



Portfolio Media, Inc. | 111 West 19th Street, 5th floor | New York, NY 10011 | www.law360.com
Phone: +1 646 783 7100 | Fax: +1 646 783 7161 | customerservice@law360.com

Buyer Of 'Dirty Stopper' Show Jumping Horse Loses Suit

By **Carolina Bolado**

Law360, Miami (August 21, 2017, 7:12 PM EDT) -- A Florida federal judge entered final judgment Friday in favor of a competitive show jumping horse's former owner and trainer after a jury found that they had not misrepresented the medical history and performance of the horse, hiding that it was a "dirty stopper," when selling it.

U.S. District Judge Kenneth A. Marra entered final judgment one day after a jury entered a verdict in favor of show horse Vorst's former owner Eugenie Redman and trainer Colin Syquia, both of whom had been accused by buyer Alejandro Zendejas of lying to him about Vorst's history when selling the horse.

In the suit filed in August 2015, Zendejas alleged that he was sold a "dirty stopper," an equestrian term for a horse that often refuses to jump obstacles in competition for no good reason.

He said that Redman had hidden the horse's adverse medical history before the sale in 2014. The horse was meant to help Zendejas' son, prominent, young Mexican rider Juan Jose Zendejas, train and qualify for the Olympic Games, according to the suit.

Redman's attorney Sarah Cortvriend of Carlton Fields said that Zendejas had bought the horse for \$250,000 using a trusted buyer's agent after a veterinarian examined Vorst. Zendejas' son also test rode the horse twice before purchase, according to Cortvriend.

The former owner and trainer argued that it wasn't until after Zendejas had bought Vorst and the horse was injured in competition that Zendejas wanted to get a refund on his purchase. After a two-week trial, the jury sided with the defendants.

Zendejas had sought \$450,000 in damages as well as punitive damages, with total potential damages of approximately \$1 million.

"We are very thankful the jury considered all of the evidence and reached a just verdict," Cortvriend said.

An attorney for Zendejas said his client plans to appeal the ruling.

Zendejas is represented by Avery Spencer Chapman of Chapman Law Group PLC and David Yuji Yoshida and T. Randolph Catanese of Catanese & Wells.

Syquia is represented by Colleen Lynn Smeryage and Patricia Anne Leonard of Shutts & Bowen LLP.

Redman is represented by John R. Hart and Sarah Cortvriend of Carlton Fields.

The case is Zendejas v. Syquia et al., case number 9:15-cv-81229, in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida.

--Editing by Jack Karp.

Update: This story has been updated to include additional comments from attorneys.

All Content © 2003-2017, Portfolio Media, Inc.