

# Chipotle Cuts Losses, Settles Case With Ex-Worker Rather Than Face Big Damages

Chipotle Mexican Grill Inc. on Monday reached a confidential settlement with a former employee, rather than face punitive damages for wrongfully firing her in January 2015 from the the restaurant she once managed, reports *The Fresno Bee*.

A Fresno jury last Thursday awarded Jeanette Ortiz \$7.9 million in her wrongful termination civil case for loss of past and future wages and emotional distress against the fast-foot giant, a company that is worth about \$1.3 billion, according to reporter Pablo Lopez.

Instead of letting the jury decide punitive damages, which could have been as much as nine times the original award, Chipotle's lawyers settled with Ortiz and her lawyers for an undisclosed sum.

"In its verdict, the jury of four men and eight women ruled that Ortiz was not a thief, but was a victim of a scheme to fire and defame her for filing a worker's compensation claim for a job-related injury to her wrist caused by carpal tunnel syndrome," writes Lopez.

**Read the *Fresno Bee* article.**