

METRO NEWS BRIEFS: NEW JERSEY

METRO NEWS BRIEFS: NEW JERSEY; Damages Hearing Begins In Discrimination Case

By The Associated Press

Oct. 22, 1998

See the article in its original context from
October 22, 1998, Section B, Page 6 [Buy Reprints](#)

New York Times subscribers* enjoy full access to
TimesMachine—view over 150 years of New
York Times journalism, as it originally appeared.

SUBSCRIBE

*Does not include Crossword-only or
Cooking-only subscribers.

The first state trooper to successfully sue the State Police for racial discrimination made a case yesterday for considerable monetary damages from the state.

During the damages phase of a trial in Federal District Court in Trenton, Sgt. Vincent Bellaran, who is of Filipino and Hispanic descent, outlined how he was passed over for promotions, harassed, unfairly suspended and transferred throughout his 21-year career with the State Police. Responding to questions from his lawyer, Philip J. Moran, Sergeant Bellaran said his superiors and fellow troopers began a 10-year campaign of retaliation against him after he requested to talk to a colonel about racism within the force.

Before 1986, Bellaran's superiors gave him excellent performance evaluations, Mr. Moran told Judge Mary L. Cooper. But Sergeant Bellaran decided to complain after witnessing several racist incidents, including one in which fellow troopers forced a black motorist to tap-dance to avoid an arrest. After that, whenever promotions came up, his superiors ranked him "dead last," Mr. Moran said.

Sergeant Bellaran wants Judge Cooper to order the State Police to pay a four-part award: \$67,000 in back pay for 465 days of suspension between September 1988 and February 1990; about \$80,000 in wages he would have earned if he had been promoted; an immediate promotion from his \$56,000-a-year job as sergeant to a \$92,000-a-year captain; and an unspecified amount for suffering.

The judge heard only arguments from Mr. Moran Wednesday. And the lawyer for the Attorney General's Office, which is representing the State Police, would not talk about the case.

A version of this article appears in print on , Section B, Page 6 of the National edition with the headline: METRO NEWS BRIEFS: NEW JERSEY; Damages Hearing Begins In Discrimination Case