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# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURF 7 FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA FT. MYERS DIVISION

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION,

Plaintiff,

Case No.: 2:00-409-cv-FtM-29D

Ĩ.I.,

VICTORIA BRIGGS and RESA GASTON

.ED CLERK, U. S. DISTRICT COURT, MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA ( FT. MYERS, FLORIDA

Intervenors,

v.

KRONGBERG BAGEL CO. d/b/a BAKIN BAGELS,

Defendant.

## **INTERVENORS' COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Victoria Briggs ("Briggs") and Resa Gaston ("Gaston") hereby sue KRONGBERG BAGEL CO. d/b/a BAKIN BAGELS, (hereinafter "Defendant") and in support thereof allege as follows:

## Nature of the Case

This action is brought pursuant to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 U.S.C. §2000e *et. seq.*, and the Florida Civil Rights Act of 1992, Chapter 760, *Fla. Stat.*, ("FCRA"), to correct unlawful employment practices on the basis of sex, and to provide appropriate relief to Intervenors Briggs and Gaston, who were adversely

## **EXHIBIT A**

affected by such practices. Intervenors Briggs and Gaston allege that a co-worker sexually harassed them and that the harassment persisted despite their complaint(s) to Defendant. As alleged with greater particularity below, Intervenors were subjected to unwelcome sexual comments and physical contact because of their sex, which created a hostile work environment. As a result of the sexual harassment and Defendant's failure to take prompt remedial action, the employment conditions of the Intervenors were so intolerable that they were forced to resign their positions. Intervenors seek back pay, front pay, compensatory damages, punitive damages, attorneys' fees and costs and all other relief this court deems just and proper.

#### Jurisdiction and Venue

1. This Court has original jurisdiction over Plaintiff's claims under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1331. This Court has supplemental jurisdiction over Briggs' and Gaston's state law claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1367, as their state law claims are so related to their claims under federal law that they form part of the same case or controversy.

2. The employment practices alleged to be unlawful were and are now being committed within the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida, Fort Myers Division.

#### <u>Parties</u>

3. At all material times, Defendant was a Florida corporation authorized to do business and doing business within the State of Florida.

4. At all material times, Defendant employed at least fifteen employees and was

an employer within the meaning of the FCRA and Title VII.

5. Plaintiff Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC"), is the agency of the United States of America charged with the administration, interpretation and enforcement of Title VII, as amended.

6. At all material times, Briggs was a female citizen of the United States and a resident the State of Florida.

7. At all material times, Briggs was an employee of Defendant and was an aggrieved person within the meaning of the FCRA and Title VII.

8. At all material times, Gaston was a female citizen of the United States and a resident the State of Florida.

9. At all material times, Gaston was an employee of Defendant and was an aggrieved person within the meaning of the FCRA and Title VII.

#### STATEMENT OF TITLE VII CLAIMS

10. Intervenors Briggs and Gaston restate and incorporate by reference the allegations set for in paragraph numbers 6 through 10 of the Complaint and Jury Trial Demand filed by the EEOC.

11. Briggs and Gaston have met all conditions precedent and have exhausted all administrative remedies prior to the institution of this action.

12. As a result of the above actions, Briggs and Gaston have had to retain the undersigned law firm to which they are obligated to pay reasonable attorneys' fees, costs and expenses.

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#### Prayer for Relief

WHEREFORE, Briggs and Gaston respectfully request that this Court:

A. Intervenors Briggs and Gaston restate and incorporate by reference the allegations set for in paragraphs A through G of the Complaint and Jury Trial Demand filed by the EEOC;

B. Award Briggs and Gaston reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in this action and such other relief as the Court deems just and appropriate.

### STATEMENT OF FCRA CLAIMS

13. Briggs restates and incorporates by reference the allegations set for in paragraph numbers 6 through 10 of the Complaint and Jury Trial Demand filed by the EEOC.

14. Briggs has met all conditions precedent and exhausted all administrative remedies prior to the institution of this action.<sup>1</sup>

15. As a result of the above actions, Briggs has had to retain the undersigned law firm to which she are obligated to pay reasonable attorneys' fees, costs and expenses.

#### Prayer for Relief

WHEREFORE, Briggs respectfully request that this Court:

A. Intervenors Briggs and Gaston restate and incorporate by reference the allegations set for in paragraphs A through G of the Complaint and Jury Trial Demand filed by the EEOC;

<sup>1</sup> The complaint will be amended to include an FCRA claim for Gaston once her administrative remedies have been exhausted under state law.

B. Award Briggs her reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in this

action and such other relief as the Court deems just and appropriate.

## **Demand for Jury Trial**

16. Briggs and Gaston demand a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

Respectfully submitted,

Kendra D. Presswood Florida Bar No. 0935001 Law OFFICE OF KENDRA D. PRESSWOOD, P.A. 1806 Manatee Avenue West Bradenton, FL 34205 Telephone: (941) 749-6433 Facsimile: (941) 749-5793 ATTORNEY FOR INTERVENORS BRIGGS AND GASTON