

# CSU's Costello target of third lawsuit

## Professor claims dean demoted him after he reported on numerous complaints by women

News Staff

A Colorado State University business professor is suing his dean, claiming he was demoted for reporting discrimination complaints from women in the department.

It is the third suit in three years filed against Daniel Costello.

The federal civil suit filed by professor Jon Clark said Clark's job as the business school's equal opportunity coordinator required him to report the women's sexual

harassment and discrimination complaints.

Clark claims Costello illegally retaliated against him by demoting him from associate dean.

Clark compiled the complaints in a document called "Report on Gender Equity — College of Business," which he gave to the university's equal opportunity officials last year.

The report said Costello made disparaging remarks about women in the department, failed to take their suggestions seriously and treated them with hostility and disrespect.

It also said Costello kissed a female faculty member on the lips in front of her husband at a social function, asked a female employee where her whip was when she

wore leather pants and made lewd comments about female students.

"It was awkward because it had to do with my boss," Clark said.

Two other lawsuits have been filed against Costello by CSU business professors.

Costello, CSU President Albert Yates and former Provost Loren Crabtree are defendants in a lawsuit filed in October 1998 by Myron Hulen, a professor in the College of Business.

In his lawsuit, Hulen claims he was transferred within the college in retaliation for challenging another professor's tenure appointment. A trial is scheduled for November.

In January 1999, business associate professor Robert Spagnola sued, claiming he was deceived

into resigning from his tenured position. Spagnola lost the case.

While at the University of Baltimore's Merrick School of Business, Costello was sued by associate professor Peri Iz after she was denied tenure. She initially won \$425,000 in the case but lost an appeal in 1998.

CSU hired Costello in 1996. Earlier this year, Costello announced he would step down as dean in August 2002.

CSU officials declined to say whether they knew of the Iz case when Costello was hired, but spokesman Tom Milligan said Costello was thoroughly interviewed. He declined to comment on the lawsuits.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.