## **LABOR & EMPLOYMENT**



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Los Angeles
Specialty: Discrimination, sexual harassment, wrongful termination, civil rights, whistle blower

oldberg marvels at how the world continues to evolve, but human beings keep making the same mistakes.

"People still do things that are so unbelievably improper, offensive and stupid, that's it's sad." he said.

It's what has fueled his passion to set things right.

"It's what I do," he said. "I represent people who are victims."

Goldberg said he gets a sense of what's happening to employees throughout the country by reading the thousands of emails his firm receives daily from throughout the country. Many of the complaints come from women, frustrated by their inability to climb the corporate ladder.

"We see the same story over and over again," he said. "People who are dedicated, hard-working achievers, and they find that they get to a certain level and can't get beyond. It's a consistent theme."

Sexual harassment is another continuing problem, which mystifies Goldberg.

"You'd think that with the vast media attention of this problem and companies being sued, that there would be a slowdown, but I don't see it whatsoever."

One of his high-profile cases of last year involved a sexual harassment claim made by Goldberg's client against a celebrity hair-dresser in Washington, D.C., who once had worked for the Bush family. The client, who had worked for the stylist, ended up winning a jury award of \$2.3 million in damages. Barrett v. Chreky, 07-250, (D.C. Wash.).

"It was an amazing case," Goldberg said.
"He had been sexually harassing women for years with impunity."

Goldberg places part of the blame for ongoing sexual harassment litigation on human resource departments for failing to adequately protect their workers.

"In many, many cases, when you start to examine what happened, it seems that they don't have confidence in HR, they don't see it as an ally for employees, but a tool for the employer," he said. "Often, that's the way it is. Their function is to protect the corporation. But if that mindset changed, and they had more of an independent function, things could be a lot better."

Most employees would rather resolve their disputes internally, he said.

"But, unfortunately, the employer turns a deaf ear," he said, "and they feel they have no power."

Another high-profile case that Goldberg tackled last year involved a black woman who worked for a private security company, which contracts with the Immigration and Naturalization Service. *Hampton v. Spectrum Securities Services Inc.*, BC 387 130, (L.A. Super, Ct., filed March 12, 2009).

She had complained about an ICE officer, whom she said was racially harassing her. After she retained Goldberg's firm, the woman claimed she was retaliated against and fired.

The case has resulted twice in a hung jury, and a third trial is set to begin in late August.

"I am determined to see justice prevail for our client no matter how long it takes or how difficult the road may be," Goldberg said.

The son of hardworking immigrants, Goldberg said he always has appreciated the powerful role that employment has in maintaining a stable society.

"Everyone's job is important to them, and they want the same thing — to be treated fairly and with respect," he said. "I'm standing up for people who have been mistreated and trying to achieve some kind of accountability for them through the court system."

- Pat Broderick