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Law Firm Files Federal Lawsuit on Behalf of Northern Michigan University Professors for Gender Discrimination

Bloomfield Hills-based law firm Sterling Attorneys at Law, P.C., with its extensive experience handling high-profile employment cases, is representing four female professors from Northern Michigan University's College of Business who have suffered years of gender discrimination at the hands of college administrators.

The Sterling firm filed the attached federal complaint after the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, which investigated the plaintiffs' charges for over two years, already found reasonable cause to believe that NMU violated federal equal pay and gender discrimination laws.

The lawsuit, which is pending in the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan, alleges that the College of Business significantly underpays its female faculty compared to their male counterparts and denies them equal opportunities for tenure and other benefits.

The professors' attorney, Brian J. Farrar, stated: "Academic institutions like NMU play an important role in shaping future leaders. When the University refuses to follow gender equality laws, what kind of message does this send to its students?"

Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer has made closing the gender wage gap a priority of her administration and recently issued Executive Directive 10 requiring government institutions to do more to ensure women are paid fairly.

The U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division is currently reviewing the findings of the EEOC and may also bring charges on its own. Attorney Farrar added: "Last year, the DOJ found that NMU discriminated against students with disabilities and the University agreed to pay thousands of dollars in damages, plus make changes to its campus procedures. It remains to be seen whether the University's treatment of its female faculty members is part of a wider discriminatory practice."