

December, 2004

Gettin' Squirrely

Yesterday we had a great blustery day with wind gusts 20 to 40 miles an hour. Outside my office window in the trees was a very hungry squirrel hanging on to branches for dear life swaying and swinging in the wind, all the while eating his nuts.

Most Likely Workplace at Which You Can Get Sexually Harassed

The article in the in the Washington Post on Thursday, 2 December 2004, Lawsuit Sheds New Light on Sexual Harassment of Teens, , begs the question: Why are there so many EO/Harassment suits filed in a certain class of dining facility. Note the establishments listed in this article: Steak n Shake, Jiffy Lube, Jack in the Box, and Red Lobster. First of all (and I sound like Mickey on 98 Rock in Baltimore...I can hear him saying this), all these names have something crudely sexual about them. Second of all, they are all low-budget, mass market establishments that hire low-lifers particularly in the back of the house. Thirdly, remember Denny's, hardly a pillar of fine dining, which was/is notorious for mistreating black customers.

I know everyone has to start somewhere but you are taking lots of chances working in these places. The managers are probably either no more than 21 years old or, if they are older than that, dumber than dirt and very poorly trained in management skills and EO issues. Assuming the profit margin in these establishments is very thin, the training budget is probably minimal and so is the pay. Under these circumstances it would be hard to blame the local management. It is the corporation that really needs to take action to provide a safe, productive, and educational environment for all its employees.

I may be wrong but I doubt that such chains as TGI Fridays, Ruby Tuesdays, Houlihans, etc, have similar problems. If they do, they just probably can afford better lawyers and publicists to keep the issues on a lower profile or they have topical and effective EO training programs.

Out of Touch

It's been a very busy two weeks. I spent five days out of each of the past two weeks working in Toronto. I, unfortunately, did not have much time to see the city. I did get out to hit some of the clubs downtown with my friend Aaron, who works for Manac Trailers, an offshoot of the Canam Manac Group for whom I used to work. I hope to be able to get back up in the summer when I can spend a weekend in the area and do some more sightseeing.

I wish a happy and safe holiday to all my friends and family! I'll be headed off on Thursday to my sister Kim's in Suffolk, VA, to meet up with my family there for Christmas. Cheers!