L2003.03
Oceanside Legal Case
Records, 1991-2003

FINDING AID AUTHOR

Gabrielle Garcia

ACQUISITION INFORMATION

An anonymous donor donated these materials to Lambda Archives of San Diego in 2003.

PROCESSING INFORMATION

This collection was processed by Gabrielle Garcia as part of the 2020 CSL Project.

EXTENT

Number of containers: 1
Linear feet of shelf space: 0.5

ABSTRACT

BIOGRAPHY OR HISTORY

The title "Oceanside Legal Case" references the court case Dawn Murray v. Oceanside Unified School District (No. D031662.) The details of the case are as follows:

"Plaintiff Dawn Murray filed a complaint against her employer, Oceanside Unified School District (Oceanside), alleging she suffered harassment on the basis of her sexual orientation (lesbian) at her place of work, Oceanside High School, where she has taught high school biology and biotechnology since 1983.   She alleges that contrary to the protections afforded her under former Labor Code section 1102.1 (repealed Stats.1999, ch. 592, § 12), referred to here as Labor Code section 1102.1), school officials failed to investigate the incidents and inflicted retaliatory discipline on her when she complained about them.   She also contends the school officials' conduct on behalf of her employer amounted to intentional infliction of emotional distress by Oceanside."

Lambda Legal offers more details on the nature of the harassment she faced at Oceanside High School:

"Murray, a biology teacher hired in 1983, suffered severe harassment that began when co-workers learned she is gay. Although she had won state and national teaching awards,

she was denied a promotion. Murray became the target of vicious anti-gay remarks, false rumors, and obscene graffiti that was painted repeatedly outside her classroom. Officials at Oceanside ignored the abuse and threatened disciplinary action against her when she complained."

The case was settled, and Oceanside Unified School District was required "to pay Dawn Murray over $140,000, and to provide annual sensitivity training to its employees on issues of sexual orientation discrimination."

COLLECTION SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection contains materials pertaining to a North County - Oceanside legal case where a lesbian school biology teacher, Dawn Murray Ouster, brought discrimination charges on the basis of sexual orientation against the Oceanside School District. The case was taken up by the California Supreme Court as Murray v Oceanside Unified School District. The State supreme court ruled in Murray's favor. The Oceanside Unified School District was ordered to pay Murray a settlement of $140,000 and to provide annual sensitivity training to its employees on issues of sexual orientation discrimination. The collection contains legal documents, correspondence, notes, and information about other cases and legislation pertinent to Murray's case.

ARRANGEMENT

This collection consists of 1 box.

SEPARATED MATERIAL

None.

SUBJECTS

Dawn Murray, Oceanside School Board, Oceanside Unified School District, Homophobia, Homophobia - oppression, Non-discrimination policies, Labor - discrimination, Court cases, Sexism, Lesbians, Education, Hate crimes

CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS

This collection is open and available for research use. Copyright restrictions apply.

PREFERRED CITATION

The suggested citation for the collection is:

[Item Description]
Oceanside Legal Case Records, 1991-2003
Lambda Archives of San Diego
San Diego, California

RELATED MATERIAL

None.

LOCATION NOTE

C.10.2.5

LANGUAGES

English

CONTAINER LIST

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)	
1	1	Dawn Murray v. Oceanside Unified School District Legal Documents 1997-1998	1997-1998	
1	2	Dawn Murray v. Oceanside Unified School District Legal Documents 1998-2000	1998-2000	
1	3	Dawn Murray v. Oceanside Unified School District Correspondence, Notes, Drafts 1989-1999	1989-1999	
1	4	Other Relevant Legal Cases		
1	5	California Law, Codes, Statutes, Measures		
1	6	Interpretations and Analysis of Law		
1	7	Legislative History: 1991 AB101	1991	
1	8	Legislative History: 1992 AB2601	1992	