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$200,000 Repayment Agreement for Estate Of McCarthy-Era Victim

The estate of Beatrice "Bibi" Braude, who was fired from the U.S. Information Agency and blacklisted 43 years ago during a spasm of anti-communist zealotry, should be paid $200,000, according to an agreement between the U.S. government and attorneys for her estate.

Funding the settlement is up to Congress.

Braude fought for decades to clear her name after her firing in 1953. By the time she was in her seventies, she seemingly had exhausted all court remedies. After her death nearly nine years ago, her friends and relatives took up her cause and persuaded Sens. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.) and Alfonse M. D'Amato (R-N.Y.) to sponsor legislation that mandated review of the case by the U.S. Court of Federal Claims.

Attorneys for the Justice Department argued earlier this year that there was insufficient proof that loyalty concerns prevented Braude from being rehired for decades. The reason might have been, they argued, because she was a woman and in her forties. Judge Roger B. Andewelt disagreed, saying Braude was a loyal American persecuted "during a dark era in American history."

He ordered the Justice Department to negotiate an amount to pay Braude's estate. Christopher Sipes, of the law firm of Covington & Burling, who handled the case without a fee, said lawyers considered what Braude would have earned during the period of her blacklisting. The case, Sipes said, represents a rare acknowledgment of the wrongs committed by the government during the era associated with Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy.

1982 FILE PHOTO

Beatrice "Bibi" Braude fought for decades to clear her name after being fired from the U.S. Information Agency and blacklisted.

Braude's niece, Ericka, responding to the agreement, said she was nearly speechless. "It's unbelievable," she said, "and it's about time."

—Cindy Loose

Sticking With Her Game

■ Although her playing days may be over, Julie Croteau, who made headlines in 1987 when she sued in federal court in an unsuccessful effort to play on the all-male varsity