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HEADLINE: CRAYTON, et al. v. DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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In a \$ 31 million suit claiming that the District government was negligent in its supervision of an ambulance crew that allegedly kidnapped and sexually assaulted a female patient being taken to the hospital, a District couple is relying on Robert DeBerardinis Jr. and Douglas Sparks of D.C.'s Allen, Sparks & DeBerardinis.

The suit, filed Dec. 1 in the D.C. Superior Court, stems from an incident that allegedly occurred in the early hours of Dec. 11, 1988. According to the complaint, two emergency medical technicians, Jerry Gregg and David Joy, arrived at the couple's residence and stated that they would transport the patient to Hadley Memorial Hospital. Instead, driver Gregg parked the ambulance *en route* to the hospital. Joy, according to the complaint, then exposed himself to the female patient and assaulted her with intent to rape. The complaint says it took the ambulance 45 minutes to travel to the hospital when the drive ought to have lasted about 10 minutes.

The suit contends that the D.C. Ambulance Bureau was negligent in its hiring, training, and supervision of the two emergency medical technicians. For the seven counts in the complaint, the plaintiffs are seeking \$ 31 million in compensatory damages.

In May, a Superior Court grand jury indicted Gregg and Joy for kidnapping and assault with intent to rape. The charges against Gregg were dismissed in September. Joy's trial is set to begin next month before Superior Court Judge Susan Winfield.

Although neither Gregg nor Joy is charged in the civil suit, Joy's court-appointed defense lawyer, D.C. solo practitioner James Richmond Jr., has already denied the allegations against his client.

Defending the District in the case will be a lawyer from the Civil Division of the D.C. Corporation Counsel, which has yet to assign a specific attorney to the matter.