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## 3 More Workers Hit Fox News With Discrimination Suits

By Adam Lidgett

Law360, New York (May 22, 2017, 4:32 PM EDT) -- Three more current and former Fox News Network LLC employees on Monday hit the company with various discrimination claims, with counsel for the workers saying that they now represent 23 people who have alleged they were subjected to discrimination and retaliation at the company.

Fox News Radio shift editor Kathleen Lee and former Fox News accounts payable coordinator Naima Farrow filed complaints against Fox News and its parent 21st Century Fox Inc., and former accounts receivable specialist Vidya Mann hit the network and the parent company with an amended complaint in **a suit filed in April** by former employee Adasa Blanco. The plaintiffs' counsel additionally filed an update to the recent cases to Britain's Office of Communications, which is considering allowing a 21st Century Fox **bid to take over Sky PLC**.

"It has, and continues to be, our hope that 21st Century Fox will recognize its failures and take prompt remedial action to ensure that other employees are not discriminated against, harassed and/or retaliated," Douglas H. Wigdor and Jeanne Christensen of Wigdor LLP, who represent the plaintiffs in the three cases, said in a statement. "If they do not do so voluntarily, we will continue to pursue all available remedies to ensure that they are compelled to do so."

Lee claimed that in 2013 she reported sexist and sexually harassing conduct to two executives at Fox News Radio, who allegedly ignored her reports and told her to "deal with it." Lee also alleged that she was subjected to unceasing retaliation that still continues because she spoke out about the allegedly sexually hostile work environment.

Farrow, who worked at Fox News between July 2014 and November 2015, said that her employment was terminated less than 72 hours after disclosing that she was pregnant. Farrow, who is black, was also subjected to a racially hostile work environment, she claimed.

Mann, who is Guyanese, was not classified as a permanent employee, despite the fact that she worked in the same position as others who worked in accounts receivable, she said. Mann alleged that after she became pregnant and gave birth, Fox News terminated her employment, and that she was also subjected to a slew of racially discriminatory remarks by ex-controller Judith Slater.

Additionally, Wigdor LLP founding partner Douglas H. Wigdor detailed the most recent allegations to Ofcom, which the British government told in March to review whether the proposed deal to take over Sky meets its public interest test, which involves analyzing the company's corporate governance.

The lawsuits are part of a slew of employment claims against the company. Fox News announced last week that Bob Beckel, who co-hosted the channel's "The Five," was terminated for making an insensitive remark to an African-American employee.

"We have consistently demonstrated that the company is committed to a diverse workplace that is free from all forms of discrimination, takes any complaint of discrimination seriously and in these particular matters took prompt, effective and, where necessary, strong remedial action," a Fox News representative said in a statement. "We believe these latest claims are without legal basis

and look forward to proving that the company at all times has acted appropriately, and lawfully, in connection with these matters.”

Catherine Foti of Morvillo Abramowitz Grand Iason & Anello PC, an attorney for Slater, said that although she has yet to review the new complaints, all claims of racial discrimination against her client are completely false.

The plaintiffs are represented by Douglas H. Wigdor, Jeanne M. Christensen and Michael J. Willemin of Wigdor LLP.

Fox News is represented by Eric J. Wallach, Joseph A. Piesco and Garrett David Kennedy of DLA Piper in the Blanco and Mann suits.

Slater is represented by Catherine Foti and Curtis Brett Leitner of Morvillo Abramowitz Grand Iason & Anello PC in the Blanco and Mann suits.

The cases are Naima Farrow v. Twenty-First Century Fox Inc. et al., case number 1:17-cv-03836, Adasa Blanco et al. v. Twenty-First Century Fox Inc. et al., case number 1:17-cv-03017, and Kathleen Lee v. Twenty-First Century Fox Inc. et al., case number 1:17-cv-03835, all in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York.

--Additional reporting by Melissa Daniels and Braden Campbell. Editing by Stephen Berg.