

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kevin Holbrook, Former CFO of Starboard Group, Fully Exonerated of Assault Allegations by Florida Court

Fort Lauderdale, FL — May 24, 2025 — Kevin Holbrook, former Chief Financial Officer of Starboard Group, has been formally exonerated of civil assault allegations filed by former employee Sandi Adler-Dufton. On September 12, 2024, Judge Martin J. Bidwill of Florida's 17th Judicial Circuit Court (**Case No. CACE20010660**) entered a directed verdict in Holbrook's favor, declaring:

"The Court is entering a directed verdict in favor of Kevin Holbrook on the claims asserted by Plaintiff, Sandi Adler-Dufton, finding Kevin Holbrook did not commit an assault on Plaintiff."

— **Hon. Martin J. Bidwill, Sept. 12, 2024**

This ruling followed testimony and legal arguments confirming that the plaintiff's claims lacked merit. The case concluded with a mutual release of claims, no monetary settlement, and a final judgment fully in Holbrook's favor

Legal Background

Adler-Dufton filed her lawsuit on June 30, 2020, shortly after her June 1, 2020 termination. During her separation, Starboard discovered she had not fully repaid a \$14,000 employee loan. On June 3, 2020, legal counsel for Starboard issued a formal letter accusing Adler of altering the executed Promissory Note and warned of potential legal action for fraud and breach of fiduciary duty.

Despite serving as Vice President of Human Resources, Adler never filed any internal complaints. An internal investigation found no evidence of misconduct by Holbrook, who remained with the company until July 2022 and was not involved in the company's subsequent financial difficulties.

Court Actions and Judgments

- In April 2022, Judge Bidwill granted summary judgment to Starboard Group and CEO Andrew Levy, dismissing all whistleblower claims due to lack of legal merit and evidentiary support.
- In February 2024, Holbrook's attorneys filed an unopposed motion to sever the assault claim from the rest of the case following Starboard's bankruptcy, ensuring a fair and impartial trial.
- On September 12, 2024, following days of trial and cross-examination during which Adler-Dufton recanted key claims, Judge Bidwill issued a directed verdict clearing Holbrook of all charges. A mutual release was executed with no exchange of payment, and the jury was discharged.

Legal Counsel Statement

Holbrook was represented by Barry A. Postman and Katie Merwin of Cole, Scott & Kissane, P.A., West Palm Beach.

"The Court's ruling was clear. Mr. Holbrook was wrongfully accused, and the evidence simply did not support the claims," said Barry Postman, Esq. "During cross examination, she recanted many of her allegations resulting in a final judgment that specifically stated that Holbrook did not commit the allegations that were asserted in the publicly filed complaint. This outcome affirms the principles of due process, credibility, and fairness in civil litigation."

— **Barry A. Postman, Attorney for Defendant Kevin Holbrook**

Statement from Kevin Holbrook

"These allegations were false from the beginning. The media published them before I had a chance to respond. I'm grateful for the Court's ruling, my legal team, and everyone who stood by me. It's time to move forward."

— **Kevin Holbrook**

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For more information on the case, including court filings and legal documentation, visit www.kevinholbrook.com