

# Officer alleges job bias

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## NEWS

Bryan Dean

A female Minco police officer filed a lawsuit Tuesday claiming sexual harassment and gender discrimination by Police Chief Guss Hanke.

Attorneys for officer Renee Scott filed the lawsuit in Oklahoma City federal court. The suit claims Scott was denied a promotion and endured a hostile work environment. Mayor Doug Denard and former Mayor Ed Shutton also are named as defendants in the case.

Hanke said he did not want to comment on the specifics of the case, but he denied he sexually harassed anyone.

"Those kind of things don't go on here," Hanke said.

Other city officials could not be reached for comment.

Scott's attorney, Mark Hammons, said he has not yet determined the amount of damages he will seek. However, the suit claims Scott suffered emotional distress and is entitled to punitive damages.

"In a case like this, in all probability the emotional distress and the manner in which she was treated is about as significant as the wage loss," Hammons said.

The suit claims that Scott was promised a promotion from patrol officer to lieutenant in April and May 2003, but that Hanke later said he did not want to promote her because he did not want men to have to report to her.

Scott also claims in the lawsuit that Hanke made repeated gender-biased statements to her such as "women don't belong in law enforcement" and "women do nothing but whine and throw fits."

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