

Fox News fires The Five co-host Bob Beckel for 'insensitive remark'

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Fox News has lost yet another personality after a complaint lodged by another 18th Century Fox employee.

Bob Beckel, cohost of The Five, was fired Friday after an internal investigation stemming specifically from interaction with an African American IT coworker in New York on Tuesday.

Beckel, 68, has been accused of a pattern of incentive and racist behavior and will be the subject of a forthcoming lawsuit by the IT employee, according to a statement released by Wigdor LLP on Friday.

Bob Beckel, cohost of Fox Network's The Five, was fired Friday after an internal investigation stemming specifically from interaction with an African American IT coworker on Tuesday

'Bob Beckel was terminated today for making an insensitive remark to an African-American employee,' the network said in a statement.

Douglas H. Wigdor and Jeanne Christensen, partners at Wigdor LLP, released a statement Friday detailing what they say happened leading up to Beckel's firing.

'Mr Beckel stormed out of his office when our client, a Black IT employee came to service his computer, telling our client that he was leaving his office because he is Black.

'To make matters worse, after our client lodged a complaint about Mr Beckel's racist behavior, Mr Beckel, in front of Chief Human Resource Officer Kevin Lord, attempted to intimidate our client and persuade him to withdraw his complaint. Because he would not do so, Fox, in what has now become common place, leaked the story on a Friday to minimize the attention drawn to Mr Beckel's racist behavior.

A person close to the matter at Fox said the following:

'HR was informed of the incident on Tuesday evening and did a thorough investigation within 48 hours of the matter. We came to a decision that Bob needed to be terminated early this morning.'

Wigdor and Christensen claim that Fox leaked the news of Beckel's firing on a Friday purposefully, to mitigate media coverage.

Beckel returned to The Five in 2017 after being fired before, in June 2015, following back surgery and allegations of prescription drug and alcohol dependency; Pictured (left to right): Hosts Kimberly Guilfoyle, Bob Beckel, Eric Bolling, Dana Perino and Greg Gutfeld sit on the panel of Fox News Channel's The Five in January 2017

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This is the latest in a series of scandals that Fox News has faced recently, to include the resignation of the late Roger Ailes and the firing of Bill O'Reilly, both over allegations of sexual harassment.

The network is also currently facing a racial discrimination class action lawsuit lodged by several current and former employees in State Supreme Court in the Bronx.

In a memo to employees sent in April, Fox News' human resources sent a memo to employees in April, saying, 'We want to give you every opportunity to be heard' about workplace concerns.'

Beckel returned to The Five in 2017 after being fired before, in June 2015, following back surgery and allegations of prescription drug and alcohol dependency.

'We tried to work with Bob for months, but we couldn't hold "The Five" hostage to one man's personal issues,' said Bill Shine, then-Executive Vice President of Programming at Fox, in a statement at the time.

'He took tremendous advantage of our generosity, empathy and goodwill and we simply came to the end of the road with him.'

The long-time political consultant first joined The Five in 2000. He also previously worked as campaign manager for Democratic presidential candidate Walter Mondale.

The full statement from Wigdor LLP regarding the Tuesday incident involving the IT employee and impending litigation can be read below.

Pictured (left to right): Bob Beckel, Eric Bolling, guest Alex Trebek and Dana Perino on set of a February 2014 taping of the show in New York

'In yet another example of the 18th Century Fox mentality, Fox permitted Bob Beckel to remain in his role as a prime time co-host despite his many prior incentive and racist comments. All the while, Kelly Wright, the only black male anchor at Fox News, has been relegated to an overnight position.

'This time, Mr. Beckel stormed out of his office when our client, a Black IT employee came to service his computer, telling our client that he was leaving his office because he is Black.

'To make matters worse, after our client lodged a complaint about Mr. Beckel's racist behavior, Mr. Beckel, in front of Chief Human Resource Officer Kevin Lord, attempted to intimidate our client and persuade him to withdraw his complaint. Because he would not do so, Fox, in what has now become common place, leaked the story on a Friday to minimize the attention drawn to Mr. Beckel's racist behavior.

'Fox also neglected to inform the media of what was actually said, as well as the attempt to convince our client to withdraw the complaint. As with our other 22 clients, we intend on holding 21st Century Fox accountable for these actions and will be filing multiple other complaints in other matters next week.

'We also intend on updating Ofcom with these new developments as they may be relevant in their consideration as to whether or not to approve the purchase of Sky,' the Wigdor LLP statement read.

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