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# Woman wins \$300,000 computer firm lawsuit

By JANET PARKER BECK

Times Staff Writer

## SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO —

A former saleswoman for Computer Associates International Inc. in South San Francisco was awarded up to \$300,000 this week in damages, fees and other costs in a lawsuit alleging she was cheated out of her sales commission.

San Mateo County Superior Court Judge James Browning Jr. entered the judgment, including attorney's fees, Thursday in favor of Linda Sample, according to Sample's attorney, Daniel Robert Bartley of San Francisco.

According to Bartley, Sample was a saleswoman with 10 years experience when she booked a \$450,000 software package sale to a Monterey company in April 1989.

Less than a week later, a new regional sales manager pulled her accounts from her and

demoted her to a training level sales position, Bartley said.

The company then repeatedly refused to pay her commission for the Monterey sale, Bartley claimed. She resigned in September 1989 and filed her lawsuit, he said.

A jury that listened to the case earlier returned a verdict of \$56,466 for the commission and \$2,083 in statutory time penalties in her favor. With interest, the total was \$78,840, he said.

Browning's final judgment orders the payment of attorney's fees which, with a multiplier of two, will exceed \$200,000, Bartley said.

The multiplier, he said, is generally awarded to victorious contingent fee plaintiff's counsels to compensate for the risks and difficulties inherent in handling employee rights cases, Bartley said.

Attorneys for the defendant could not be reached today for comment.