

DAILY NEWS

Exec wins 1.2M race, sex harass suit

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A female exec at a Manhattan staffing firm scored a \$1.2 million verdict after claiming she was repeatedly groped on the job and called a "black bitch."

But Sydney Nurse, 43, isn't quitting her \$100,000-a-year controller's job at the midtown employment firm, Concepts in Staffing.

On Jan. 2, she'll be back running the accounting department.

"She's going back to work because she should not have to give up her job because of racism," said Nurse's lawyer, Kenneth Thompson.

The company's CEO, Arthur Abrams, was accused of brusquely dismissing a woman who said harassing comments made by the firm's male workers violated labor laws.

"I am the law," Abrams was accused of saying. "I'm Artie A. This is my company and I can do whatever I want."

Nurse said Abrams, 71, told her not to depict blacks or Hispanics on a company Web site she was developing, according to testimony at the discrimination trial in Manhattan Federal Court.

She also accused Abrams of pressing his pelvis against her backside while she was bent over, looking at a file cabinet.

Abrams' lawyer, Mercedes Colwin, denied Abrams discriminated against Nurse. Colwin told jurors Abrams had a lengthy track record of promoting people of color.