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Subj: [casd] Hathorn v. SCOE --- Joel Selik Jury Project  
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From CASD Member: Richard <rverlasky@ricochet.com>

For those who might be interested, on Monday morning October 18, 2004 at 10:30 am we will begin jury selection in Department 27, Judge Fred Link. It is a racial discrimination case by a 32 year old African American female against the Sacramento County Office of Education. I was asked to assist in this case by Shirley Mills, an African American lawyer, with a Ph.D. in education.

We submitted the case to a Focus Group at Joel Selik's Jury Project. Joel runs a superior program. It was my first time there, and I found it to be the most informative aspect in trial preparation that I have ever experienced. Watching and listening to the jury debate was worth every cent. We found out what lay people found compelling in the case, but more importantly, what they found lacking and needed to be buffed up by the time the bell rings. I highly recommend Joel's project for anyone who is preparing to try a substantial or important case. In fact, I can't say enough good about it. I'll never try an important case again without running it through Joel's Focus Group.

The case is being defended by Dan Shinoff of Stutz, et. al. and his associate, Gil Abed. Much of the voire dire will center on questions about racial attitudes, attitudes about racial discrimination lawsuits, the relationships between prospective jurors and African Americans, affirmative action and everyone's favorite, reverse discrimination.

Although the case doesn't involve outright usage of the N word or any other salacious colloquialisms, the evidence is clear that the deputy superintendent completely shunned the plaintiff and made her job impossible. Ms. Mills was advised by the defense attorneys that if this was a private company defendant, they would have settled quickly. However, it is going to trial because they simply don't believe a San Diego jury will award very much money against a

Monday, October 18, 2004 America Online: SELIKLAW

public entity, even if it is in Sacramento.

Many thanks to Joel and Kathleen.

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