

L.A. to pay family of slain rapper

LOS ANGELES (AP) - A federal judge has ordered the city and police department to pay slain rap star Notorious B.I.G.'s family "fees and costs incurred as a result of defendants' misconduct" in the family's wrongful death lawsuit.

U.S. District Judge Florence-Marie Cooper declared a mistrial in the case, rejecting the city's argument that LAPD Detective Steven Katz had forgotten about documents in his desk drawer until his office was searched last month.

The documents detail Katz's investigation of a prison informant's claim that corrupt former LAPD officers Rafael Perez and David Mack were involved in the 1997 killing of the chart-topping New York rapper, whose real name was Christopher Wallace. Cooper said the LAPD still has not turned over other files to the plaintiffs, including about 15 personnel complaint investigations into Mack.

"The detective, acting alone or in concert with others, made a decision to conceal from the plaintiffs in this



Voletta Wallace, mother of slain rapper Notorious B.I.G. (Christopher Wallace) speaks during a news conference in Los Angeles on Thursday. It was the first time Wallace addressed the media since filing a wrongful death lawsuit.

case information which could have supported their contention that David Mack was responsible for the Wallace murder," Cooper

wrote in an order released Thursday affirming the family's request for a mistrial and sanctions.

Attorney Perry Sanders Jr.

said the family would refile the suit, but he didn't know when. It is expected to accuse the LAPD of racketeering and to name Perez as a defendant.

Wallace's mother Voletta also spoke publicly about her son's death for the first time in years.

"Eight years, three months and 29 days (ago) today, my son was murdered in this town, in this city. For all that time I've labored with pain and sweat just to find out the truth of what happened," she said, adding that her suit "was not about money."

"It was about honesty. It was about integrity. It was about cover-up," she said, jabbing a finger in the air to emphasize each point. "It had nothing to do with dollars and cents."

Police Chief William Bratton, in a separate news conference, forcefully denied the department had covered for Mack, currently serving a 14-year prison sentence for bank robbery, or his one-time partner Perez, the key figure in the LAPD Rampart corruption scandal.

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Judge won't conceal names in Cosby spat

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - A judge has declined to issue an order concealing the identities of women who have agreed to testify against entertainer Bill Cosby in a sexual assault civil lawsuit.

U.S. District Judge Eduardo Robreno said in his decision Thursday that "allegations of harm by each of the Jane Doe witnesses are unsubstantiated broad allegations" not sufficient to order their identities kept secret.

The nine women gave various reasons for wishing to remain anonymous, such as fear of worsening a medical condition or losing a job, or the desire to shield relatives such as children or elderly parents. Attorneys also said the exposure would discourage them and others from speaking out in such cases.

"It is essential that the injury to be prevented be shown with specificity," Robreno wrote. He noted, however, that just because the court would not conceal the women's identities that did not mean the parties had to disclose them.

"Pretrial discovery is ordinarily conducted in private, and its fruits are not made public unless they are filed (or made part of a filing) with the court," he said.

Attorney Ralph Jacobs, who represents one of the women, said he was disappointed by the ruling, but cited the judge's comments that such information is ordinarily not made public.

"It's up to Mr. Cosby and his lawyers to decide what they want to do," he said.

One of Cosby's attorneys, Andrew Schau, declined comment.

The women have agreed to testify against Cosby in a civil suit filed against him in March by a former Temple University employee who alleged that he

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P. Diddy, Random House suit ends

NEW YORK (AP) - Sean "P. Diddy" Combs and Random House, Inc., have settled a lawsuit in which the publisher alleged that the hip-hop mogul never paid back a \$300,000 advance for a memoir he never completed.

"The matter has been amicably resolved," according to a statement issued Tuesday by Random House. Citing a confidentiality agreement, Random House spokesman Stuart Applebaum would not say whether Combs had returned the money, but did say that the publisher would not be releasing a book by him.

Combs' spokesman, Rob Shuter, did not immediately return calls from The Associated Press seeking comment.

In papers filed February at the state Supreme Court in Manhattan, the publisher alleged that Combs and his corporation, Bad Boy, had "simply kept the money they never rightfully earned." Random House asked for the advance's return, plus interest.

According to the court papers, Combs signed with Random House in 1998 and then arranged on his own to collaborate with Mikal Gilmore, a contributing edi-

tor to *Rolling Stone* and author of the acclaimed "Shot in the Heart." A manuscript was to be completed by Dec. 15, 1999, but the deadline passed and, in early 2000, Random House notified Combs that he was in breach of contract and that the publisher wanted the money back.

"Year after year," the papers alleged, the publisher sent follow-up letters.

In 2001, Combs sued Gilmore for allegedly ditch-

ing him after accepting \$325,000 to work on the book. The case was suspended later that year after Gilmore filed for bankruptcy. The case was dismissed in 2004.

Combs is not the first musician who failed to deliver his life's story. Years ago, Mick Jagger received a seven-figure advance to write his memoirs, but eventually returned the money, saying he couldn't remember anything of significance.

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