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Wang Hecker Wins \$25M CVA Judgment on Behalf of Client Abused by Her Brother

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October 24, 2024 at 06:06 PM

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Personal Injury



By Brian Lee

Litigation Reporter

The Wang Hecker law firm won a \$25 million judgment on behalf of its client who, under New York's Child Victims Act, sued her brother on allegations he sexually abused her in their home spanning seven years, according to an entry filed Thursday in a Manhattan trial court.

Plaintiff Dorothy Farrell of Connecticut was awarded \$20 million in compensatory damages, and \$5 million in punitive damages, under the judgment by state Supreme Court Justice Sabrina Kraus of Manhattan, which was based upon the defendant's failure to appear for trial.

The defendant, George Robb Jr., had apparently tried to stop the proceeding a day or two before the trial was to start by emailing the court an unfiled partially completed bankruptcy petition from the Southern District of Florida.

Kraus wrote that it was "presumably indicating he did not intend to appear at trial." The judge, however, immediately responded that Robb's petition was not a basis for a stay.

Robb, last known to be living in Key West, Florida, didn't have an attorney actively representing him in the matter. No attorney appeared on his behalf for trial, according to documents.

He had been represented by Feinberg, D'Avanzo & Gasbarro partner Glen Feinberg, but Kraus granted the attorney's move to be relieved from the case in June, at which point she adjourned the trial until Oct. 21.

The two-day hearing relied upon Farrell's testimony, along with the testimony of an expert forensic psychologist and multiple witnesses who had observed her at different points in her life.

Her attorneys said, "Ms. Farrell has bravely worked for many years to hold her brother accountable, including by working with advocates and others to persuade legislators to pass the Child Victims Act in New York State."

"It takes enormous courage for survivors of childhood sex abuse to come forward and fight for years for justice after their perpetrators have destroyed their sense of safety and taught them to internalize shame and fear. It has been our privilege to represent Dorothy in this fight," Mariann Wang of Wang Hecker LLP said in a statement.

Fellow Wang Hecker attorneys Daniel Mullkoff and Alice Reiter assisted in the case, which was filed in February 2021.

According to the lawsuit, the alleged abuse began in or around 1971, when Farrell was about six years old and Robb was about 16, and he allegedly threatened to kill her if she told anyone. The lawsuit states Robb also abused two other sisters.

One of the siblings, Kathryn Robb, filed suit under the CVA in 2019, alleging he sexually abused her for about six years, starting in 1968, when she was eight years old.

Kathryn Robb's attorneys from Merson Law of Manhattan recently notified the trial court judge, state Supreme Court Justice Alexander Tisch of Manhattan, of George Robb's attempt at securing bankruptcy relief in Florida.

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