

# Fox Comptroller Fired Over Racist Allegations — and a New Lawsuit Claims the Network Was 'Well Aware'

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[Judy Slater](#) worked for Fox News for 19 years. As the comptroller, she oversaw payroll as well as accounts payable and receivable for the two cable networks owned by Fox, Fox News and Fox Business Network.

But Slater is now being accused of abusing her power and creating a hostile work environment — particularly in regard to the minorities with whom she worked.

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A Fox News spokesperson told [The Wrap](#) following her February 28 termination:

"We take any complaint of this nature very seriously and took the appropriate action in investigating and firing Ms. Slater within two weeks of this being brought to our attention. There is no place for abhorrent behavior like this at Fox News."

The investigation, spearheaded by new Vice President of Human Resources Kevin Lord, began as allegations mounted following the public ouster of former [CEO Roger Ailes](#), and resulted in Slater's immediate termination.

But a [newly filed lawsuit](#) suggests that the network may have been aware that Slater was a problem long before the allegations were brought to Lord's attention.

The suit — filed by plaintiffs Tichaona Brown and Tabrese Wright — names as defendants both Judy Slater and Fox. It alleges that over her nearly two decades with the company, Slater consistently made racially charged comments in front of other employees.

Among the complaints listed are the following:

- Slater ridiculed black employees by mocking stereotyped speech and complained, for example, that black employees mispronounce the words “mother,” “father,” “month” and “ask,” by pronouncing the words as “muva,” “fava,” “monf,” and “axe,” and incredulously forced black employees to practice saying the words correctly in front of white employees.
- Slater openly claimed that the “Black Lives Matter” movement is extremely racist and wondered what would happen if there was a parallel “White Lives Matter” movement.
- Slater regularly called her commuter train to New Jersey the “Bombay Express,” due to the number of people of Indian descent who live in New Jersey.
- Due to the number of employees of color in the payroll department, Slater regularly called the payroll department, the “southern payroll department” and the “urban payroll department.”

In addition, they claimed that Slater referred to day laborers as “cheap Mexicans,” asked both plaintiffs to teach her how to “beat box,” and asked Ms. Wright, who has three children, if they all had the same father.

But the suit goes a step beyond just listing Slater's alleged infractions — it also alleges that the network ignored Slater's behavior for years prior to her termination:

As described herein, Plaintiffs and other dark-skinned employees suffered years- long relentless racial animus at the hands of their white supervisor, Slater, an eighteen-year

employee and former Senior Vice President (“SVP”) of Accounting and Controller of Fox.

Despite being well aware of Slater’s racist conduct, executives at Fox did nothing to put an end to it and intentionally turned a blind eye. For years, Fox permitted Slater to subject Plaintiffs and other dark-skinned employees to a racially hostile work environment without fear of punishment or reprisal, and refused to terminate Slater for her conduct or, upon information and belief, even reprimand her in anyway.

A Fox News spokesperson noted that Slater's termination was effective prior to the filing of the lawsuit:

“We take complaints of this nature very seriously and took prompt and effective remedial action before Ms. Brown and Ms. Wright sued in court and even before Ms. Wright complained through her lawyer. There is no place for inappropriate verbal remarks like this at Fox News. We are disappointed that this needless litigation has been filed.”

They also noted that both Wright and Brown are still employed by Fox.

Attorneys for the plaintiffs, Douglas H. Wigdor and Jeanne Christensen, partners at Wigdor LLP, told Independent Journal Review:

“We are confident that the good men and women of the Bronx will hold Fox accountable for what we believe to be its abhorrent racist conduct reminiscent of the Jim Crow era.”

The same firm is [currently representing plaintiffs](#) in a similar case against the New York Times.

*Editor's Note: This article was updated for context after publication.*