

# Fox News employees accusing network of discrimination speak out

BY Jessica Schladebeck

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The three women behind a lawsuit alleging “appalling discrimination” at the hands of a former executive at Fox News on Wednesday opened up about the alleged racial harassment they faced at the news network.

In a lawsuit filed Tuesday — an amended version of a complaint filed last week — Tichaona Brown, Tabrese Wright and Monica Douglas alleged Fox News Senior Vice President of Accounting Judith Slater habitually mocked black employees.

In response to the suit, Fox News in a statement said: “We take complaints of this nature very seriously and took prompt and effective remedial action in terminating Judy Slater before Ms. Brown, Ms. Wright and Ms. Douglas sued in court and even before Ms. Wright and Ms. Douglas complained through their lawyer. There is no place for conduct like this at Fox News, which is why Ms. Slater was fired.”

During a Wednesday appearance on “Good Morning America,” Brown described her employer’s mockery of the “Black Lives Matter” movement as a “tipping point.”

### More advertisers flee from Bill O’Reilly’s Fox News show

She claimed Slater would put her hands in the air when she crossed paths with a black employee, adding if she said good night for the day, Slater would respond with additional chiding.



(GMA)

Left to right, plaintiffs Tichaona Brown, Tabrese Wright and Monica Douglas, and their attorney Douglas Widor, appear on Good Morning America to discuss their lawsuit against Fox.

“Instead of saying good night back, she’s be all like, ‘Hands up, don’t shoot,’” Brown claimed.

She also recalled a time when Slater presented her with a series of Post-it notes and requested that she read

the words — including “mother,” “father,” and “ask” — printed on each.

When Brown inquired into Slater’s request, she claimed the former Fox Newser said it was because “black people continuously mispronounce these words.”

### Fox News has always been a dirty old man's swamp

In the same interview, Wright told “GMA” that Slater referred to her department as the “Urban Payroll Division” and recounted a conversation she and Slater had in an elevator about her children.

Wright mentioned to Slater that she was bringing leftover food home to her three kids to which Slater allegedly responded: “All by the same man?”

“I was shocked,” Wright said.

Douglas, who became the third Fox News employee to join the suit on Tuesday, alleged Slater mocked her for having her breast removed as part of her cancer treatment, in addition to chiding her for her race.

Showtime developing miniseries on Fox News founder Roger Ailes



*(Kevin Hagen/Getty Images)*

The lawsuit comes amid a series of scandals and legal woes for Fox News.

She claimed Douglas often called her “cancer girl” or “one boob girl in the normal course of business, in front of my staff.”

Douglas said she approached Fox’s general counsel Dianne Brandi about her concerns in 2014, but “nothing was done,” according to court documents.

Douglas was allegedly told Slater was “untouchable” and that she couldn’t be “fired

because she knows too much.”

“That’s really the bigger story here,” the women’s attorney, Douglas Widor, said on GMA. “There really is a cover-up going on at Fox at the highest levels.”

Fox News' Bill O'Reilly, Roger Ailes in their own 'spin-zones'

Slater remained at Fox News until she was fired last month. Widor said the amount of time it took to terminate Slater was “reprehensible,” adding that she didn’t just “wake up and become racist.”

“They let it happen because she was comptroller and she was privy to all the information about all the various different settlements that have been going on at Fox for years,” Widor said.

Brown said she hoped the lawsuit would inspire positive change in her own life and at the workplace.

“I want a voice after many years of feeling voiceless,” she explained, adding she hopes to help “people — black women — who are going through the same thing, who are still working at Fox to speak up and to not have it happen any longer.”