

Flight attendant awarded \$15 million in harassment suit

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FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) - An American Airlines flight attendant has won a \$15.6 million federal-court verdict against a co-worker she alleged harassed her.

A judge in Fort Worth found that 43-year-old Jamie Abrams was entitled to past and future lost wages, pain and suffering and punitive damages. He also ordered 43-year-old former American Airlines Fleet Service clerk Tim White to have no contact with Abrams or her family.

U.S. District Judge Terry Means says it's unlikely White could pay the amount, but he calls damage figure symbolic.

In the suit, Abrams said she, her family and friends received depraved and violent phone calls from White. In them, White mimics the voice of Karl from the movie "Sling Blade" and threatened to kill Abrams and cut her up. The calls began in February 2001 and continued through 2003, sometimes totaling 15 a day.

Dallas/Fort Worth Airport police arrested White in October 2003. He was later sentenced to 10 years probation in Tarrant County and ordered not to contact Abrams. But a few weeks before yesterday's hearing, the phone calls started again.

White resigned from American in November 2003 and moved to Tennessee and later to Indiana.