

Fox News hit with racial harassment lawsuit by two employees

11:17 EDT, 29 March 2017

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Tichaona Brown and Tabrese Wright (above) are seeking 'redress for the appalling racial discrimination' which they claim to have suffered while employed by Fox News

A Fox News employee is accused of engaging in racist conduct for years at the network in a lawsuit filed Tuesday against the network in New York State Supreme Court.

Tichaona Brown and Tabrese Wright are seeking 'redress for the appalling racial discrimination which they suffered while employed by Fox' at the hands of their white supervisor Judy Slater, the former Senior Vice President of Accounting and Controller at Fox News, according to their complaint.

The two women also accuse Fox News of 'top-down racial harassment' in their complaint, claiming that executives including former CEO Roger Ailes and current co-presidents Bill Shine and Jack Anernathy 'allowed this repugnant racial discrimination to go unchecked.'

Among the 'unlawful discriminatory statements and conduct engaged in by Slater' that is alleged in the complaint are claims that she 'ridiculed black employees by mocking stereotyped speech,' once asked 'Why are all black men women-beaters?' and 'regularly talked about her fear that black people want to physically harm white people.'

A Fox News spokesperson said in a statement: 'We take complaints of this nature very seriously and took prompt and effective remedial action before Ms. Brown and Ms. Wright sued in court and even before Ms. Wright complained through her lawyer. There is no place for inappropriate verbal remarks like this at Fox News. We are disappointed that this needless litigation has been filed.'

Slater was fired from the company on February 28 after 18 years working for 21st Century Fox.

Brown claims in the complaint that she too was fired as a result of bringing forth this lawsuit, and Wright was demoted as a result.

A Fox News spokesperson claims that is not the case however, and that Brown is still employed while Wright made a 'lateral move' in the company with 'the same title (coordinator), same salary and same benefits.'

Douglas H. Wigdor and Jeanne Christensen, partners at Wigdor LLP who are representing the women, said in a statement: 'We are confident that the good men and women of the Bronx will hold Fox accountable for what we believe to be its abhorrent racist conduct reminiscent of the Jim Crow era.'