

**HE ADMITS NOTHING: ACCORD ENDS 4-YEAR-OLD SUIT PENDING BEFORE AN ...**

By JAMES BENNET and NEIL A. LEWIS

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## Jones v. Clinton: From an Accusation to a Deal

Following are the major events in the sexual harassment case brought against President Clinton by Paula Corbin Jones.

<p><b>FEB. 11, 1994</b> Ms. Jones accuses President Clinton of making unwanted sexual advances on May 8, 1991, when he was Governor of Arkansas. The White House denies the accusation and says that Mr. Clinton does not recall meeting Ms. Jones.</p>	<p><b>JUNE 27, 1994</b> Lawyers for the President argue that he should not be subject to a civil suit while in office and file a motion asking to delay action on Ms. Jones's complaint.</p>	<p><b>MAY 27, 1997</b> The Supreme Court rejects President Clinton's request and rules for the first time that a sitting President can be sued for actions outside his official duties.</p>	<p><b>JAN. 16</b> A panel of Federal judges authorizes Kenneth W. Starr, the independent counsel, to expand his investigation to include allegations that the President encouraged Ms. Lewinsky to lie under oath.</p>	<p><b>FEB. 17</b> President Clinton's lawyers ask Judge Wright to throw out the lawsuit, arguing that even if Mr. Clinton did confront Ms. Jones with a crude sexual proposition nearly seven years ago, she has produced no evidence that he violated any laws.</p>	<p><b>AUG. 17</b> President Clinton testifies before Mr. Starr's grand jury. In a nationally televised speech that evening he acknowledges, "I did have a relationship with Ms. Lewinsky that was not appropriate."</p>
<p><b>MAY 6, 1994</b> Lawyers for Ms. Jones file suit in Federal District Court in Little Rock. The suit accuses Mr. Clinton of depriving Ms. Jones of her constitutional rights and says that his advances inflicted emotional distress and that he defamed her character.</p>	<p><b>DEC. 28, 1994</b> A Federal district judge, Susan Webber Wright, rules that the lawsuit must not go to trial until Mr. Clinton leaves office.</p>	<p><b>DEC. 19, 1997</b> Monica S. Lewinsky, a former White House employee, is served a subpoena by Ms. Jones's lawyers ordering her to provide information in the suit against Mr. Clinton.</p>	<p><b>JAN. 17</b> President Clinton is questioned by Ms. Jones's lawyers. He is asked, among other things, about Ms. Lewinsky, and he denies he had a sexual relationship with her.</p>	<p><b>APRIL 1</b> Judge Wright throws out Ms. Jones's suit.</p>	<p><b>SEPT. 9</b> Mr. Starr notifies House leaders that he has found "substantial and credible information" that may constitute grounds for impeachment of President Clinton.</p>
	<p><b>JAN. 9, 1996</b> A Federal appellate court panel overturns the lower court ruling, saying Mr. Clinton has no constitutional basis for delaying the suit.</p>	<p><b>JAN. 16, 1998</b> Ms. Lewinsky files an affidavit in which she denies any sexual relationship with the President.</p>	<p><b>JAN. 29</b> Judge Wright rules that Ms. Jones's lawyers may not use any evidence involving Ms. Lewinsky in their case.</p>	<p><b>JULY 31</b> Lawyers for Ms. Jones ask a Federal appeals court to reinstate her suit.</p>	<p><b>OCT. 8</b> The House votes 258 to 176 to authorize an impeachment inquiry.</p>
				<p><b>YESTERDAY</b> President Clinton and Ms. Jones settle the suit.</p>	

1994 1995 1996 1997 JAN FEB MARCH APRIL MAY JUNE JULY AUG SEPT OCT NOV

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### THE LAWSUIT

## Clinton to Pay \$850,000 to Settle Claim by Jones

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ule aside, even his allies had long viewed the expense to him of not settling the case sooner — in prestige, political capital and perhaps his place in history — as incalculable.

Even after the settlement was announced today, some Clinton loyalists lamented the for-want-of-a-nail element. One adviser just groaned when asked if he wished the President had settled earlier. Another Clinton associate said that if the case had been settled, "no one would know who Monica Lewinsky was."

Ms. Jones cried on receiving the news of the agreement, Susan Carpenter-McMillan, a Jones adviser, told reporters gathered outside a Manhattan hotel where her friend was doing a television interview today. "It's over and I'm glad," she quoted Ms. Jones as saying.

John Whitehead, one of Ms. Jones's lawyers, said, "The settlement brings to a conclusion four long years of seeking justice for Paula."

"The suit has raised a lot of important issues that the American people and their leaders will have to deal with for years to come," Mr. Whitehead added, "such as the importance of protecting powerless women from workplace harassment and the role of the rule of law in our highest offices."

The terse eight-point agreement, filed today with Susan Webber Wright, the judge who dismissed the suit in April, calls for Mr. Clinton to pay Ms. Jones within 60 days. The agreement requires Judge Wright's approval, but that seems certain, since she long urged a settlement.

As part of today's agreement, Ms. Jones also dropped her claim against Mr. Clinton's co-defendant, Danny Ferguson, an Arkansas state trooper who Ms. Jones said escorted her to the Governor's hotel room.

In a separate agreement, which was not made part of the filing, Ms. Jones's lawyers said she renounced any intention to accept money from Abe Hirschfeld, a New York City real estate magnate who had said he would pay her \$1 million to settle.

White House advisers said they hoped that the \$850,000 would be covered by Mr. Clinton's personal insurance policies. But if the two companies that have insured the President decline to pay, the advisers said, the money will come from the President's legal defense fund, which now has a balance of more than \$2 million.

Ms. Jones has her own financial trouble to resolve. She has had as many as six sets of lawyers, whose bills total nearly \$3 million. Yet she is hoping to net \$300,000 to \$500,000 from the agreement.

Hillary Rodham Clinton, who is said by associates to be particularly concerned about her family's mounting legal bills, had been worried that a settlement might make too big a dent in the defense fund. But the Clintons' fund-raisers assured her that they could easily replenish any money used toward a Jones settlement.

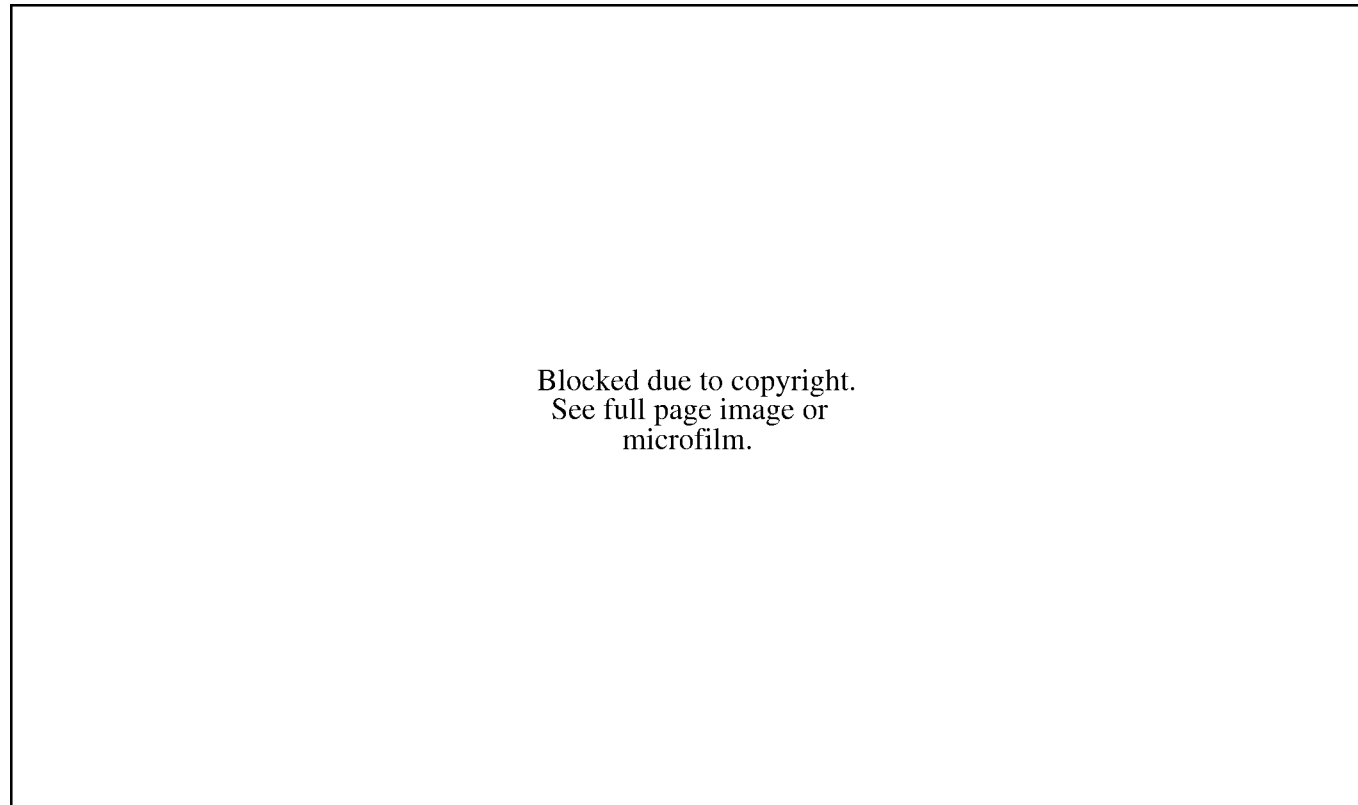
Mrs. Clinton had also been opposed to any settlement that included an apology, aides said, since it would have carried an acknowledgment of conduct that the President denied. The agreement filed today states, "Nothing in this agreement shall be construed to be an admission of liability or wrongdoing by any party."

But plainly, the settlement can only bolster public sentiment, as demonstrated in opinion polls, that Ms. Jones told the truth.

From the moment Ms. Jones first made her accusation against the President, in a televised news conference on Feb. 11, 1994, his advisers dismissed her as a gold digger in league with his conservative enemies.

At the same time, but more quietly, his lawyers were trying to settle the lawsuit. Their efforts initially foundered on Ms. Jones's demand for an apology; Mr. Clinton said he had nothing to apologize for.

Over time, Ms. Jones expanded her legal claims, arguing that Mr. Clinton had harassed her, caused her emotional distress and damaged her



Paula Corbin Jones arriving at the President's lawyer's office in January for a deposition. She was led by her adviser Susan Carpenter-McMillan, left, who quoted Ms. Jones yesterday as saying, "It's over and I'm glad." Agence France-Presse

career. But in April, Judge Wright found that the plaintiff had offered no "tangible" evidence of damage and dismissed the case, saying it presented "no genuine issues."

The ground shifted dramatically when Mr. Clinton admitted on Aug. 17, in grand jury testimony and in a brief televised address to the nation, that he had had an intimate relationship with Ms. Lewinsky. Ms. Jones's advisers said she no longer required an apology, since, they said, most people would now believe her.

Further, Mr. Clinton's advisers now had more reason to settle. They worried that the President's admission about Ms. Lewinsky might

strengthen Ms. Jones's appeal. And with impeachment proceedings pending, they believed that taking the Jones lawsuit off the table would help reassure Congressional Democrats that there would be no further nasty disclosures or legal reversals for the President. That would increase the Democrats' confidence in defending him.

Several weeks ago, Mr. Bennett reopened settlement talks, offering \$700,000. The Jones lawyers countered with a request for \$1 million, and the two sides started haggling, slowly.

They seemed tantalizingly close when the offer last month from Mr.

Hirschfeld, who said he believed that a settlement was in the interests of the country, threw the negotiations into chaos. The White House was concerned over any appearance that Mr. Hirschfeld, who is under indictment on tax fraud charges, was bailing out the President.

To seal the agreement, William McMillan, Ms. Carpenter-McMillan's husband and Ms. Jones's lead negotiator, wrote in a letter to Mr. Bennett this week, "I further represent to you that the money from Mr. Abe Hirschfeld is no longer on the table, and that there will be no payment from Mr. Hirschfeld as a part of the settlement with Mr. Clinton."