

Fox News sued by 2 black women over ‘top-down racial harassment’

BY Denis Slattery

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(Kevin Hagen/Getty Images)

Tichaona Brown, a payroll manager, and Tabrese Wright, a payroll coordinator for Fox News, are suing the network after saying they were subjected to “top-down racial harassment.”

Accusations of sexual harassment are only the tip of the discriminatory iceberg at Fox News.

A pair of women are suing the cable news network, saying they were subjected to “top-down racial harassment” in the company’s payroll department, according to a new lawsuit filed Tuesday in the Bronx.

Tichaona Brown, a payroll manager, and Tabrese Wright, a payroll coordinator, are suing Judith Slater, the company’s longtime comptroller, Fox News, and its parent company, 21st Century Fox.

The women, who are both African-American, claim Slater’s racist behavior created a hostile work environment that resulted in “severe and pervasive discrimination and harassment.”

The women say Slater, who was fired from Fox last week, made a laundry list of racially charged comments, including asking Brown if her three children were all “fathered by the same man.”

According to the suit, Slater:

- Ridiculed black employees by mocking stereotyped speech and complained, for example, that black employees mispronounce the words “mother,” “father,” “month” and “ask,” by pronouncing the words as “muva,” “fava,” “monf,” and “axe.”
- Openly claimed that the “Black Lives Matter” movement is extremely racist and wondered what would happen if there was a parallel “White Lives Matter” movement.
- Regularly talked about her fear that black people want to physically harm white people.
- Told employees that she does not travel north of 90th Street in Manhattan because she is afraid she will be “jumped” or “beat up.”
- Blatantly mocked the “Black Lives Matter” movement. After the August 2014 shooting of Mike Brown, and the onset of the “Hands Up, Don’t Shoot” slogan, when Ms. Brown would stop by Slater’s office to say goodbye at the end of the day, Slater responded by raising her hands up in the “Hands Up, Don’t Shoot” movement.
- Regularly called her commuter train to New Jersey the “Bombay Express,” due to the number of people of Indian descent who live in New Jersey.
- Openly talked about her belief that all Chinese men have “small penises.”
- Called day laborers “cheap Mexicans.”
- Due to the number of employees of color in the payroll department, Slater regularly called the payroll department, the “southern payroll department” and the “urban payroll department.”
- Asked Ms. Brown and Ms. Wright to teach her how to “beat box.”
- Fox News Channel is currently the target of a federal probe into allegedly concealing big-bucks

payments the company made to several women to quietly settle sexual harassment claims against former chairman Roger Ailes.



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[Trump teases Fox News show that blames Ryan for health care fail](#)

An internal investigation at Fox last summer revealed that Ailes is believed to have sexually harassed many employees or potential employees over many years.

Wright spoke up about her ordeal following Ailes' departure from the company last summer.

She was transferred out of the payroll department on Monday.

[Gretchen Carlson secretly recorded meetings with Roger Ailes](#)

Brown, who joined Fox in late 2008, was fired the same day, after both women declined a Fox settlement offer, according to the suit.

"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," the plaintiffs' lawyers, Douglas Wigdor and Jeanne Christensen, said in a statement.

Slater, who joined Fox in 1998 as director of accounting, was promoted to vice president and controller, in charge of the network's finances, in 2006.

"We take any complaint of this nature very seriously and took the appropriate action in investigating and firing Ms. Slater within two weeks of this being brought to our attention," a Fox News representative said last week at the time of her firing. "There is no place for abhorrent behavior like this at Fox News."

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