

## Saunders Dragged Back Into Federal Court

HATTIESBURG - USM president Martha Saunders is being forced back into U.S. District Court in Hattiesburg, this time to defend herself against a racial discrimination charge leveled by Maria Salcido. According to Jesse Bass' 6-Sept-2011 [report for The Hattiesburg American](#), Salcido is alleging via a federal court complaint that USM officials, including Saunders, engaged in racial discrimination in preventing her from completing a USM master's degree in marriage and family therapy. Salcido is seeking compensatory, actual and punitive damages, all to be decided by a jury.



Sources tell USMNEWS.net that it is interesting that Salcido now resides in Wisconsin, the location of another racial discrimination case against Saunders that was filed by academic deans who were dismissed from administrative duties by Saunders during Saunders' chancellorship of the University of Wisconsin at Whitewater. Saunders held that position (chancellor of UW-W) prior to coming to USM as president back in May of 2007. Sources add that Salcido's counsel, Kim Chaze, would likely benefit from speaking to those former plaintiffs in Wisconsin. Finally, according to documents obtained by USMNEWS.net, [the presiding judge](#) is Keith Starrett, someone who sources tell USMNEWS.net knows a lot about how bad things have been at USM during Saunders' presidency (2007-present).