



Honey Brown Hope Foundation

25+ Years of Service (1991-present)

“Hope is Alive • Hope is What we Offer • Hope is What We Nurture in Young People”

Tammie Lang Campbell, Founder/Executive Director

FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION

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Fired for Speaking out Against an Offensive Racial Slur

Honey Brown Hope Foundation’s Statement of Support

Houston, Texas | The pain and impact of structural racism has resurfaced to the national consciousness through outcries of communities demanding justice in all structures, including the workplace.

The Honey Brown Hope Foundation is standing with Sheldon Watts, who was terminated from PinnacleART after speaking out against workplace bias and discriminatory practices.

On June 25, 2020, Watts with his attorney, H. Julian Frachtman filed a lawsuit in The United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas Houston Division against Pinnacle Art, LLC, d/b/a PinnacleART; Mr. Joe Tankhart, in his individual capacity; and Mr. Gary Bohm, in his individual capacity. Filed based on racist behavior in the workplace, use of racial slur and creation of a racially hostile work environment, Watts declares that speaking out resulted in threats of termination for filing a complaint of racist behavior, and ultimately led to a retaliatory firing for reporting the racially charged conduct.

“Sheldon is demonstrating that black lives matter and deserve equal respect,” said Tammie Lang Campbell, founder and executive director of the Honey Brown Hope Foundation. “He is showing how we must all say and do something when we hear racial epithets and code-words used by racially insensitive people.”

In a cultural climate spotlighting racism in all systems, companies are facing calls to move from statements and values on a website to denouncing discriminatory practices in the workplace.

“Discrimination against blacks in the workplace is a dark fact that needs transparency, attention and accountability,” added Campbell. “To expose and stop systemic discrimination that is strangling the livelihoods out of black people, the public needs to know and the media needs to cover the harassment and ill treatment of Blacks not only by police, but also by corporate America.”

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