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Lawyer files suit saying boss discriminated because he wasn't Greek

Posted by Shia K. at 2/26/2010 11:29 AM CST

A Chicago attorney has filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court saying he was harassed on the job and ultimately fired for not being Greek.

Martin Hall says **James Regas** and Chicago-based Regas Frezados & Dallas LLP discriminated against him based on his national origin. He's seeking compensatory and punitive damages.

"He thought he did well, but because of his national origin he was treated less favorably. And that's upsetting because this is his career and his livelihood," said Mr. Hall's attorney, **Erika Pedersen**.

No comment so far from Mr. Regas.

If it weren't from a court document, you might think the details were from a scene out of "My Big Fat Greek Wedding," a film about a Greek-immigrant family in Chicago. Remember **Gus Portokalos**? He was the father who offered words of wisdom about Windex and the origin of all words being Greek. "There are two kinds of people," he said. "Greeks, and everyone else who wish they were Greek."

Now comes Mr. Hall, who says his boss, Mr. Regas, demonstrated "an obvious preference for Greek employees" and treated non-Greek employees, including Mr. Hall, "less favorably" than Greeks.

The lawsuit alleges numerous examples of favoritism and discriminatory pay practices. It also says Mr. Regas "made racist comments to and about individuals who were not Greek," including African-Americans and Hispanics.

The lawsuit says Mr. Regas was "furious" when he found out his daughter was dating a non-Greek man and "ordered her to stop seeing him." The suit says Mr. Regas also insisted that his son marry a Greek woman and threatened that "if he married a non-Greek woman instead, he would be eliminated as a beneficiary under Regas' will."

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