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### Panel backs \$275,000 settlement for woman

By C.J. Lin, Staff Writer
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A Winnetka woman who alleges that she was sexually assaulted by a Los Angeles County Sheriff's deputy while she was in custody at Van Nuys Superior Court is one step closer to getting a \$275,000 settlement from the county.

The Los Angeles County Claims Board voted to approve the settlement Monday, nearly two years after Diana N. Valle, 25, accused Deputy Randall Alibino of rape and "other forms of sexual battery" while she was in a holding cell waiting to appear in court, according to court documents filed in June 2009.

Valle, dressed in county-issued prison garb, had been restrained and could not move freely during the alleged assault, according to the document.

She sued the county and Alibino for damages including medical and attorney fees.

Her attorney, Brian T. Dunn, declined to comment, citing ongoing settlement discussions. He also declined to state why Valle was in custody. The county's attorney, Gordon W. Trask, could not be reached for comment.

It is unclear if Alibino is still with the Sheriff's Department, but county records state that "appropriate administrative action was taken." Sheriff's spokesman Steve Whitmore said he was unfamiliar with the case, but added that an internal investigation should have taken place.

The settlement is scheduled to go before the county Board of Supervisors for approval in about two weeks.

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