

Alleged Sexual Discrimination Suit Filed by Former Officer

Carol Ann McClure, a 24-year veteran of the Exeter Township Police Department claims that she was forced to resign in February 2005 while recovering from back surgery. She further explains that, for years, she had been held back from normal duties and positions held by township police officers.

Ms. McClure has initiated a lawsuit against Exeter Township, former Township Supervisor Lachlan MacBean and recently retired Police Chief, Gerard Radke. In the lawsuit, Ms. McClure alleges that she was unfairly treated due to her gender (She was the first female patrolwoman in Exeter Township).

According to Ms. McClure, she was passed over for promotions and prevented from taking overtime assignments. She stated that Chief Radke informed her that her duties were as School Police Liaison, a “girls job”. She further stated that Chief Radke had drawn caricatures of her without clothes on and posted them in the office. This was a source of humiliation for her.

In her statement, Ms. McClure mentioned that the township has never promoted a female officer above the rank of patrolwoman even though she had actually passed promotion exams.

As a field-training officer, McClure should have been training new officers but she rarely was given any to mentor. She believes that officials had told new recruits to be wary of her because she would bring them up on charges of sexual harassment.

Another point of contention, is that former supervisor MacBean apparently stated many times that women did not make good police officers. Further, implicating MacBean with possible discrimination are statements that McClure said Chief Radke made. According to McClure, Chief Radke felt she should be grateful to him for keeping her employed when MacBean wanted her fired.

McClure had back surgery in the summer of 2004. This led to months of time away from the job. Her doctor cleared her to return on light duty and she believed that she would be able to return to the administrative tasks that she had been doing in the office or to function as the Exeter School District DARE Officer, a position that she had held for six years.

As conditions, McClure is seeking reinstatement to the Exeter Township Police Department and \$150,000 in damages.