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Article Published: Thursday, February 26, 2004

Prof settles CSU suit for \$227,000

By [Annette Espinoza](#)
Denver Post Staff Writer

A professor at Colorado State University accepted a \$227,000 settlement in a lawsuit against the university and his former boss.

Jon Clark, a former associate dean of the university's college of business and an equal opportunity coordinator, said he was punished for reporting gender bias and sexual harassment complaints female employees made against business school dean Daniel Costello.

As Equal Opportunity coordinator, Clark was responsible for reporting any gender discrimination or harassment complaints.

According to the lawsuit filed in 2001, Clark compiled a report of the allegations against Costello and submitted it to Costello and other university officials.

"I tried not to make a judgment," Clark said. "I just report the claims."

Within a week of filing the report, Clark said, Costello began diminishing his job duties. Eventually Clark was demoted. He now teaches in the computer information systems department.

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According to the lawsuit, women complained that Costello treated them with hostility and disrespect and made lewd comments, including asking one woman who wore leather pants to work: "Where's your whip?"

Costello didn't return phone calls seeking comment.

"We've resolved the case," said Laurence

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Pendleton, associate general counsel for CSU. "It's best we put this behind us."

Clark joined the CSU faculty in 1989. He served as business school dean from fall 1992 to spring 2001.

Clark's lawsuit isn't the first to involve Costello.

In 1998, tax professor Myron Hulen sued, claiming the CSU administration retaliated against him for reporting ethical breaches by a fellow accounting professor. Hulen claimed Costello punished him for reporting the violations.

Hulen was moved to another department. Four other professors were transferred from the business school, but Hulen was the only one who sued the university.

In 2003, a jury ordered former CSU president Albert Yates to pay Hulen \$184,130 for punishing the professor. Jurors also ordered Costello to pay Hulen \$334,130.

Before the lawsuit was filed, Clark said his working relationship with Costello was satisfactory. Clark had been praised by Costello, according to the lawsuit, as "being dedicated and effective."

Clark said his attempts to settle the case with the university's provost were ignored.

"They wouldn't speak to me," Clark said.

"At this moment, I just want to get it (lawsuit) behind me," Clark said.

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