

## NEWS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Women Ski Jumpers Launch Lawsuit in Canadian Court

*Vancouver* – On behalf of several individual elite female ski jumpers, a lawsuit was filed today in the British Columbia Supreme Court to ensure that women ski jumpers have the same Olympic opportunities as male ski jumpers, according to spokesperson and Women's Ski Jumping-USA President Deedee Corradini.

“Women ski jumpers meet all the technical and universality requirements,” Corradini explained. “There are certainly more than enough qualified women jumping from more than enough countries. The women are ready and we have tried to communicate that to the International Olympic Committee, but to no avail. We were forced to conclude it is a matter of discrimination and decided we had no choice but to launch a lawsuit.”

The lawsuit names the Vancouver Olympic Organizing Committee (VANOC) as respondent, Corradini said. The statement of claim asks the Court to allow women's as well as men's ski jumping events to go ahead in Vancouver in 2010.

“As an organization, we represent women ski jumpers in the United States, but in this case a discrimination suit in the jurisdiction of the next Olympic Winter Games had to be filed,” Corradini explained. “In spirit, the action represents women ski jumpers world-wide and we are determined to fight for their equal rights.”

The individual plaintiffs include six of the top 10 internationally ranked female ski jumpers in the world, including athletes from Norway, Germany, Austria, Slovenia and the United States. Marie-Pierre Morin, a retired Canadian Ski Jump National Champion and Karla Keck, a retired American National Champion are plaintiffs as well.

“As volunteers and on behalf of our amateur athletes, we are very grateful to have the pro bono services of Ross Clark, Q.C., a partner at Davis LLP, one of Canada's oldest and most prestigious law firms, as well as the efforts of Deborah Folka of DLF Communications Ltd., a Vancouver-based public relations firm,” Corradini said. “In addition, WSJ-USA has recently signed an agreement with The Ski Channel, a US-based cable television network that will provide a broadcast home to many women's ski jumping events and ensure the sport receives a significant amount of new promotion.”

“It is absolutely amazing what these girls do. It is such an extreme sport; flying through the air over 100 meters at breakneck speed, yet it is also a traditional winter sport,” pointed out The Ski Channel Founder & CEO Steve Bellamy. “We are going to bring women's ski jumping into tens of millions of households who haven't gotten to watch it yet. I urge VANOC to put these girls in the Olympics.”

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