

Witness says woman credible in police lawsuit

By Darlene McCormick

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WATERBURY — A psychologist testified Tuesday that a woman suing police over the way they handled her rape complaint seemed credible.

David Johnson, a New Haven psychologist with the Post Traumatic Stress Center, testified that the 44-year-old business woman suffers from post traumatic stress syndrome brought on by rape and police conduct toward her afterward.

Johnson, a paid witness for the plaintiff, told the jury he knew the woman was involved in civil litigation but he had no doubt of her mental condition or truthfulness.

The woman is currently on anti-anxiety medication, but is not in therapy, he said.

The woman told police in September of 1993 she was raped by an unknown assailant who crept into her Waterbury home. Her attacker tied her up with panty hose, blindfolded her, sexually assaulted her and terrorized her with a gun while her two young children slept in their rooms, she said. The reported attack took place while her husband was at a wedding in Colorado.

The woman claims police didn't investigate her case properly and that police turned on her when they did.

Please turn to 2B, RAPE

RAPE: Trauma lessens, but will never go away'

Continued from 1B

not solve the case right away.

Capt. Douglas Moran, who was a lieutenant in charge of rape investigations at the time, threatened her with arrest and accused her of making up the story to cover for an affair, she said.

The suit names Capt. Moran; his brother, retired Capt. Robert Moran; Lt. Philip Post, and the city of Waterbury. In a pretrial memorandum, the

damages. However, no amount has been specified during the trial so far.

Attorneys for the city maintain police did a thorough investigation that revealed some oddities in the case.

No forced entry into the home, inconsistencies in lab reports and a crime scene that didn't support the woman's allegations added up to a puzzling case, they argue; also, an outside source interviewed by police gave them information about what may have really happened that night.

Other testimony has shown the woman had no injuries except an eye injury that was not noticed by police at the scene. The woman also testified she did not believe there was penetration during the attack, but a rape exam at the hospital discovered semen in the vagina.

Johnson testified women often get over rape because they have a lot of support. But when they don't, it can be devastating. The woman's trauma started with the attack and was reinforced by her treatment by police, he said. "It completely turned her upside down," Johnson testified. "The sense of betrayal is very deep."

As for the woman's interview with Moran, Johnson said the woman felt she had lost control of the situation at the hands of people who were supposed to help her. He said her treatment by police was more damaging to her mental state than the rape itself.

The woman has suffered intrusive memories and her capacity to maintain intimate relationships with her husband and children has been damaged, he said.

"She has a chronic condition. The good news is it slowly improves. It will never go away," Johnson said.

However, during questioning by attorneys defending the city, Johnson said he based his assessment of the woman on her clinical condition.

"I make no claims about any facts of these events," he said.

City attorneys also argued for a directed verdict before the judge, who suspended a decision until after the case goes to the jury.