

Amazon Faces 5 New Lawsuits Nationwide Alleging Racism, Sexism by Male Supervisors

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By Jessie Edwards

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Five women from various states filed lawsuits against Amazon Wednesday, alleging racism, sexism and discrimination based on their sexuality while working for the tech giant.

Four of those who filed lawsuits are women of color, while one is gay, Law360 reports. Most of the alleged discrimination was carried out by white men.

The women are all represented by law firm Wigdor LLP, and allege violations of federal and state anti-discrimination, anti-retaliation and equal pay laws.

In one case, Plaintiff Tiffany Gordwin, a Black woman who works in human resources for Amazon in Arizona, said she was treated as lesser by her white superiors. She says she was skipped over for promotions and told off for raising discrimination complaints.

Pearl Thomas, a Black woman who also works in HR for Amazon in Arizona, said she was called the “n-word” by her supervisor.

Diana Cuervo, a former Amazon area manager in Seattle who identifies as Latinx, alleges she experienced racism about her heritage and was fired when she complained.

Emily Sousa, an Asian American Amazon shift manager alleges in a Delaware complaint she was sexually harassed by a male manager who was obsessed with her heritage. When she rebuffed him, she was demoted and transferred, she alleges.

Finally, Cindy Warner, a gay woman who worked for Amazon Web Services in California says she was fired after complaining about demeaning behavior in the workplace.

Amazon told Law360 it was looking into the claims and had found no evidence to support them.

Meanwhile, Amazon has been **delivered a lawsuit** after allegedly failing to give employees scheduled breaks, not paying them for missed breaks and not reimbursing them for business calls made on private phones.

The proposed class action lawsuit was filed in San Francisco on March 26, with lead plaintiff Lovenia Scott accusing the online retail giant of breaching labor laws by denying her breaks in addition to skimping and being late on payments to her.

The five plaintiffs are all represented by Jeanne M. Christensen, Lawrence J. Pearson, Alfredo J. Pelicci and Anthony G. Bizien of Wigdor LLP. Three of the plaintiffs also have additional counsel: Gordwin is represented by Ty. D Frankel of Bonnett Fairbourn Friedman & Balint PC; Sousa is represented by Michael D. Allen and Emily A. Biffen of Allen & Associates; and Warren is represented by Omar H. Bengali of Girard Bengali APC.

The **Amazon discrimination lawsuits** are Gordwin v. Amazon.com Inc., Case No. 2:21-cv-00888, in the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona; Cuervo v. Amazon.com Inc. et al., Case No. 2:21-cv-00660, in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington; Thomas v. Amazon.com Inc. et al., Case No. 2:21-cv-00661, in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington; and Warner v. Amazon.com Inc., Case No. 5:21-cv-00866, in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California.