

Man facing deportation sues against client

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There wouldn't be any threats. It would be
downright assassination.”

IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY GEORGE BRUNO

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rlier this year, ICE
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tion, and he has been told
to leave by Nov. 5.
One of his lawyers, Man-
chester immigration at-
torney George Bruno, said
Filippi had no choice but
to file a lawsuit, which is a
public document, to block
the deportation.
“If he went back any-
ways, they'd find out,”
Bruno said. “There
wouldn't be any threats.
It would be downright as-
sassination.”
Filippi asked the Board
of Immigration Appeals
for an emergency stay
to the November depor-
tation order, citing the
United Nations Conven-
tion Against Torture. He
also asked that his case
be reopened, based on
changed country condi-
tions.
In Manchester, his law-
yers delivered a letter to
ICE agent Joseph Anoli,
who Bruno said worked
with Filippi for years. The
letter includes a request
for an S-visa, which is
available to informants,
Bruno said.
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Federal jury awards Hollis family \$285k in assault case

■ **Damages award:**
Michael and Ginger
Fortin sued the district in
2015, saying their then
9-year-old son, who has
autism, was physically
assaulted by a school
aide.

By MICHAEL COUSINEAU
New Hampshire Union Leader

CONCORD — A Hollis fam-
ily was awarded \$285,000
in damages Tuesday after
a federal court jury agreed
that an autistic student was
assaulted by a school aide
in 2014.

The jury found that the
family proved its assault
case and ordered the Hol-
lis School District to pay
the damages.

Michael and Ginger
Fortin sued the district
in 2015, saying their then
9-year-old son, T.F., was
physically assaulted by a
school aide. The boy had
been diagnosed with au-
tism and other disabilities,
including epilepsy, that

substantially limited his
major life activities, ac-
cording to court papers
filed by the family's attor-
ney, Jon Meyer.

“I do think just the pub-
licity about this and the
amount of the verdict does
send an important mes-
sage to school districts,”
Meyer said Wednesday.
“It's really important for
school districts to be very
diligent about this type of
situation.”

The family made a sepa-
rate confidential settle-
ment with the aide, Lisa
Keehan, Meyer said.

Brian Cullen, the at-
torney representing the
school district, said state
law caps judgments
against municipal entities
at \$275,000. Any damage
award wouldn't come out
of district funds but be cov-
ered with membership in a
pooled risk group.

Cullen said it is likely the
district will file a motion
asking for a new trial. No
decision has been made
on whether to appeal. He
said he believes Keehan
resigned her post.

The jury also found that
the Fortins had not proved

their claim that the school
district discriminated
against their son under the
Americans with Disabili-
ties Act.

In May 2014, Keehan
was videotaped in a one-
on-one session with T.F. in
which “she reacted emo-
tionally and aggressively
to his perceived lack of
responsiveness by pulling
his ear and otherwise im-
posing corporal punish-
ment,” according to court
papers.

Court papers said
“Keehan's assault was a
continuation of her pattern
of physically assaulting T.F.
because she was unable to
control his conduct using
appropriate means of in-
tervention.”

“Because of T.F.'s dis-
abilities, he is extremely
vulnerable to potential
abuse,” Meyer wrote.

The boy now attends a
school in northern Mas-
sachusetts that specializes
in educating autistic chil-
dren. Cullen said that is
a standard out-of-district
placement with costs cov-
ered by the school district.

Three Dartmouth College professors placed on leave

■ **Investigation:** The into allegations of serious Heatherston is the Lincoln