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Attorneys for Defendant Sally Jewell, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Interior

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

DISTRICT OF OREGON

EUGENE DIVISION

STEPHANIE WOOD,
Plaintiff,

Case No. 6:16-cv-01863-AA

v.

**DEFENDANT'S ANSWER TO
PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT**

**SALLY JEWELL, SECRETARY OF
THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
INTERIOR,**

Defendant.

Defendant Sally Jewell, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Interior, by Billy Williams, United States Attorney for the District of Oregon, through Assistant U.S. Attorney Kevin Danielson, answers Plaintiff's complaint as follows:

JURISDICTION

1. In paragraph 1, Defendant admits the allegations.
2. In paragraph 2, Defendant admits the allegations.

VENUE

3. In paragraph 3, Defendant admits the allegations.
4. In paragraph 4, Defendant lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about the truth of the allegations.
5. In paragraph 5, Defendant admits that Sally Jewell was Secretary of the U.S. Department of Interior at the time this action was filed.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

6. In paragraph 6, Defendant admits the allegations.
7. In paragraph 7, Defendant admits the allegations.
8. In paragraph 8, Defendant admits Plaintiff's dates of employment, but lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about the truth of the remaining allegations.
9. In paragraph 9, Defendant admits that it knew Plaintiff was Native American at the time she was hired but lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about the truth of the remaining allegations.
10. In paragraph 10, Defendant lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about the truth of the allegations.
11. In paragraph 11, Defendant admits the allegations.

12. In paragraph 12, Defendant lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about the truth of the allegations.

13. In paragraph 13, Defendant admits that early in the school year starting in August 2014, Ward heard Plaintiff say in an orientation type meeting that Plaintiff had overheard coworkers making comments that made Plaintiff feel unwelcome. Defendant lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about the truth of the remaining allegations.

14. In paragraph 14, Defendant denies the allegations.

15. In paragraph 15, Defendant lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about the truth of the allegations.

16. In paragraph 16, Defendant admits that Plaintiff complained to Barkell that Sullivan was telling rumors about her. Defendant lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about the truth of the remaining allegations.

17. In paragraph 17, Defendant lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about the truth of the allegations.

18. In paragraph 18, Defendant lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about the truth of the allegations.

19. In paragraph 19, Defendant lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about the truth of the allegations.

20. In paragraph 20, Defendant lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about the truth of the allegations.

21. In paragraph 21, Defendant admits that Barkell sent Plaintiff an email on November 5, 2016, telling her he needed to see her the following day, November 6, 2016. Defendant denies the remaining allegations.

22. In paragraph 22, Defendant admits that a meeting took place involving Plaintiff, Sullivan, Reynosa, and Plaintiff's union representative during which Plaintiff complained about Sullivan talking about Plaintiff behind Plaintiff's back. Defendant lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about the truth of the remaining allegations.

23. In paragraph 23, Defendant denies the allegations.

24. In paragraph 24, Defendant admits that the first and second sentence. Defendant denies the remaining allegations.

25. In Paragraph 25, Defendant denies the allegations.

26. In Paragraph 26, Defendant admits that on January 16, 2015, Plaintiff was placed on administrative leave and directed not to be on the Chemawa Indian School campus or to contact students or staff prior to the January 30, 2015 effective date of termination. Defendant denies the remaining allegations.

**FIRST CLAIM – VIOLATION OF TITLE VII
(RACE, NATIONAL ORIGIN, COLOR, and GENDER)
(Count I – Disparate Treatment)**

27. In response to Paragraph 27, Defendant restates its answers.

28. In Paragraph 28, Defendant admits Plaintiff was employed at all relevant times and denies the remaining allegations.

29. In Paragraph 29, Defendant denies the allegations.

30. In Paragraph 30, Defendant denies the allegations.

(Count II – Retaliation)

31. In response to Paragraph 31, Defendant restates its answers.
32. In Paragraph 32, Defendant denies the allegations.
33. In Paragraph 33, Defendant denies the allegations.
34. In Paragraph 34, Defendant denies the allegations.

(Count III – Hostile Work Environment)

35. In response to Paragraph 35, Defendant restates its answers.
36. In Paragraph 36, Defendant denies the allegations.
37. In Paragraph 37, Defendant denies the allegations.
38. In Paragraph 38, Defendant denies the allegations.
39. In Paragraph 39, Defendant denies the allegations.
40. Plaintiff's prayer for relief should be denied.

AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES

1. Defendant reserves the right to raise any affirmative defenses that it learns through discovery.

Dated this 23rd day of January 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

BILLY WILLIAMS
United States Attorney
District of Oregon

/s/Kevin Danielson
KEVIN DANIELSON
Assistant U.S. Attorney