

## The lesson of the Paula Jones decision: Let's get rid of sexual harassment laws

*Laws assume that women are "powerless victims," say Libertarians*

WASHINGTON, DC — Now that Paula Jones' sexual harassment lawsuit against President Bill Clinton has been thrown out by a judge, it's time to throw out sexual harassment laws in general, the Libertarian Party said today.

"If this wasn't sexual harassment, then nothing is," said the party's national director, Ron Crickenberger. "And if nothing is sexual harassment, then let's get rid of the laws that *pretend* to solve the problem — but, instead, merely protect powerful politicians while penalizing ordinary citizens."

On Wednesday, U.S. District Judge Susan Webber Wright dismissed the Jones lawsuit, ruling that it was "not worthy of submitting to a jury" because the former Arkansas secretary had not proved that she suffered job discrimination.

Jones had accused Clinton of making a crude sexual advance in a hotel room in Little Rock in 1991 — an advance that Crickenberger said Libertarians considered to be "morally repugnant," despite the judge's ruling.

"Every decent American shares our outrage over Clinton's alleged actions," he said. "If Clinton was guilty as charged, then his behavior was shameful. But, like most sexual harassment cases, his behavior shouldn't have been a federal crime — and it shouldn't have been an opportunity for Jones and her lawyers to try to win a lucrative legal jackpot."

**Now, the dismissal of the lawsuit represents an opportunity for America to reconsider sexual harassment laws, said Crickenberger — and to get rid of them.**

"Sexual harassment laws assume that women are powerless victims, who can only be protected by politicians," he said. "But Libertarians know that private solutions work better than a proliferation of federal laws — and that common sense and the free market work better than lawyers and bureaucrats to solve social problems."

If Paula Jones had realized from the beginning that government isn't the solution to her problems, she could have saved an enormous amount of time and trouble — and empowered *herself* rather than lawyers, said Crickenberger.

"Just imagine if, in response to Bill Clinton's lewd conduct, Jones had told him that he was a jerk and kneed him in the groin," he said. "She could have walked out of that hotel room in proud control of her own destiny, rather than becoming a powerless pawn in an endless political and legal battle . . . and Bill Clinton would have gotten exactly *what* he deserved, *when* he deserved it, and *where* he deserved it."