ultimately, Morrie's fired McVey with no notice or prior reprimands. The jury found Morrie's violated McVey's rights under Minnesota's human rights and parenting statutes and awarded her \$200,000 in damages for backpay, frontpay and emotional distress.

McVey was represented by *Halunen Law* attorneys **Amy E. Boyle** and **Colin J. Pasterski**.

"We are pleased our client had her day in court and the jury found in her favor," said Boyle. "Unfortunately, we see this all too often; she was a woman working in a male-dominated industry, who took time off work to care for her son and reported gender discrimination when Morrie's did not want her to 'throw those words around.'"

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