

San Francisco's Historic Tobacco Revenue Settlement:



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*Angela Alioto, Former
Member of San Francisco's
Board of Supervisors,
Secured Over \$1 Billion
for City Hospitals and City
Health Care Needs ...*

*After Then-City Attorney Louise
Renne Tried to Delay Alioto's Lawsuit*

by:

SF Examiner.com

SF Health Examiner:
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July 4, 2010

An Extended Quote From Angela Alioto

"The obstacles to suing the tobacco companies that I wrote about in my book *Straight to the Heart: Political Cantos* are engraved in my mind. I had been working with the Attorney General of Texas for the lawsuit itself. The legislation I wrote that we, the City and County of San Francisco, would be the first city to sue the tobacco industry. The legislation was ready to be voted on. I had all of the pleadings of the lawsuit prepared, ready for the city attorney to file.

Literally minutes before our historic vote on the legislation, our very own City Attorney, Louise Renne, came in and told the entire Board of Supervisors that the city didn't have the \$1 million necessary to file the lawsuit. We voted on the legislation knowing something was up in the City Attorney's office that did not make sense. When the then Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to sue the tobacco companies, I knew thousands of sick people would benefit from the case.

That lawsuit is now projected to generate nearly \$1 billion for San Francisco. The courageous Board of Supervisors at that time are to be congratulated."

— *Angela Alioto*
July 4, 2010

Fair-Use Extracts From “Straight to the Heart: Political Cantos” [Red emphasis added, bracketed blue explanation added]

- “**I studied** the lawsuit filed by Texas, and **I came up with** a cause of action — San Francisco should not sue as a consumer for product liability; we should sue as the *employer* of a consumer.” (page 219)
- “To initiate the process, **I wrote Resolution 46996**, instructing the city attorney to sue the tobacco industry and outlining explicitly how she should implement the lawsuit.” (page 219)
- “Five minutes before the vote, I walked **City Attorney Louise Renne** and the head of the city health department, Sandra Hernandez. The city attorney demanded an immediate closed-door private session with the board ... to tell us that we have to come up with a million dollars from the city budget before the resolution could pass.” (pages 219–220)
- “Three of my colleagues were outraged at this transparent attempt to quash the legislation. Board President Kevin Shelley **called it sabotage**.” (page 220)
- “We walked back into the board chambers and **passed the legislation without a single no vote**.” (page 220)
- “But [Mayor Willie] **Brown and Renne decided to contract the lawsuit out** to a private firm ...” [rather than have the city attorney prosecute the lawsuit] (page 220)