

PLAYBOY ENDS LEGAL BATTLE OF THE 'SEX'ES

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"Judge Julie" of Playboy TV's "Sex Court" has survived a close call with a real-life federal jury.

Lawyers for Playboy Enterprises settled a legal battle yesterday that would likely have unplugged the provocative TV show - just hours before jurors in the civil trademark trial were set deliberate.

Playboy agreed to pay a small-time Internet entrepreneur an undisclosed sum to shut down "sexcourt.com."

The hard-core porn site features the buxom blond jurist "Judge Jill," a leather-clad judge who poses on her official bench underneath the slogan, "If sex is a crime . . . let me be guilty!"

Playboy claimed it came up with the "sex court" concept first.

Jurors in the case told The Post they were leaning toward delivering a verdict favoring On-Line Entertainment owner Mario Cavalluzzo, of Elmont, L.I., whose lawyer, John Bostany, who compared Playboy to a "bulldozer"

"I think it was the big corporation trying to take it from the little guy," said juror Robin Barrow of Great Neck.

Cavalluzzo, the defendant in the civil case, had lobbed a \$9 million counterclaim against Playboy, claiming "sexcourt.com" was up and running four months before Playboy's TV show aired.

An injunction forbids On-Line Entertainment from using the "sex court" name.

But Cavalluzzo said to stay tuned. "I'm considering 'sex -appeals- court.com,' " he said.

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Abstract (Document Summary)

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