**Title:** Update: Sheridan Lawsuit Ends in Mistrial

**Subtitle:** A Los Angeles judge has declared a mistrial in Nicollette Sheridan's entertainment lawsuit against ABC.

**Meta Description:** Sheridan Lawsuit Ends in Mistrial - Sports Entertainment Attorney - Anthony Caruso - New York Attorney - New Jersey Lawyer

**Date:** 3-3-2012

**Author:** Anthony R. Caruso

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A Los Angeles judge has declared a mistrial in Nicollette Sheridan's entertainment lawsuit against ABC. Superior Court Judge Elizabeth Allen White excused the panel after it deadlocked 8-4 in favor of the former Desperate Housewives actress.

As we previously discussed on this blog, Sheridan’s termination lawsuit contended that she was fired from the hit show after complaining that the show’s creator, Marc Cherry, had hit her (the battery charge against Cherry has already been dismissed for lack of evidence). At trial, ABC argued that the fate of Sheridan’s character had been decided months earlier and that her termination was motivated by creative reasons rather than retaliation.

While many jurors seemed to believe Sheridan’s side of the story, it wasn’t enough to secure a verdict on her behalf. A vote of at least 9-3 is required to reach a verdict in a civil lawsuit.

According to media reports, the jury first reported problems in deliberations on March 15 and then resumed discussions. However, the jurors later reported that they did not believe that any additional time or attorneys' arguments would help alleviate the stalemate and a mistrial was declared.

What’s Next?

Sheridan’s attorney has indicated that they will retry the case. Since the issues are often narrowed during retrial, we expect that the arguments and testimony will likely focus on ABC’s actions before and after Cherry’s dispute with Sheridan. While the current jurors appeared by be leaning towards Sheridan, with a whole new jury, anything can happen.

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