



**Division of
Human Rights**

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**STATEMENT FROM COMMISSIONER HELEN DIANE FOSTER
ON COURT'S RULING AFFIRMING DIVISION'S ORDER ON SEXUAL
HARASSMENT CASE**

"We are pleased with the Appellate Division's affirmance of our determination finding discrimination in the case of Lora Abbott Seabury v. Rensselaer County Sheriff's Department, and the affirmance of our \$300,000 award for compensatory damages for emotional pain and suffering, one of the largest awards of this type ever ordered by the Division. We will modify our final order with respect to other damages as directed by the Court.

Ms. Abbott Seabury was subjected to an egregious pattern of sexual harassment and abuse in her workplace. This case is a reminder that in New York, an employer cannot permit, condone, or facilitate discriminatory abuse against an employee without consequences.

The Court's ruling reinforces the Division's authority to fulfill its statutory mandate to prevent and eradicate all forms of discrimination across the State."

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