

Morgan Stanley banker fired after maternity leave files complaint

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Morgan Stanley is being scrutinized for the way some of its employees allegedly treated a former vice president after she returned to work from maternity leave.

Chau Pham, a former vice president on the bank's foreign-exchange sales team, filed a 24-page complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission urging it to investigate Morgan Stanley's (NYSE: MS) treatment of women ([h/t Bloomberg News](#)).

Pham says she received a negative performance review after her pregnancy became known, and that managers permanently shifted some of her client accounts to colleagues during her leave.

Once she returned, her male coworkers allegedly criticized her for taking breaks to pump breast milk, repeatedly asking: "What's wrong with formula?"

She was fired on Sept. 18, one day after she was to begin arriving at work after 7 a.m. so that she could drop her baby off at daycare. Pham said she never received an explanation for her firing.

Pham penned a letter to Morgan Stanley CEO James Gorman, urging him to "do the right thing" and release her from binding arbitration.

Pham is being advised by Jeanne Christensen at New York-based law firm Wigdor LLP.

Morgan Stanley isn't the only New York-based bank to be slapped with a lawsuit over a maternity leave issue. Goldman Sachs Group (NYSE: GS) found itself in a similar situation [last year](#).

Tania Mirchandani, a 15-year Goldman Sachs veteran in Los Angeles, was fired in October 2016 during her maternity leave with her third child. She filed a 2017 gender discrimination complaint against the bank, alleging she was fired when she was taking Goldman Sachs' four-month paid parental leave.