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## Superior Court denies overturn of UNH student's housing ruling

DOVER — A Superior Court judge has denied a University of New Hampshire student's request for the court to overturn university disciplinary action that resulted in her being evicted from her student housing.

Nineteen-year-old Miranda Silverman will now be forced to vacate her student housing at the direction of the university.

Silverman was evicted from her housing earlier this fall because of violations she and her roommates were charged with following a Sept. 10 party that included loud noise and a large amount of alcohol at The Gables, an apartment complex on the UNH campus.

She pleaded responsible to all the violations against her at a university disciplinary hearing and was evicted and then took the unusual step of appealing that decision at Strafford County Superior Court by filing a petition for injunction.

Silverman and her attorney, Todd Stevens, argued that Silverman only pleaded responsible as a result of bad advice from a student adviser. It was also argued that Silverman had limited involvement in the gathering at her apartment.

The argument about the bad advice from the student adviser claimed that Silverman was told that she would receive a lesser punishment if she pleaded responsible to all the charges against her.

In her ruling, Judge Marguerite Wageling stated that Silverman was well aware of the possible consequences for her violations, which were spelled out in university documents that she and her roommates signed off on.

Wageling also ruled that UNH did an adequate job informing Silverman about the hearing and alerting her to how the hearing process goes.

"Petitioner's account of the student adviser's statements do not detract from Petitioner's admitted knowledge that a 'responsible' finding against her could lead to her eviction, and that her actions violated university housing policies," the ruling states. "Additionally, there is nothing in the record to suggest that UNH could not have imposed a more serious sanction on Petitioner."

During a hearing earlier this month UNH Attorney Lee Smith argued that the university alcohol policy is clear; eviction is often the sanction for those who host parties on campus with alcohol.

Smith said this party was particularly disruptive because it was a gathering involving 20-30 students and a significant amount of alcohol. He said the noise coming out of the sixth-floor apartment was so loud the residence adviser who discovered the party could hear it from his first-floor apartment.

The student apartment complex the party occurred on is considered a "dry" apartment, meaning that all residents are under 21, and thus no alcohol is allowed in the apartment regardless of the drinker's age.

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