

### Settlement Reached in Defamation Lawsuit Based on Social Media Posts

A settlement was reached today in a Buncombe County lawsuit over malicious and defamatory posts on social media. In December 2015, Davyne Dial, President of the non-profit company that runs low power radio station WPVM, sued Jacquelyn Hammond for defamation and infliction of emotional distress.

Defendant Jacquelyn Hammond made the following statement. "I have engaged in a long-running malicious smear campaign against Davyne Dial and radio station WPVM. I have made malicious posts on social media and Asheville Blog. I also have confabulated statements to mainstream media, including the Mountain Express, which were included in an article published on November 4, 2015."

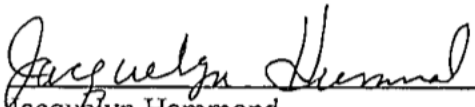
"As one example, I posted on a FaceBook thread that Davyne Dial is a bat-shit crazy narcissist and hates minorities, and I suggested Davyne got drunk and killed her child. None of these statements is true, and it was reckless for me to make these statements. I apologize to Davyne and to WPVM for all of the hurt and damage that I may have caused by recklessly and maliciously maligning her and the radio station's reputation."

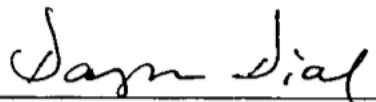
Plaintiff Davyne Dial said: "I am happy with the outcome. This case and the settlement shows that there are consequences for making reckless and false statements about someone on social media."

According to Dial's attorney, Mike Wimer, a Consent Judgment will be entered against Hammond in Buncombe County Superior Court awarding Dial \$500,000, including \$250,000 in punitive damages.

For further information contact Davyne Dial (828-335-4343) or Mike Wimer (828-350-9799)

ISSUED BY:

  
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Jacquelyn Hammond

  
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Davyne Dial