



*United States Attorney
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**NEW YORK CITY AGREES TO PAY \$1 MILLION
TO SETTLE GENDER DISCRIMINATION LAWSUIT**

PREET BHARARA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that the City of New York has agreed to pay a total of \$1 million in damages to four victims to settle an employment discrimination lawsuit filed by the United States against the City and its Department of Transportation ("DOT"). The settlement was approved today by U.S. District Judge WILLIAM H. PAULEY in Manhattan federal court. Following a trial, Judge PAULEY found that the City and DOT had engaged in a pattern or practice of gender-based discrimination in connection with hiring, in violation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The four female victims had applied for the position of bridge painter at DOT but were not hired on account of their gender. Each woman will receive \$250,000 from the City as part of the settlement.

In addition, on September 7, 2010, EFROSINI KATANAKIS, one of the four women, began working as a provisional bridge painter at DOT. She now becomes the first woman in the history of DOT to receive such an appointment.]

In addition to the damages, the civil suit by the United States also sought injunctive relief to remedy the arbitrary and discriminatory hiring process for the bridge painter position at DOT. On May 30, 2010, Judge PAULEY issued an order requiring the DOT to reform its policies and procedures for hiring bridge painters to prevent further gender-based discrimination. Under that order, DOT is required to hold a civil service examination of the bridge painter position at DOT and to appoint bridge painters based on the objective results of that examination. A fairness hearing on that injunctive order has been scheduled for December 3, 2010.

Manhattan U.S. Attorney PREET BHARARA stated: "This month, for the first time in New York City history, a woman reported for work as a bridge painter. This groundbreaking settlement will give her and the other victims the compensation they deserve for the discrimination they experienced. This Office will continue to fight gender discrimination and vigorously enforce civil rights laws to ensure a level playing field for anyone looking for a job."

This case is being handled by the Office's Civil Rights Unit. Assistant U.S. Attorneys JEANNETTE A. VARGAS, ALLISON D. PENN, and LI YU are in charge of the case.

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