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Former Anaheim cop faces new sex trial

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By GREG HARDESTY / THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

A former Anaheim police officer faces a federal trial on damages sought by one of his victims for forcing her to perform sex acts on him.

Bradley Stewart Wagner, 63, of Perris, is liable for damages and will stand trial Feb. 22 in Los Angeles, U.S. District Judge Otis Wright II ruled Wednesday.



Wagner is serving a four-year prison term after pleading guilty last May to forcing two women to perform sexual acts on him. He was sentenced in December after a judge rejected his effort to withdraw his guilty plea.

One victim sued him in federal court for violating her civil rights.

Ruling on a motion filed by attorneys of the victim, Wright said Wagner's guilty plea was enough to clear the way for a trial on damages. He noted that the burden of proof in criminal court is higher than in a civil court.

Wagner was arrested in November 2005 and left the Anaheim Police Department the same month.

His victims were two illegal immigrants that he coerced into performing sex acts by threatening to have them deported. Wagner also harassed a third

woman while he was in uniform.

Wagner pleaded guilty to forcible sex acts under the color of authority, sexual battery, and felony false imprisonment by violence or deceit and misdemeanor arrest of a person against their will.

His four-year sentence was significantly less than the nine years he could have gotten if he were convicted in a trial.

Wagner tried to have his guilty plea withdrawn by claiming he was on a prescription pain killer when he accepted the deal. Orange County Superior Court Judge Walter Schwarm refused to let him withdraw the plea.

City News Service contributed to this story.

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