

VERDICTS & SETTLEMENTS

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EMPLOYMENT LAW

FEHA

Wrongful Termination, Disability
Discrimination

ARBITRATION: \$287,734.

CASE/NUMBER: Maria Vega
v. Radnet Management Inc. /
721600011908DWPA.

COURT/DATE: Arbitration Forum
/ July 10, 2009.

JUDGE: Hon. Armand Arabian,
retired.

ATTORNEYS: Claimant - Bruce
Kokozian (Kokozian & Nourmand,
LLP, Los Angeles).

Respondent - Deborah L. Saly
(RadNet Management Inc., Los
Angeles).

FACTS: Claimant Maria Vega was
employed by respondent RadNet
Management Inc. Vega had a
physical disability, which required
foot surgery and disability leave.
This leave commenced on Sept.
26, 2006, and required a period of
time for recovery. Vega extended
the leave twice before extending
it a third time on Dec. 15, 2006,
when she notified RadNet that she
would require until Jan. 5, 2007, to
recover. On Dec. 28, 2006, she was
terminated due to company policy
and the expiration of her California
Family Rights Act leave, according
to plaintiff's counsel. RadNet
contacted Vega on or about Jan.
10, 2007, about returning to work
for RadNet, according to defense
counsel.

RadNet did not find a permanent
replacement for Vega's position until
May or June 2007.

CLAIMANT'S CONTENTIONS:
Vega claimed she was wrongfully
terminated due to her disability.

RESPONDENT'S CONTENTIONS:
RadNet denied all liability and
damages.

RESULT: Award for claimant for
\$287,734, which included general
damages, damages for emotional
distress and attorney fees and costs.