

Second Shook lawsuit- District court rules in favor of former Sheriff

Written by

Friday, 31 August 2007 11:32

Former communications chief Patricia E. Shook's lawsuit against Watauga County and its former sheriff, Mark William Shook has been rejected by a federal court.

The judgment, made on Wednesday, ruled in favor of all defendants named in the pending suit, including the sheriff, the county and the sheriff's office. The court found "no genuine issues of fact," and an official statement said that "those facts that were alleged by Ms. Shook, even if taken as true, would not rise to the level of proving any of her claims."

The suit was filed in June of 2006 and alleged the sheriff wrongfully fired Patricia Shook after she gave a male employee a bad review. She also claimed Sheriff Shook made frequent negative sexual comments about female sheriff's office employees and demeaned both her and fellow female co-workers. Patricia Shook's lawsuit followed similar claims from former chief deputy Paula Townsend. Townsend's case has yet to be addressed in court.

The defendants have maintained all along that Patricia Shook's claims were unfounded, and are pleased with the ruling.