
Florida, local attorneys team up to represent women in civil lawsuit

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OKLAHOMA CITY -

A Florida attorney is teaming up with local attorneys to represent the women involved in the cases against former Oklahoma City police officer Daniel Holtzclaw.

Benjamin Crump and fellow attorneys Solomon Simmons and Melvin Hall said the lawsuits have not been filed yet and won't specify who they will be against. One attorney indicated it would be against anyone with a "fingerprint" on this case, such as the Oklahoma City and other individuals.

Crump claimed to represent five women, including Jannie Ligons, who won the criminal case against Holtzclaw, and Shardeyreon Hill, who did not.

Holtzclaw was convicted in felony cases on behalf of eight of 13 women.

Civil attorney Travis Smith, who is not associated with these cases, said the lawsuits likely will be against Holtzclaw's employer, Oklahoma City. He said employers are liable for workers' actions on the job.

Smith said the victims and accusers have two options.

First, they can file state tort claims, which could get the women a maximum of \$175,000 with no attorney fees. These cases are easier to prove, Smith said.

Attorneys also could choose to file cases in federal court alleging a civil rights violations. Smith said the cases are harder to prove but could get victims millions of dollars plus attorney fees.

Civil cases could take up to two years.

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