

"Stephen Dorff enthralls as Candy Darling..."

- Michele Shapiro, Time Out New York

"Dorff disappears into the character as he brilliantly blurs gender lines."

- Stephen Farber, MOVIELINE

"With amazing style by Stephen Dorff as flamboyant transvestite Candy Darling."

- Bruce Williamson, PLAYBOY

"Stephen Dorff with a breathy feline pathos worthy of Kim Novak."

- David Ansen, NEWSWEEK

"Dorff...radiates surprising emotional warmth and erotic langour in a blond wig and heels."

- Peter Travers, ROLLING STONE MAGAZINE



I SHOT ANDY WARHOL

Lili Taylor Stephen Dorff Jared Harris

PLAYHOUSE INTERNATIONAL PICTURES presents in association with THE SAMUEL GOLDWYN COMPANY and BBC ARENA LILI TAYLOR JARED HARRIS "I SHOT ANDY WARHOL" LUTHAIRE BLUTEAU MARTHA PLIMPTON ANNA THOMPSON and STEPHEN DORFF as Candy Darling
 Casting by HOPKINS, SMITH and BARDEN Costume Designer DAVID ROBINSON Production Designer THERÈSE DÉPRÉZ Original Score JOHN CALE
 Music Supervisor RANDALL POSTER Editor KEITH REAMER Director of Photography ELLEN KURAS Written by MARY HARRON and DANIEL MINAHAN
 Executive Producers LINDSAY LAW and ANTHONY WALL Produced by TOM KALIN and CHRISTINE VACHON Directed by MARY HARRON
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national news

Seeking justice

Tacoma lesbian journalist Sandy Nelson's case is heard by the Washington state Supreme Court

by Inga Sorensen

Washington state's highest court heard arguments June 11 involving an openly lesbian copy editor for *The News Tribune* of Tacoma.

"I think things went well. The justices seemed to ask good questions," Sandy Nelson, the figure at the center of this high-profile case, told *Just Out* the day after the hearing. "They seemed to be asking for guidance and obviously had read the [numerous amicus briefs that were submitted on behalf of Nelson]. We'll have to wait and see."

Nelson's case has been entangled in the court system for more than two-and-a-half years. It is an intriguing one which pits the rights of the employer to dictate an employee's off-duty activities against the right of an employee to freely participate in the political process.

Dozens of Nelson's supporters packed into the Temple of Justice court chambers in Olympia for the hearing. Some stood against the wall due to limited seating, and others were turned away.

"It's really moving to see that I have so much support," says Nelson, who was removed from her reporting position in 1990 by her editors at *The News Tribune*, a mainstream daily newspaper, because she was actively involved in political causes, specifically lesbian and gay rights.

The award-winning education reporter was subsequently transferred to the copy desk, a job she "absolutely deplores."

Nelson is seeking reinstatement to her reporting job, and her lawsuit argues that her banishment from reporting unduly restricts her freedom of speech and right to participate in the initiative and referendum process.

It also claims that management breached an employment contract by terminating Nelson's job as a reporter without just cause, and violated the Fair Campaign Practices Act, a 1992 Washington state law that prohibits employers from discriminating against workers for "in any way supporting or opposing a candidate, ballot proposition, political party or political committee."

When Nelson joined the paper in 1983, newsroom employees were represented by the Pacific Northwest Newspaper Guild Local 82, and their contract included a clause that protected workers from retribution for their off-duty activities.

Nelson was involved in many community causes. She was active in the socialist-feminist movement and had been a longtime member of Radical Women, an organization dedicated to women's full equality. She defended abortion clinics and Native American treaty rights.

In 1986, a California corporation, McClatchy Inc., purchased *The News Tribune*, abrogated its union contracts and forced workers to reapply for their jobs.

The new management rehired Nelson, knowing she was a local political activist. The following year the new owners proposed a "code of ethics" for newsroom workers that included a blanket prohibition against all off-duty political

activity on the grounds that such a prohibition was needed to ensure the paper protected its "appearance of neutrality."

Nelson, other reporters and their union denounced the proposal as a violation of newsroom workers' free speech and associational rights, saying management had committed an unfair labor practice by unilaterally imposing an unratified ethics code—one that interfered with the political and personal rights of newsroom employees.

Nelson remained active in human rights causes, and in 1989 helped form the Committee to Protect Tacoma Human Rights, which sought to stop the repeal of a Tacoma law barring discrimination based on sexual orientation.

When the law was rescinded by voters, Nelson was among the gay and lesbian rights supporters who launched an initiative campaign to get the law back on the books.

She continued to receive excellent ratings from her employer until 1990, when she was involuntarily transferred to a night copy desk job by management.

Even though her political activism never overlapped with her work as an education reporter, she was told she must discontinue all political activities in order to work as a reporter.

Nelson refused and filed a lawsuit against *The News Tribune* in 1993. The American Civil Liberties



Sandy Nelson

Union of Washington is backing Nelson's case and considers it to be a groundbreaking case for the political rights of Washington workers.

During the recent high court hearing, attorneys for the *Tribune* argued that it was imperative that newspaper reporters be prohibited from political activism. Reporters, they argued, must remain impartial on all political issues in order to stay credible in the eye of the public.

"What's at stake is credibility," attorney P. Cameron DeVore told the nine-member state Supreme Court. "[Consumers will] say, 'Well, that's the kind of newspaper that hires people like that.' They vote with their feet, walk right past *The News Tribune* rack and buy another newspaper."

Pierce County Superior Court Judge Vicki Hogan previously sided with the *Tribune*. Last May, Hogan ruled that the campaign reform law, passed after Nelson was actually transferred, could not be applied "retroactively," even though the paper's refusal to reinstate her is ongoing.

Additionally, Hogan had earlier rejected arguments that the newspaper's transfer of Nelson violated state constitutional guarantees of freedom of speech, assembly and participation in ballot initiative campaigns. Hogan said the *Tribune* was entitled to prohibit its reporters from political involvement in order for it to protect its "appearance of neutrality."

Nelson says: "I've come so far that there's no turning back. I'm committed to this. I think the biggest contribution that I will make to the field of journalism is this case, which will determine whether or not we can exercise fundamental rights."