IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA STATESVILLE DIVISION

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION,)
) CIVIL ACTION NUMBER:
Plaintiff,	5:040011
v.) <u>COMPLAINT</u>
HOLT'S FAMILY RESTAURANT,)) JURY TRIAL DEMAND
Defendant.))

NATURE OF THE ACTION

This is an action under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title I of the Civil Rights Act of 1991 to correct unlawful employment practices on the basis of sex (female), and to provide appropriate relief to Wanda Butler and Raven Stamey who were adversely affected by such practices. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission alleges that Wanda Butler and Raven Stamey were subjected to a sexually hostile work environment and constructively discharged from their employment by Holt's Family Restaurant.

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 Section 706(f)(1) and (3) of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e-5(f)(1) and (3) ("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 committed within the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the Western District of North Carolina.

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 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).
- 4. At all relevant times, Defendant, Holt's Family Restaurant (the "Defendant"), has continuously been a North Carolina partnership doing business in the State of North Carolina and the City of Lincolnton, 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 Section 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, Wanda Butler and Raven Starney filed charges with the Commission alleging violations of Title VII by Defendant.

 All conditions precedent to the institution of this lawsuit have been fulfilled.
- 7. Since at least January 2003, Defendant has engaged in unlawful employment practices at its Lincolnton, North Carolina facility, in violation of Section 703(a)(1) of Title VII, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000e-2(a)(1). The unlawful practices include:
 - a. subjecting Wanda Butler and Raven Stamey to a sexually hostile work environment, including sexual comments, sexual advances, and sexual touching by one of the Defendant's partners and/or owners who had authority over Ms. Butler and Ms. Stamey; and
 - b. constructively discharging Wanda Butler and Raven Stamey from their

employment.

- 8. The effect of the practices complained of in paragraph 7 above has been to deprive Wanda Butler and Raven Stamey of equal employment opportunities and otherwise adversely affect their status as employees because of their sex.
- 9. The unlawful employment practices complained of in paragraph 7 above were intentional.
- 10. The unlawful employment practices complained of in paragraph 7 above were done with malice or with reckless indifference to the federally protected rights of Wanda Butler and Raven Stamey.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Wherefore, the Commission respectfully requests that this Court:

- A. Grant a permanent injunction enjoining Defendant, its officers, successors, assigns and all persons in active concert or participation with it, from engaging in sexual harassment, constructive discharge and any other employment practice which discriminates on the basis of sex.
- B. Order Defendant to institute and carry out policies, practices and programs which provide equal employment opportunities for women, and which eradicate the effects of its past and present unlawful employment practices.
- C. Order Defendant to make whole Wanda Butler and Raven Stamey by providing appropriate backpay with prejudgment interest, in amounts to be determined at trial, and other affirmative relief necessary to eradicate the effects of its unlawful employment practices, including but not limited to reinstatement or front pay.

D. Order Defendant to make whole Wanda Butler and Raven Stamey by providing compensation for past and future pecuniary losses resulting from the unlawful employment practices described in paragraph 7 above, including but not limited to job search expenses, in amounts to be determined at trial.

E. Order Defendant to make whole Wanda Butler and Raven Stamey by providing compensation for past and future nonpecuniary losses resulting from the unlawful employment practices complained of in paragraph 7 above, including but not limited to emotional pain; suffering, inconvenience, loss of enjoyment of life, loss of civil rights, and humiliation, in amounts to be determined at trial.

F. Order Defendant to pay Wanda Butler and Raven Stamey punitive damages for its malicious and reckless conduct described in paragraph 7 above, in amounts to be determined at trial.

G. Grant such further relief as the Court deems necessary and proper in the public interest.

H. 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.

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