

**Denice Rice** lives in El Dorado, California. She is a GS-462-7 Fire Prevention Technician on the Eldorado National Forest in Region 5, California.

Denice has worked in the fire organization for the past 20 years. Fifteen of those years as a firefighter have been as an employee of the USDA Forest Service. She has worked in both structure and wildland fire suppression.

In 2011, Denice filled a sexual harassment/assault complaint against a GS-11 supervisor (Mike Beckett) in the fire organization of the Eldorado National Forest. The supervisor continually asked for sex. He stalked her. He would trap her in her office and trap her up against the car. He sent her sexually graphic texts with his government phone. He followed her into the women's bathroom asking for sex. He lifted up her shirt. He physically/sexually assaulted her by using a letter opener to poke her breasts. Beckett was a bully, verbally abusive and many people feared him. The forest management knew these things were happening but Beckett was a favored son and friends with the District Ranger and Forest Fire Management Officer. Denice was afraid to report him until she couldn't take it any longer and filed a complaint. The agency protected and supported the supervisor throughout the investigation. They allowed him to resign without terminating him. Agency management continues to retaliate against her.

In 2012 Denice traveled to Washington, DC with the USDA Coalition of Minority Employees, attended the National Whistleblower's Conference, and met with a host of congressional representatives to discuss civil rights violations and workplace violence against women in Region 5.

In 2013 Denice was appointed as Secretary/Treasurer and Union Steward for the Forest Service's NFFE Local.

Denice is a Class Agent for the Region 5 Female Firefighter Class Complaint filed in August 2014 (*Bush et al. v. Vilsack*).