



Judge rejects summary judgment in DNC lawsuit

Cites possible defamatory remarks by Dean

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A judge in the case of a gay man suing the Democratic National Committee rejected on Wednesday the defendants' motion for summary judgment, pushing the case closer to a possible trial.

Donald Hitchcock, the DNC's former head of gay outreach, accuses the party of anti-gay discrimination and retaliation. His partner, longtime party activist Paul Yandura, had criticized the DNC in an open letter to the gay community prior to Hitchcock's dismissal.

The DNC has denied the claims and sought summary judgment in the case after months of often contentious deposition testimony. The parties in the suit are scheduled for mediation on July 31.

In her ruling this week, Judge Jeanette Clark rejected summary judgment, citing possible defamatory remarks made by DNC Chair Howard Dean and party treasurer Andy Tobias and the possibility that they "aided and abetted the DNC by participating in a scheme to discriminate and retaliate that resulted in plaintiff's termination of his position at the DNC."