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Statement of Attorney Gloria Allred in response to the Wall Street Journal

Today, the Wall Street Journal launched an unprecedented attack upon my law firm, Allred Maroko and Goldberg (AMG), and me. For almost fifty years my law firm and I have been the leading law firm in the United States dedicated to asserting, protecting and vindicating the rights of women. In addition, we have advocated for and won trailblazing cases for minorities (including winning pioneering cases for individuals who are gay, lesbian, or transgender). We have successfully represented African American clients who have been discriminated against in their place of employment and denied the rights that they deserve. We have also won groundbreaking cases for individuals who are Latino/Latina, and we have fought for and won victories on behalf of our clients who have been discriminated against because of their age or disability.

The Wall Street Journal has not attacked our firm for the results that we have achieved for our clients, because they cannot. We have won more than a billion dollars through lawsuits and settlements for our clients against the rich, the powerful, the famous, large corporations and government entities.

We have won precedent setting victories in Federal and State Courts of Appeal and the California Supreme Court. These published decisions have advanced and improved the rights of not only our clients, but many others who have benefited from these victories.

For decades we have represented victims of gender violence, child sexual abuse, and discrimination, and dedicated ourselves to working with our clients to hold perpetrators accountable.

Despite our precedent setting work and significant success for our courageous clients, the Wall Street Journal chose to ignore these victories and instead it has published an article which has portrayed our law firm in a false or negative light.

The truth is, they have ignored the fact that I have been honored to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award from The National Trial Lawyers. They have not mentioned that I was honored by President Reagan at the White House in 1986 when he presented me with the President's Volunteer Action Award for Outstanding Volunteerism for my advocacy and activism for single mothers who were denied child support. The WSJ has also failed to mention that I have been inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame, and that I have received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Organization for Women. The WSJ also did not mention that I have been honored to receive the LGBTQ+ Lawyers Association of Los Angeles Co-President's Award, the 2023 Fay Stender Award by the California Women Lawyers for my commitment to women's causes and ability to effect change, and the Lenore Kramer Award for Excellence from the Women's Caucus of the New York State Trial Lawyers Association. I am grateful to have been honored by California Rural Legal Assistance when I was presented with the *Dolores Huerta Adelita Award* which honors women who are trailblazers in their communities. Especially meaningful to me is that I was encouraged to continue the work that my law firm and I do by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg in a conversation we had at the United States Supreme Court.



On a personal level, I devote myself to my clients seven days a week, including holidays, weekends, and nights. I make myself available to my clients, even when my office is closed, because injustice does not only occur “9 to 5.”

We are unique as a law firm in the United States in that we not only litigate cases up to and through higher courts, but we have also helped numerous victims to have a voice against injustice in the court of public opinion, in legislatures, and in the courts.

For example, I have also testified before state legislatures in California, Nevada, and Colorado with my clients and others in support of expanding statutes of limitations in order to provide more rights for victims. Some of my clients who were instrumental in changing the law, are featured in my Netflix documentary, entitled, “Seeing Allred.” I have advocated with and without elected officials for more access to the courts for victims of child sexual abuse, and adult victims of adult sexual abuse in New York.

I have sat in and been thrown out of the office of a District Attorney who refused to meet with me to hear suggestions of how to help single moms collect their court-ordered child support from “deadbeat” dads. I have marched and picketed and been a featured speaker at protest rallies in support of a woman’s fundamental right to have a safe and legal abortion. We have proudly represented victims who were discriminated against because they were pregnant or because they were breast-feeding. We have also successfully litigated and won cases in court against a right-to-life pregnancy counseling clinic which made false representations to pregnant women.

We have litigated and won many precedent setting lawsuits for clients who have been victims of discrimination because they had AIDS or were HIV positive.

We have also fought for and won many landmark cases in the Court of Appeals for victims who have been discriminated against because of their sexual orientation.

I make no apologies for the fact that my law firm and I are civil rights and women's rights attorneys, and that we support our clients in courts of law, before legislatures, and in every way and in every forum possible. I am inspired by Mahatma Gandhi who urged all of us to remember that we must be the change which we wish to see in the world. I see it as my moral duty to follow his example, and support and empower others to win the change that they wish to see in the world.

We regard this WSJ article as an attempt to intimidate me, bully me, discredit me, and deter me from continuing to have a role in representing the victims of injustice, but I will not be intimidated, I will not be bullied, I will not be deterred, and I will not be silenced.

This piece is clearly a hit job directed at me by the WSJ. It is not surprising that the WSJ smear is published at this time when a number of other prominent law firms who have spoken out and criticized powerful people are being targeted and retaliated against for their advocacy and the cases they have taken in the past to win justice for their clients.

Further, the WSJ's omissions of the successful outcomes of my law firm and their failure to highlight the more than ten thousand clients that we have successfully represented demonstrate a total lack of balance and fairness by the WSJ, and raises serious questions about their motives and agenda. For example, they did not focus on the fact that we have represented approximately 10,000 happy clients in our five decades of law practice. Instead, they secretly interviewed a handful of former clients. Many of our clients who were not interviewed are very happy about the results we have obtained for them and with them. Many of these clients have thanked us for the outcomes that we have won

for them, and they have told us that the results which we have achieved have had a life-changing impact on them and helped them to improve their lives, and the lives of their families. In fact, many of our clients have been so happy with the results that we have obtained for them that they have referred their family members, friends, and co-workers to us and asked us to help them win justice as well.

It is also notable that the Wall Street Journal article failed to mention many of our major legal successes. For example, a few years ago our law firm won a sexual harassment case in front of a California jury on behalf of one victim of sexual harassment. The verdict in favor of our client and against the defendant employer was more than \$58 million dollars. This verdict was affirmed on appeal. There is no mention of that legal victory in this Wall Street Journal article.

We represented 72 of the 702 victims who were sexually harassed and sexually assaulted by their OBGYN, Dr. George Tyndall, while he was employed at the University of Southern California. The lawsuits were settled after years of litigation for a collective sum of \$842 million dollars for the 702 victims to compensate them for their injuries. I see no mention of that in the WSJ article.

Empowerment, accountability, and justice for victims who have been denied their rights are my goals. Accountability may be achieved through settlement, or through a civil lawsuit, and/or in the criminal justice system. Change can also be won by taking to the streets and speaking out in public protests, on television, radio, and the internet. We believe that there are many ways to fight injustice, and my law firm and I have been involved in all of those ways. We believe in speaking truth to power and also informing our clients about the benefits and risks of what can be obtained or not obtained in the way that they choose to seek justice. For example, we will inform them of the risks of speaking outside of a lawsuit where powerful interests like celebrities, sexual predators, wrongdoers, the press, political figures, and others may attack them. Clients need to know of the risks in any option that they may choose. Then

it is up to them to decide which path they wish to take, and our law firm will then decide if we can help them in their pursuit of justice.

If the client does not wish to sign a confidentiality clause in a settlement agreement, the client always has a right to reject the settlement and proceed to file a civil lawsuit.

Also, even if the client accepts the confidentiality clause in a settlement, the client always continues to have a legal right to file a police report and testify in public at a criminal trial if law enforcement decides to file charges against the person with whom the client entered into a confidential settlement. In addition, if a client is subpoenaed in a civil lawsuit filed by another victim, the client who has entered a confidential settlement is permitted to testify in the other victim's civil lawsuit if subpoenaed.

Most mediators who assist in achieving a settlement are either retired judges or professional mediators, and they are often there at the time of settlement to see that the client's decision to accept a settlement with a confidentiality clause is voluntary on the part of the client. [Gloria Allred: Assault victims have every right to keep their trauma and their settlements private - Los Angeles Times](#)

We are there to inform our clients about the options, benefits and risks, and to be honest as to what can be obtained or not obtained inside or outside the justice system. I practice tough love with clients and potential clients. Not only do I speak truth to power, I speak truth to clients and because I am honest, I often tell them things that they do not want to hear because they deserve to be informed of the risks that they face. I do this because they need to know that taking on the rich, the powerful, and the famous will be very challenging for them because, as I have said many times, no one has ever given women any rights. We have always had to fight to win them. In order to win rights, they are going to need to be

courageous and make sacrifices. We can't do it for them. We can only do it with them.

We are very proud of our clients, whom we have represented successfully on their journey to justice, and we are very grateful to them for the trust they have placed in us. I am also very proud of my partners and associates in my law firm who have fought the good fight for our clients, in the courts and elsewhere. Their legal prowess and commitment to fighting injustice for and with our clients is inspiring, and essential to the work to which our law firm has been dedicated for so many years. We are also very grateful to attorneys throughout the country and throughout the world with whom we have co-counseled on important cases. We are honored that they are part of our legal team.

Every day, I am inspired by our clients who have demonstrated their courage in their battles for justice. They are the reason that we continue our legal battles for them, and our success would not have been possible without them. We will continue our David (or Davida) vs. Goliath battles for as long as humanly possible because the spirit of Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King Jr., Susan B. Anthony, and Cesar Chavez still lives in the majority of our clients and in all of the members of our firm. We will not surrender to lies and attempts to demean and discredit our life's work because we recognize that our battles for justice are important to so many. We need to help to empower the powerless, provide a voice to the voiceless, and help win accountability for those who have been disrespected and whose rights have been denied.

As Susan B. Anthony said, "We will never have another season of silence until women have the same rights as men on this green earth." "Failure is impossible."

Attorney Gloria Allred

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Note: Regarding Confidentiality Clauses aka NDA's.

Our clients always have the right to decide if they wish to accept or reject a confidentiality clause in a settlement agreement. The choice to agree to confidentiality has always been and continues to be a decision made by the client. Many of our clients wish to maintain their privacy and want confidentiality as part of a settlement. Other clients agree to accept confidentiality because the settlement may be significantly more than they might receive from a jury after lengthy litigation that could take years in contrast to the settlement which is immediate and risk free. Also, in many cases, the defendant will not agree to a settlement without an agreement to keep the settlement confidential. Our law firm, Allred Maroko and Goldberg, always defers to our client's decision as to whether or not to agree to a confidentiality clause in a settlement agreement. We support our client's decision either way.