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## PRESS RELEASE

### **AURORA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE SUED BY HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES FOR VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA LABOR LAWS.**

Four former employees of Aurora Behavioral Health Care filed a class action lawsuit against their former employer alleging that their employer “systematically failed to pay overtime compensation and failed to provide rest and meal periods to.. non-exempt hospital employees and routinely required ...employees to ‘work off the clock’ in order to complete mandatory paperwork.” According to the allegations in the complaint, Aurora Behavioral Health Care owns and operates four mental health hospitals in Southern California, including Aurora Las Encinas Hospital in Pasadena. Las Encinas Hospital is affiliated with well know psychiatrist, Dr. Drew Pinsky, who is the Medical Director for the Department of Chemical Dependency Services at the hospital.

The named plaintiffs provided patient care at Aurora Las Encinas, Hospital and held various job titles, including registered nurse, licensed psychiatric technician and mental health worker. The lawsuit, entitled Valerie Alberts et al v. Aurora Behavioral Health Care, et al, Case No. BC 419340, was filed in Los Angeles County Superior Court on August 6, 2009.

The complaint further alleges that hospital employees were often required “to provide their own equipment, including cleaning supplies, and pay for their own mandatory training,” and were required “to work in a dangerous and unsanitary environment in clear violation of the California Labor Code.” The plaintiffs further allege that the defendants’ “mistreatment of their employees had an adverse effect on the quality of patient care and has endangered the safety and well being of both hospital employees and patients” The lawsuit seeks compensatory and punitive damages, back wages, penalties and injunctive relief.

“Hospital workers have an extremely difficult job and deserve to be fairly compensated for the hours they work and should not have to work in an unsafe and unsanitary environment.” said Plaintiffs’ counsel Michael D. Seplow, of Schonbrun DeSimone Seplow Harris & Hoffman LLP in Venice, California. In addition to Mr. Seplow and his partners Benjamin Schonbrun and Michael Morrison, the plaintiffs are represented by attorneys Olu Orange, of the Orange Law Offices and Colleen Flynn, of the Law Office of Colleen Flynn.

**Please contact Michael Seplow at 310-396-0731 for more information.**