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ges, employment-related damages suffered from ash and physical distress, half million for exemplary damages. But Cher's lawyer tells GLOBE that his suit has merit.

Cher and Sampino met face to face again in Los Angeles Superior Court at a settlement hearing prior to their scheduled July trial. Cher dressed all in black, with heavy sunglasses and a long scarf tied around her head. Cher refused to look at Sampino in the eye.

"I was trying to protect her because I knew there were a lot of illegal things going on at the site," says Sampino. "I thought Cher was my friend, and I needed her help, she just didn't know what was happening to me."

- ROBIN MIZRAHI



Cher appeared at the L.A. Courthouse in a black and white headscarf. Sampino says she wouldn't look him in the eye

