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2000

## Complaint, Robbins v. Chac Inc, Docket No. 1:00-cv-02037 (Northern District of Illinois, Apr 04, 2000)

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John Marshall Law School Fair Housing Legal Clinic

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#### IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS EASTERN DIVISION

IDA ROBBINS,	)
Plaintiff,	) OOC 2032 1
VS.	) No. P. E.
CHAC, INC., an Illinois corporation, and CARL	) 14 - 1: 0 - 1: 0 - 1: 0
LYKE.	JUDGE GETTLEMAN
Defendants.	
	MAGISTRATE JUDGE ROSEMOND COMPLAINT

Plaintiff, IDA ROBBINS, by her attorneys, F. Willis Caruso, Kirsten Mahlman, Bryan

T. Butcher (Rule 711 Senior Law Student), THE JOHN MARSHALL LAW SCHOOL FAIR

HOUSING LEGAL CLINIC, complains of the Defendants, CHAC, INC., an Illinois
corporation (hereinafter "CHAC"), and CARL LYKE, the following:

#### JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 1. This civil action arises under 42 U.S.C. section 3601 *et seq.*, sections 3604(a)(b)(c) and section 3617 of the Fair Housing Act of 1968 *as amended*, and common law Assault and Battery pursuant to this court's pendent jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C.A. Section 1367.

  Jurisdiction is further conferred upon this court under 28 U.S.C. Section 1343(a)(4); Section 1331; Section 3613(a); and 28 U.S.C. Section 2201.
- 2. Venue herein is proper under 42 U.S.C. Section 1319(b)(c), since all of the Defendants reside in this judicial district, and the events giving rise to the claims herein occurred within this judicial district.

//

#### **PARTIES**

- 3. Plaintiff, Ida Robbins is a female resident of the City of Chicago, County of Cook, State of Illinois. In June of 1998, Plaintiff was a section 8 participant in the Defendant CHAC, Inc.'s housing assistance program.
- 4. The Defendant, CHAC, Inc., (hereinafter "CHAC"), is a local business entity incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois. CHAC runs and administers a housing assistance program which the Plaintiff has participated in since June of 1998.
- 5. Defendant Carl Lyke, (hereinafter "Lyke") is a male resident of the City of Chicago, County of Cook, State of Illinois. In June of 1998, Lyke was an employee and agent of CHAC, whose duties and responsibilities included routine inspections of housing units of the participants in CHAC's housing assistance program.

#### FACTUAL BACKGROUND

- On or about June 17, 1998, Plaintiff lived at 9929 S. Sangamon, in the City of Chicago, County of Cook, State of Illinois.
- 7. On or about the aforesaid date, CHAC operated a housing assistance program that included subsidizing rent and utilities for individuals who qualified for the program known as "Section 8."
- 8. On or about said date, Plaintiff was a Section 8 participant in CHAC's housing assistance program.
- 9. CHAC's program required an applicant to select a housing unit approved by one of CHAC's housing inspectors to insure that the home was safe and compliant with CHAC's rules and regulations.

- 10. On or about said date, Lyke was acting as an agent and employee of CHAC, and functioned as one of CHAC's Section 8 building inspectors.
- 11. On or about said date, Lyke was scheduled to go to the Plaintiff's residence and conduct an inspection of the apartment to ensure its compliance with CHAC's regulations.
- 12. The Plaintiff allowed Lyke into her residence and proceeded to take him to the upper level of her home to show him a problem with her bedroom window.
- 13. Once Lyke was inside Plaintiff's bedroom, Lyke made offensive and sexual comments about Plaintiff and her bed.
- 14. When Plaintiff went to show Lyke what was wrong with the bedroom window, Lyke reached out, and without Plaintiff's consent, grabbed Plaintiff's breast.
- 15. Plaintiff attempted to push Lyke away, and screamed at him when he attempted to touch her again while telling her "you like that."
- 16. After Plaintiff demanded Lyke leave the room, he touched Plaintiff's buttocks as she was leaving the bedroom.
- 17. After Plaintiff continued to demand that Lyke leave her home, he placed his hands on her head and stated, "let me pray for you."
- 18. After repeated attempts to instruct Lyke to leave her home, he refused to leave immediately, and did so only when he realized that Plaintiff's brother was watching him abuse his sister.
- 19. After Lyke left her home Plaintiff called the main office at CHAC, to report the abusive behavior of its employee, the Defendant Lyke.
- 20. During the phone call to CHAC, Plaintiff was told that her complaint against Lyke was not the first time that CHAC had complaints about Lyke's behavior, and Plaintiff

was further told to write a letter regarding the incident. Said letter is attached as "Exhibit A."

- 21. On June 10, 1999, Plaintiff filed a complaint with The Department of Housing and Urban Development against CHAC, alleging sexual harassment.
- 22. As a result of Lyke's actions with Plaintiff and other women participants in CHAC's section 8 program, CHAC terminated Lyke's employment.

#### <u>COUNT I</u> SEXUAL HARASSMENT

- 1-22. Plaintiff adopts and realleges paragraphs 1-22 of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.
- 23. On or about June 17, 1998, and presently, there was and is in effect, 42 U.S.C.§3601 *et seq*.(The Fair Housing Act), which prohibits, among other things, discrimination in housing on the basis of gender.
- 24. On June 17, 1998, the Defendant CHAC, had full supervisory authority and control over its agent and employee, the Defendant Lyke.
- 25. On said date, the Defendant CHAC, knew or should have known that its agent and employee, the Defendant Lyke, was engaging in a pattern and practice of sexual harassment of the Plaintiff and other women participating in the Defendant CHAC's section 8 program.
- 26. Defendant Lyke, while acting as agent of the Defendant CHAC, discriminated against the Plaintiff on the basis of her gender by "otherwise making unavailable or denying" her housing in violation of 42 U.S.C. §3604(a).
- 27. On said date, the Defendant Lyke, while acting as agent of CHAC, did intentionally and without Plaintiff's consent, make unwelcome sexual advances toward Plaintiff and discriminate against Plaintiff on the basis of her gender in the terms, conditions, privileges

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and provision of services in housing, in violation of 42 U.S.C. §3604(b).

- 28. On or about said date, the Defendant Lyke, while acting as agent of CHAC, did intentionally and without Plaintiff's consent, make offensive sexual remarks toward Plaintiff and discriminate against Plaintiff on the basis of her gender by making discriminatory statements in housing, violating 42 U.S.C. §3604(c).
- 29. On or about said date, the Defendant Lyke, while acting as agent of CHAC, did intentionally and without Plaintiff's consent, touch and grab Plaintiff's breasts and buttocks, and discriminate against Plaintiff on the basis of her gender by coercing, threatening, intimidating and otherwise interfering with Plaintiff's enjoyment of her housing in violation of 42 U.S.C. §3617.
- 30. Defendant Lyke's unwelcome sexual harassment, and the Defendant CHAC's acquiescence of Lyke's behavior were so severe that it created a hostile living environment whereby Plaintiff became fearful for her safety and dignity in her present and future participation in CHAC's housing assistance program, causing Plaintiff to fear the loss her home.
- 31. As a direct consequence of the Defendants' sexual harassment of the Plaintiff,
  Plaintiff has suffered severe physical and emotional injury as well as serious aggravation to preexisting injuries and illnesses, and will in the future continue to suffer said injuries directly
  attributable to the Defendants' actions and omissions.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Ida Robbins, prays that this court award all legal and equitable remedies, including and without limitation, actual and punitive damages against the Defendants, jointly and severally, attorneys fees and costs, and any further relief this court deems equitable, just and necessary.

#### <u>COUNT II</u> ASSAULT

- 1-31. Plaintiff adopts and realleges paragraphs 1-31 of this complaint as though fully set forth herein.
- 32. On or about June 17, 1998, the Defendant Lyke, while acting as agent of the Defendant, CHAC, did intentionally and without Plaintiff's permission, place Plaintiff in reasonable apprehension of receiving imminent bodily harm by making unwelcome, offensive sexual remarks toward Plaintiff, and attempting to touch Plaintiff's body.
- 33. As a direct consequence of the Defendants' behavior Plaintiff has suffered severe physical and emotional injury as well as serious aggravation to pre-existing injuries and illnesses, and will in the future continue to suffer said injuries directly attributable to the Defendants' actions and omissions.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff IDA ROBBINS, prays that this court award all legal and equitable remedies, including and without limitation, actual and punitive damages against the Defendants, jointly and severally, attorneys fees and costs, and any further relief this court deems equitable just and necessary.

## COUNT III BATTERY

- 1-33. Plaintiff adopts and realleges Counts 1-33 of this complaint as though fully set forth herein.
- 34. On or about June 17, 1998, the Defendant Lyke, while acting as agent of the Defendant CHAC, did intentionally and without Plaintiff's consent, made offensive bodily

contact of a sexual nature with the Plaintiff.

35. On or about June 17, 1998, the Defendant Lyke, while acting as agent of the Defendant CHAC, did intentionally and without Plaintiff's consent made offensive bodily contact with the Plaintiff by touching and grabbing Plaintiff's breast and buttocks.

36. As a direct consequence of the Defendants' behavior, Plaintiff has suffered severe physical and emotional injury as well as serious aggravation to pre-existing injuries and illnesses, and will in the future continue to suffer said injuries directly attributable to the Defendants' actions and omissions.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff IDA ROBBINS, prays that this court award all legal and equitable remedies, including and without limitation, actual and punitive damages against the Defendants, jointly and severally, attorneys fees and costs, and any further relief this court deems equitable just and necessary.

One of Attorneys for Plaintiff

F. Willis Carauso
Kit Malhman
Bryan T. Butcher (Rule 711 Senior Law Student)
The John Marshall Law School
Fair Housing Legal Clinic
28 E. Jackson Blvd.
Suite 500
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Case: 1:00-cv-02037 Document #: 1 Filed: 04/04/00 Page 8 of 13 PageID #:8

#### **EXHIBIT A**

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NOTICE OF FILING

JUDGE GETTLEMAN

TO: CHAC, Inc. 1000 South Wabash Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60605 312-986-9400

MAGISTRATE JUDGE ROSEMOND

Please take notice that on April 4, 2000, I caused to be filed with the clerk of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, the attached COMPLAINT, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Kirsten Mahlman
Attorney for Plaintiff
The John Marshall Law School
Fair Housing Legal Clinic
28 E. Jackson Blvd., Suite 500
Chicago, Illinois 60604
312-786-2267

#### **Certificate of Service**

I, Kirsten Mahlman, an attorney, hereby certify that I caused to be mailed a copy of the aforementioned document to the party to whom said notice is directed on the 4th day of April 2000.

JS 44 (Rev. 12/96)

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

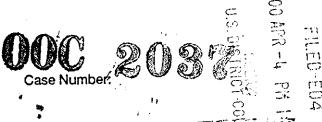
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# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

#### In the Matter of

Ida Robbins v. CHAC, Inc., and Carl Lyke



APPEARANCES ARE HEREBY FILED BY THE UNDERSIGNED AS ATTORIUSE FOR THE FILED

Plaintiff (Ida Robbins).	MAGISTRATE JUDGE ROSEMOND
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SIGNATURE (1) Illa Carrey	SIGNATURE
F. Willis Caruso	Kirsten Mahlman NAME
NAME  JMLS Fair Housing Legal Clinic	JMLS Fair Housing Legal Clinic
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28 E. Jackson Blvd., Suite 500 street ADDRESS	28 E. Jackson Blvd., Suite 500 STREET ADDRESS
Chicago, IL 60604	Chicago, IL 60604
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