

Gay Perry Ellis executive sues company, claiming president is a racist homophobe who refuses to put black men in ads - as new campaign is released with two black models

- Joseph Cook is suing Perry Ellis and seeking undetermined monetary damages, claiming that the president is racist and homophobic
- Oscar Feldenkreis told Cook he wanted 'no blacks' or 'anyone who looked too gay' in any of the company's advertising materials, Cook alleges
- His allegations come shortly after the release of the company's Fall/Winter 2015 campaign, which features two black models

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An executive at Perry Ellis is suing the company, claiming that the president is a racist homophobe who froze him out after he objected to his practices.

Joseph Cook alleges in court papers filed in Manhattan Federal Court that Oscar Feldenkreis told him that he wanted 'no blacks' or 'anyone who looked too gay' in any of the company's advertising materials.

These allegations come shortly after the release of the company's Fall/Winter 2015 campaign, which features two black models.



Perry Ellis president Oscar Feldenkreis (above) told an executive he wanted 'no blacks' or 'anyone who looked too gay' in any of the company's advertising materials, according to court documents



These allegations come shortly after the release of the company Fall/Winter 2015 campaign (above) which features two black models

According to the [New York Daily News](#), Cook also alleges in court papers that Feldenkris' daughter Erica - who is a brand director for the company - told him; 'My dad doesn't like having black guys in his ads, or anyone who looks too gay.'

Cook claims he was frozen out shortly after raising concern over these practices.

The brand does not frequently use black models, with its runway shows filled almost entirely with white models. The last time it ran an ad campaign featuring a black model, before the latest one, was in Fall 2011.

Cook said in a statement released through his attorney Douglas H. Wigdor; 'I am deeply saddened as a gay man and someone who has always been proud of who I am no matter my color or sexual orientation that a company executive could be so intolerant of others.'

A lawyer for Perry Ellis said the clothing brand 'categorically denies' these practices, adding; 'The company is proud of the fact that it is probably one of the most diverse companies in the apparel business.'

Cook is seeking undetermined monetary damages and for the court to declare the actions of the company illegal.



Cook (above) is suing for damages