

Clackamas County Judge Makes Preliminary Ruling in Favor of Mike Erickson in Defamation Case against Andrea Salinas

A judge ruled that a defamation lawsuit filed by Mike Erickson (R), against opponent Andrea Salinas (D), met the criteria to continue.

OREGON CITY, OR, USA, December 3, 2022 /EINPresswire.com/ -- A Clackamas County Circuit Court judge ruled Thursday that a defamation lawsuit filed by Oregon Congressional District 6 candidate Republican businessman Mike Erickson, against Democratic opponent Andrea Salinas, met the preliminary criteria to continue.

“

Ms. Salinas crossed this line and should be held accountable for her actions. No one should ever be allowed to lie to the public about their opponent simply to advance their political career”

Jill Gibson, Attorney with Lynch Murphy McLane, LLP

Erickson’s attorney Jill Gibson of Lynch Murphy McLane, LLP, filed the case on Oct. 5, 2022, basing it on [The Corrupt Practices Act \(ORS 260.532\)](#).

Judge Todd L. Van Rysselberghe ruled the case met the preliminary burden of proof. Erickson’s attorneys demonstrated Salinas made a false statement saying Erickson was charged with drug possession. Salinas acted

with knowledge or a reckless disregard for the truth by continuing to run the ad after Erickson’s attorney and a district attorney told Salinas it was false.

Erickson lost the November election by approximately 2% or 7,000 votes. Gibson clarified that this case is not about overturning the election. The lawsuit asks for \$800,000 in damages to reimburse the Erickson campaign for ads he had to run to counter false claims by the Salinas campaign.

In her legal brief, Gibson writes, “The proliferation and spread of untruths in elections is one of the biggest threats to our democracy, and the impact of false statements in elections falls most harshly on those who do not have the time or resources to verify them. Voters can only truly exercise their right to vote when they are equipped with accurate, reliable information. Mr. Erickson’s candidacy is the victim of Defendants’ dishonesty and Mr. Erickson’s campaign.”

Gibson added, "Ms. Salinas crossed this line and should be held accountable for her actions. Oregon law prohibits candidates from lying to the public to get elected and to advance their political careers. Ms. Salinas spent millions of dollars defaming Mike Erickson for political gain."

The trial is scheduled for the third week of December 20-23, 2022.

For reference:

[Copy of complaint](#)

Copy of [Plaintiff's Response](#) to Defendant's Special Motion to Strike

Case number: 22CV33968

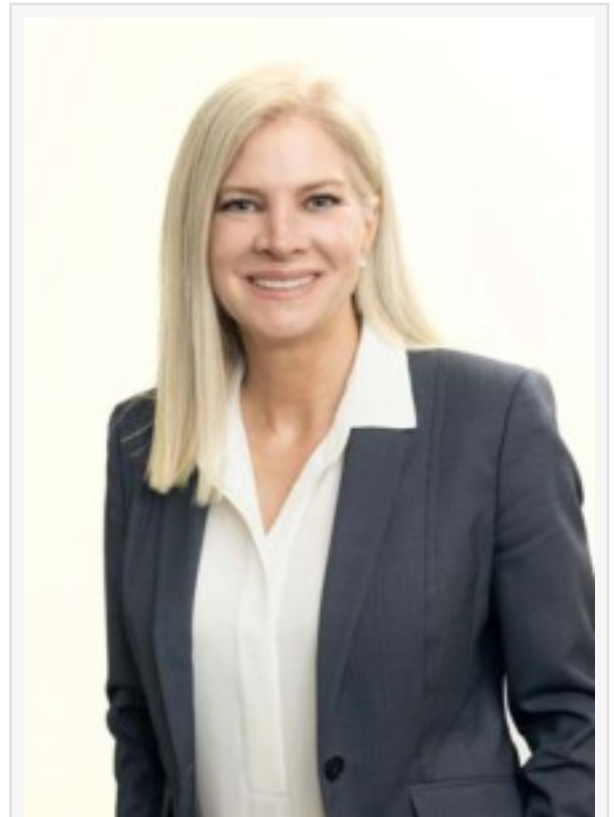
Court of record: Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for the County of Clackamas

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