

1231 I Street
Suite 100
Sacramento, CA
95814-2933

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Suite 107
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96161-2385

Please send all correspondence to
our Sacramento Office

PHONE
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*Labor and
Employment*

April 18, 2024

Via Email and U.S. Mail

Lourdes Ruiz, Clerk of Board of Education
Willows Unified School District
823 West Laurel St.
Willows, CA 95988
lruiz@willowsunified.org

Emmett Koerperich, Superintendent
Willows Unified School District
823 West Laurel St.
Willows, CA 95988
ekoerperich@willowsunified.org

Re: Courtney Kluth, CTA No. 24-01890

Dear Clerk Ruiz and Superintendent Koerperich:

I represent Courtney Kluth. This is a tort claim notice pursuant to the California Tort Claims Act related to Ms. Kluth's employment and separation from the District during the 2023–2024 school year. For purposes of Government Code section 910, Ms. Kluth claims damages in excess of \$10,000.00, and she can be reached at 1231 I Street, Suite 100; Sacramento, CA 95814.

Ms. Kluth was assigned as an English teacher at Willows High School. Last fall, Ms. Kluth went on medical leave in substantial part due to lack of support from and stress created by Principal Julie Carriere. After Ms. Kluth went on medical leave, in October 2023, Principal Carriere gratuitously disclosed Ms. Kluth's medical conditions to other school staff. Then, despite her being on medical leave, Principal Carriere continued to assign Ms. Kluth work.

In February 2024, Ms. Kluth exhausted her available medical leave and pursuant to Education Code section 44978.1 was placed on the 24-month rehire list. Rather than permitting Ms. Kluth to return to employment when she became medically able, in March 2024, the District non-reelected Ms. Kluth. Because Ms. Kluth's employment had already been terminated, the District's non-reelection was solely intended to prevent Ms. Kluth from returning to work for the District when she became medically able.

After her separation, Ms. Kluth sought to collect personal property remaining in her classroom. Principal Carriere delayed Ms. Kluth's ability to retrieve her property. When Ms. Kluth was allowed access, she discovered that much of her property had been moved and damaged or was missing. Ms. Kluth alleges that Principal Carriere authorized district employees to take Ms. Kluth's property, and that Principal Carriere was responsible for moving and damaging Ms. Kluth's property. Here is an accounting of Ms. Kluth's missing or damaged property and the estimated value:

Items	Issue	Value
4 Dining Room Chairs	Lost / Missing	\$280.00
1 Antique Hexagon Double-Shelfed	Lost / Missing	\$350.00
1 Electric Scent Warmer	Lost / Missing	\$10.00
4 Medium Crates	Lost / Missing (believed to have been given to another teacher)	\$20.00
Miscellaneous Books	Lost / Missing (believed to have been given to another teacher)	\$90.00
Discovering Britain and Ireland National Geographic book (1985)	Lost / Missing	\$20.00
1 Antique Lamp and Shade	Broken	\$222.00
Miscellaneous office supplies	Lost / Missing (believed to have been given to another teacher)	\$60.00
Led Zeppelin Poster	Damaged	\$15.00
Picture Frames	Broken	\$30.00

Total: \$1,097.00

Based on the above-described circumstances, Ms. Kluth has claims for disability and leave discrimination and retaliation under the Fair Employment and Housing Act and the California Family Rights Act for disability and leave discrimination and retaliation; and for the damage and conversion of her personal property.

Clerk Ruiz and Superintendent Koerperich
Re: Courtney Kluth, CTA No. 24-01890
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Please let me know before the expiration of this tort claim notice period if the District wishes to settle these claims.

Additionally, as a public record request, I am requesting the following:

1. All emails to or from Principal Carriere regarding Ms. Kluth since August 1, 2023.
2. Any records considered by the District administration or Board of Education in deciding to non-reelect Ms. Kluth.

Please respond to these records requests within 10 days pursuant to Government Code section 7922.535.

Sincerely,

LANGENKAMP, CURTIS, PRICE
LINDSTROM & CHEVEDDEN LLP


ERIC LINDSTROM

cc: Sean Ferguson

PROOF OF SERVICE

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the County of Sacramento. I am over the age of eighteen years and not a party to the above-entitled action; my business address is 1231 I Street, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95814.

On the date below, I served the following document(s):

Tort Claim and Records Request

X **BY MAIL.** I am familiar with this Company's practice whereby the mail, after being placed in a designated area, is given the appropriate postage and is deposited in a U. S. mailbox in the City of Sacramento, California, after the close of the day's business.


X **BY EMAIL:** I sent such document by use of email to the email address(es) listed on the service list.

addressed as follows:

Lourdes Ruiz, Clerk of Board of
Education
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lruiz@willowsunified.org

Emmett Koerperich, Superintendent
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823 West Laurel St.
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ekoerperich@willowsunified.org

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct and was executed on April 18, 2024 at Sacramento, California.



JoAnn Iverson