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### **Pierce Co. Prosecutor Accused in Firing Case**

ASSOCIATED PRESS Sunday, April 23, 2006

TACOMA A former senior deputy prosecutor in Pierce County says she was wrongfully terminated and has filed a claim against the county's lead prosecutor, seeking \$850,000 to \$1.5 million in damages.

Barbara Corey, a 20-year veteran of the prosecutor's office, claims that Pierce County Prosecutor Gerry Horne illegally fired her two years ago.

Corey, 53, claims her termination damaged her professional reputation, caused long-term physical injury and "extreme mental anguish," limited her ability to pursue meaningful career alternatives and cost her earnings and retirement benefits.

Corey was Horne's third in command from 2001 until she was fired March 5, 2004, five weeks after accepting his offer to avoid that fate by quitting.

During her career with the office, she was widely respected by prosecutors and criticized by defense attorneys as a zealous trial attorney who loved to win.

"This is a termination due to petty office politics," said Jack Connelly, who is representing Corey with lawyer Thomas Vertetis. "The facts as they come out are going to reveal that not only was this petty office politics but Gerry Horne broke his word to Barbara."

Corey now works as a criminal defense attorney. The county has 60 days from the date she filed her claim, March 3, to respond.

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