

Court Enters Consent Decree So Pennsylvania Girls Can Wrestle

Philadelphia, PA (April 2, 2014) - The Women's Law Project and Flaster/Greenberg P.C. announce the successful resolution of a lawsuit on behalf of a Pennsylvania seventh-grade female student who was denied the opportunity to participate in the Line Mountain School District's all-male wrestling program, in violation of her constitutional rights.

The lawsuit was filed in October 2013 in federal court and alleged that the district's all-male wrestling program discriminated against girls on the basis of sex in violation of the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and the Equal Rights Amendment of the Pennsylvania Constitution. In January 2014, Flaster/Greenberg lawyer Abbe F. Fletman and Women's Law Project attorney Terry L. Fromson were successful in obtaining a preliminary injunction requiring the school district to allow seventh-grader Audriana Beattie to join the all-male wrestling program for the duration of the lawsuit.

The Court has now approved a consent decree entered into by the parties that will allow Ms. Beattie to remain on the previously all-male wrestling team and other young women who wrestle competitively may join the team.

The school district has also rescinded its policy that kept girls off boys' teams and will not adopt any policy in the future that will unlawfully deny athletic opportunity on the basis of sex. "Wrestling is one of the fastest growing sports for young women; the school district's agreement to resolve this action both brings the school into compliance with the law and addresses girls' athletic interests," said Fromson of the Women's Law Project. "Audriana has been a competitive wrestler for more than four years, and we are pleased that she will be able to continue competing at Line Mountain," said Fletman of Flaster/Greenberg. Because of this action, Audriana has been able to wrestle with the boys' team, where she achieved a 6 win/13 loss record this season, while also preparing for the Pennsylvania Girls State Wrestling Championships, where she came in first in her weight class in Middle School competition.

ABOUT THE WOMEN'S LAW PROJECT: The Women's Law Project is a non-profit women's legal advocacy organization with offices in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. The mission of the Women's Law Project is to create a more just and equitable society by advancing the rights and status of all women throughout their lives. To this end, the Women's Law Project engages in high-impact litigation, advocacy, and education. For more information, visit: www.womenslawproject.org, and follow us on Twitter @WomensLawProj.

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