



Making a Boob Out of Everyone?

Buxom Banker's Suit May Actually Do Harm

By Brian Whitley

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Is she a bad influence?

A growing number of New Yorkers – including victims of gender discrimination – wonder if buxom banker Debrahlee Lorenzana's sexual harassment campaign is doing more harm than good.

The 33-year-old Queens woman, who's suing Citigroup for allegedly being "too sexy" for her job, has started to raise doubts about her "enough is enough" sexual harassment stance after footage showed her gushing about how plastic surgery would land her a boyfriend.

One woman, who settled a gender discrimination case last month, is frustrated by Lorenzana's public persona.

"If you're asking for it, why are you complaining about it?" said the 28-year-old, who didn't want to be identified. She worries the Lorenzana case will scare women from filing discrimination lawsuits.

Advocates hope the Lorenzana circus won't cheapen the issue of gender discrimination.

"Nobody knows the facts of this case," said Sonia Ossorio, executive director of the National Organization for Women in New York City. "It would be a real shame if this, or any case, makes the issue of discrimination less real for people."

In her appearance on "Plastic Surgery New York Style," Lorenzana said her future boyfriend will be happy because she'll look like "a little Playboy Playmate."

That's made some New Yorkers, such as Josie Williams, 18, of Brooklyn, concerned about the message she's sending.

"I think she lied about the harassment," Williams said, "and that makes it harder for girls who are actually being harassed."

Others were puzzled by her seemingly unending media blitz.

"If you're really that concerned about being sexually harassed, do you really need to go on the 'Today Show?'" asked Sade Ruffin, 25, of Harlem.

But many believe her carefully sculptured image remains highly marketable.

“There’s something heroic about what she’s doing,” said Andrew Kluger, of Andrew Kluger Public Relations.

Richard Roth, a New York employment attorney, said he doubts future cases will be affected. But he said

Lorenzana’s credibility may be hurt. “Most women want their looks to be irrelevant at work,” he said. “They want to look good and professional – not hot and sexy.”

Lorenzana’s lawyer refused to answer questions from a reporter Thursday.

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