FILED U.S. DISTRICT COURT

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Attornevs for Plaintiff

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF UTAH, CENTRAL DIVISION

Equal Employment Opportunity
Commission,

Plaintiff,

Vs.

Delaware corporation,

Defendant.

Civil No.

COMPLAINT

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Judge Ted Stewart

DECK TYPE: Civil

DATE STAMP: 06/30/2005 @ 15:50:54

CASE NUMBER: 2:05CV00546 TS

NATURE OF THE ACTION

This is an action under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and Title I of the Civil Rights Act of 1991 to correct unlawful employment practices on the basis of national origin, disability, and retaliation, and to provide appropriate relief to Jose Artalejo who was adversely affected by such practices. The Commission alleges Defendant Micron Technology, Inc., ("Micron" or "Defendant") discriminated against Mr. Artalejo because of his national origin, Mexican American, and his disability, hearing

impairment. The Commission further alleges that, because he complained about the unlawful conduct, Micron retaliated against him by failing to accommodate Mr. Artalejo's disability and discharging him.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 1. Jurisdiction of this Court is invoked pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 451, 1331, 1337, 1343 and 1345. This action is authorized and instituted pursuant to Sections 706(f)(1) and (3) and Section 707 of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000e-5(f)(1) and (3) and 2000e-6 ("Title VII"), Section 107(a) of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), 42 U.S.C. § 12117(a), which incorporates by reference Sections 706(f)(1) and (3) of Title VII, and Section 102 of the Civil Rights Act of 1991, 42 U.S.C. §1981a.
- 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 District of Utah.

PARTIES

- 3. Plaintiff, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (the "Commission"), is the agency of the United States of America charged with the administration, interpretation and enforcement of Title VII and Title I the ADA, and is expressly authorized to bring this action by Section 706(f)(1) and (3) of Title VII, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000e-5(f)(1) and (3), Section 707 of Title VII, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e-6, and Section 107(a) of the ADA, 42 U.S.C. § 12117(a), which incorporates by reference Sections 706(f)(1) of Title VII, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e-5(f)(1).
 - 4. At all relevant times, Defendant Micron Technology, Inc., has

continuously been a Delaware corporation doing business in the State of Utah and has continuously had at least 15 employees.

5. At all relevant times, Defendant has continuously been an employer engaged in an industry affecting commerce within the meaning of Sections 701(b), (g) and (h) of Title VII, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000e(b), (g) and (h).

STATEMENT OF CLAIMS

- 6. More than thirty days prior to the institution of this lawsuit, Jose Artalejo filed a charge of discrimination with the Commission alleging violations of Title VII and the ADA by Defendant. All conditions precedent to the institution of this lawsuit have been fulfilled.
- 7. Throughout Mr. Artalejo's employment tenure at Micron, Defendant has engaged in unlawful employment practices at its Lehi, Utah facility, in violation of Section 703(a) of Title VII, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e–2(a), by subjecting Mr. Artalejo to harassment because of his national origin, Mexican American.
- 8. Throughout Mr. Artalejo's employment tenure at Micron, Defendant has engaged in unlawful employment practices at its Lehi, Utah facility, in violation of Section 102 of the ADA, 42 U.S.C. § 12112(a), by subjecting him to harassment because of his disability, hearing impairment
- 9. Defendant has engaged in unlawful employment practices in violation of Section 102(5)(A), 42 U.S.C. § 12112(a), by not making reasonable accommodations to Mr. Artalejo's known physical impairment. The reasonable accommodations Defendant failed to make include, but are not limited to, excusing Mr. Artalejo from note taking duties after he lost his hearing aid and

having instructors use an amplification system, which was already in place, in a training that Mr. Artalejo attended. Neither requested accommodation would have caused Defendant an undue hardship.

- 10. Defendant has engaged in unlawful employment practices in violation of Section 704(a) of Title VII, 42 U.S.C. §2000e-3, by discharging Mr. Artalejo because he opposed practices made an unlawful employment practice by Title VII.
- 11. Defendant has engaged in unlawful employment practices in violation of Section 503(a) of the ADA, 42 U.S.C. §12203(a) by failing to accommodate Mr. Artalejo's disability and discharging him because he opposed acts and practices made unlawful by the ADA.
- 12. The unlawful employment practices include, but are not limited, to the following:
- (a) Mr. Artalejo worked for Micron from October 2000 until October 22, 2002. During Mr. Artalejo's tenure, the national origin harassment was comprised in part, of national origin based epithets and taunting by coworkers, which was overheard by Defendant managers, and also made by his management team, including, but not limited to, "short Mexican," "little Mexican," and after September 11, 2001, suggesting that Mr. Artalejo could be taken for a Muslim terrorist.
- (b) During Mr. Artalejo's tenure, the harassment because of his disability (hearing impairment) was comprised, in part, by comments and/or actions by coworkers and his management team, including, but not limited to, ""[w]hy don't you clean out your ears little man," "dumb," "deaf," "dumb deaf guy," "turn up your ears," pretending to "sign," and using "deaf speak." These comments were made

by coworkers and managers

- (c) In the Spring of 2002, Mr. Artalejo complained about the national origin and disability harassment to Defendant management officials. Defendant failed to take appropriate remedial action to prevent or correct the unlawful conduct.
- (d) When Defendant management officials failed to take appropriate remedial action to prevent or correct the unlawful conduct, Jose Artalejo complained to Defendant's Human Resources Department about the harassment on or about August 5, 2002. After Mr. Artalejo complained to the Human Resources Department, a Defendant management official warned Mr. Artelejo "[y]ou are jeopardizing your career" and told Artalejo "[y]ou need to learn how to deal with it."
- (e) After he complained about the harassment to Micron's Human Resource Department, a Defendant management official asked Mr. Artalejo how things were going on the floor. In response, Artalejo said that people were still ridiculing him; the management official told Artalejo that he was not "here to babysit" and told Mr. Artalejo to "take care of it" himself.
- (f) After he complained about the harassment to Micron's Human Resource Department, Mr. Artalejo asked to be excused from note taking duties for his Unit's meeting because he had lost his hearing aids. Defendant denied Mr. Artalejo the requested accommodation and required him to take notes although he was unable to hear his coworkers' conversations.
 - (g) After he complained about the harassment to Micron's Human

Resource Department, Mr. Artalejo requested, and denied, a requested accommodation of having instructors use an amplification system during training that Mr. Artalejo was required to attend.

- (i) On or about October 22, 2002, Defendant fired Jose Artalejo.
- (j) The acting supervisor involved in the incident that led to Mr. Artlejo's discharge was one of the individuals who made some of the comments referenced in Paragraph 12 (a) and (b), above and also denied Mr. Artalejo the reasonable accommodation of being excused from note taking duties.
- (k) After Mr. Artalejo's termination, the acting supervisor told a Micron management official that it was nice to have a break without having to listen to "Joe's loud talking" and he was "glad to have gotten rid of that deaf guy" and bragged he was proud to have succeeded in having Artalejo terminated.
- 13. The effect of the practices complained of in Paragraphs 7-12 above has been to deprive Mr. Artalejo of equal employment opportunities and otherwise adversely affect his status as an employee, because of his national origin, disability, and retaliation.
- 14. The unlawful employment practices complained of in Paragraphs7-12 were and are intentional.
- 15. The unlawful employment practices complained of in Paragraphs
 7-12 above were done with malice or with reckless indifference to the federally
 protected rights of Mr. Artalejo

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the Commission respectfully requests that this Court:

- A. Grant a permanent injunction enjoining Defendant Micron, its officers, successors, assigns, and all persons in active concert or participation with them from (1) engaging in national origin harassment and any other employment practice that discriminates on the basis of national origin, (2) engaging in disability harassment and any other employment practice that discriminates on the basis of disability, (3) failing to reasonably accommodate an employee's disability, and (4) retaliating against an employee because the individual has opposed any practice made unlawful by Title VII or the ADA or because the individual has made a charge, testified, assisted, or participated in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under Title VII or the ADA.
- B. Order Defendant Micron to institute and carry out policies, practices, and programs, which provide equal employment opportunities for Mexican Americans, and which eradicate the effects of its past and present unlawful employment practices.
- C. Order Defendant Micron to institute and carry out policies, practices, and programs which provide equal employment opportunities, which provide equal employment opportunities for qualified individuals with disabilities, and which eradicate the effects of its past and present unlawful employment practices.
- D. Order Defendant Micron to make whole Mr. Artalejo by providing compensation for past and future non-pecuniary losses resulting from the

unlawful practices complained of in Paragraphs 7-12 above, including emotional pain, suffering, inconvenience, loss of enjoyment of life and humiliation, in amounts to be determined at trial.

- E. Order Defendant to pay Mr. Artaljo pecuniary compensatory damages for expenses he incurred because of the discrimination, including but not limited to, job search expenses.
- E. Order Defendant to pay Mr. Artalejo punitive damages for its malicious and/or reckless conduct, described in Paragraphs 7 -12 above, in amounts to be determined at trial.
- F. Grant such further relief as the Court deems necessary and proper in the public interest.
 - G. Award the Commission its costs of this action.

JURY TRIAL DEMAND

The Commission requests a jury trial on all questions of fact raised by its complaint.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 3944 day of June, 2005.

Eric S. Dreiband General Counsel

James L. Lee Deputy General Counsel

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CIVIL COVER SHEET

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(c) Attorney's (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) Mary Jo O'Neill, C. Emanuel Smith, Sandra J. Padegimas (602)640-5061					Attorneys (If Known) DEPUTY CLERK					
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II.	BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)			III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff (For Diversity Cases Only) and One Box for Defendant)						
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VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT: CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23					DEMANDS CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: JURY DEMAND: Yes No					
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