**Title:** Entertainment Law: Nicollette Sheridan Gets Her Day in Court

**Subtitle:** Actress Nicollette Sheridan finally got her day in court, after taking the stand in her wrongful termination lawsuit against the creator of the popular television series Desperate Housewives.

**Meta Description:** Nicollette Sheridan finally got her day in court, after taking the stand in her wrongful termination lawsuit against the creator of Desperate Housewives.

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Although Sheridan’s allegations pale in comparison to some of the show’s scandalous plot lines, it has stirred up some controversy over why the actress was killed off the hit series.

In her entertainment lawsuit, Sheridan contends that the show’s creator Marc Cherry killed off her character, Edie Williams, after the actress spoke up about his alleged abusive treatment. As reported by the Hollywood Reporter, Sheridan initially sought $20 million in damages for claims including sexual and gender harassment, assault and battery, infliction of emotional distress, and wrongful termination.

However, after several pretrial hearings, she is now only pursuing the wrongful termination and assault claims. The judge has also limited her potential damages to one year’s salary or $4 million.

Most of Sheridan’s claims stem for a 2008 incident in which Sheridan alleges Cherry struck her with an open hand after a reported argument about a cut line of dialogue. Sheridan claims that not long after she reported the incident, her character was killed in a freak car accident. Sheridan claims her termination was in direct retaliation for lodging a complaint.

Meanwhile, ABC argues that Sheridan’s termination was not prompted by any ulterior motives, but was rather simply a creative decision. “Death is as much a part of scripted television as it is a part of life," says the defense in court papers. "Of course, whenever a character dies, an actor loses a job. That is what happened here.” It further argues that the decision to write out Sheridan’s character was made months earlier.

From the perspective of an entertainment lawyer, the outcome of this case will likely come down to which version of the events the jury believes—was the termination in retaliation for Sheridan’s complaints or was it simply a business decision?

We will, of course, keep you updated.

**Raw Content:** <!-- wp:heading -->
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<p>Although Sheridan’s allegations pale in comparison to some of the show’s scandalous plot lines, it has stirred up some controversy over why the actress was killed off the hit series.</p>
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<p>In her <a href="https://wp.scarincihollenbeck.com/practices/entertainment-and-media/">entertainment lawsuit</a>, Sheridan contends that the show’s creator Marc Cherry killed off her character, Edie Williams, after the actress spoke up about his alleged abusive treatment<strong>. </strong>As reported by the <a href="http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/thr-esq/nicollette-sheridan-abc-desperate-housewives-marc-cherry-295398">Hollywood Reporter</a>, Sheridan initially sought $20 million in damages for claims including sexual and gender harassment, assault and battery, infliction of emotional distress, and wrongful termination.</p>
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