

# Sex-change pilot's victory in the sky

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**CHICAGO, Thursday.** — A court ruled today that Eastern Airlines must re-hire a pilot who underwent sex-change surgery.

Judge John Grady ruled that the Miami-based airline was guilty of violating Federal sex discrimination laws and ordered it to re-hire Karen Ulane (above) as a pilot with back pay.

Eastern, which claimed that Ulane suffered from serious psychological problems, said it would appeal against the ruling.

Ulane, 42, a combat

veteran, was fired in April 1981 after 12 years with the airline.

Eastern alleged that Ulane suffered from serious psychological problems with unknown long-term effects that could threaten airline safety. It also said Ulane had concealed the fact that she was taking drugs.

Judge Grady dismissed the claims, saying that Eastern was actually worried its image would suffer by having a transsexual in the cockpit.