

Ernst & Young gets slapped with another sex-harassment suit

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By [Carleton English](#)

Ernst & Young has been slapped with yet another lawsuit claiming that its offices are plagued with rampant sex harassment and discrimination against women. 

One executive at the Big Four accounting firm praised a female employee for her “great big round boobs” and “nice ass,” while another warned her she might be perceived as “bitchy” if she complained, according to a suit filed Monday with the Equal Employment Opportunity Council.

Former partner Karen Ward, who was fired last month after five years at EY, claims in the suit that there were “constant discussions” by male colleagues about their work-related trips to “nightclubs and titty bars.”

Some sleazy bean counters regularly bragged about positioning their chairs so they could see a junior female employee’s vagina — “or, as they disgustingly referred to it, her ‘snatch,’” according to the complaint.

In July 2014, Ward complained in an email to that she had to do her job “with both hands tied behind [her] back” while her supervisor Michael McNamara — who went by the nickname “Big Mac” — sexually harassed her and undermined her work.

Ward’s case isn’t the first time this year that EY has had to answer for allegations of harassment.

The Post [exclusively reported in May](#) that EY settled with former partner Jessica Casucci for an undisclosed sum after she alleged that she was harassed with lewd texts and emails from former partner John Martinkat.

According to Ward’s suit, she was eventually moved to a different division. But she claimed she was “being set up to fail” with a sky-high revenue target that far exceeded goals given to better-compensated male partners with bigger staffs.

Shortly after missing the \$3.8 million target, Ward landed a \$5 million deal in July, but EY fired her anyway last month, according to the suit.

According to 2016 data, less than 20 percent of EY partners were women, the complaint said. Only four of 42 members of Ward’s former division’s management team were women, according to the suit.

Reps for EY say Ward's allegations against the firm are "unfounded and baseless" noting that her division was shut down following years of disappointing financial results.

"The decision to close this money-losing operation and separate Ward was wholly unrelated to her gender. Her allegations of harassment, retaliation and unfair pay were raised after she was informed of her separation," EY spokesman John La Place said in a statement.