

Cicero settles firing lawsuit for \$250,000

Weeks before the case was set for trial, Cicero settled a wrongful termination lawsuit Thursday, agreeing to pay \$250,000 to two former employees who say they were fired by town president Betty Loren-Maltese.

The employees, former Town Collector Alison Resnick and her husband, former town spokesman Ray Hanania, claim they were fired after they tried blowing the whistle on corruption under Loren-Maltese.

They filed the lawsuit in 1998. The case was scheduled for trial in mid-April. "Their reputation is totally vindicated," Loevy said.

Cicero agreed to pay \$250,000 plus attorneys' fees, Loevy said.

Loren-Maltese is serving federal prison time for stealing more than \$12 million from town coffers. Loevy said Maltese's conviction weakened Cicero's hand in the lawsuit.

Cicero officials did not return phone calls.

Natasha Korecki