

## SANFORD WITTELS & HEISLER FIRM FILES LAWSUIT



The Sanford Wittles & Heisler firm, known for being a leading firm when it comes to the interest of the public, has recently filed a huge lawsuit of \$100 million based on gender discrimination. The lawsuit was filed against the Forest Laboratories Incorporation as well as the Forest Pharmaceuticals incorporation. The lawsuit was filed in the United States District Court in New York. In the lawsuit, allegations are made against Forest, stating that the company has been discriminating against females working for the company due to their gender, along with females working for the company that happened to be pregnant. David Sanford, one of the partners for the law firm, has clearly stated that Forest is discriminatory against women, especially pregnant women and women who have children or other responsibilities, such as a family. The way that Forest apparently discriminated against these women is by paying them less than the company was paying males who held the same positions. Women were also denied promotions and did not receive the same types of opportunities that their male counterparts received. Several of the plaintiffs in the lawsuit have been named, which includes several women who happened to work as sales representatives for the company. These women include Megan Barrett, Jennifer Jones, Jennifer Seard and Lindsey Houser, all of which filed the lawsuit as individuals and for females working for the company as a whole. Both Houser and Barrett dealt with discrimination during their pregnancy and maternity leave, especially since they became mothers. Seard says that she has had to deal with discrimination as well and has even been harassed because she has other responsibilities outside of work, which includes caring for her son who is suffering from epilepsy. Jones said that she had to deal with constant sexual harassment from a male manager who constantly threatened her, saying that if she spoke up about what was going on, he was going to cause problems for her. When these women went to the human resources managers for the company to talk about the problems they were dealing with, they seemed to disregard the fact that these women were discriminated against and the women did not receive any sort of help or assistance to resolve the problem. These women were also receiving lower pay than male employees, even though their performance in the place of work was exemplary. The filing requests that that the company takes responsibility and pays back pay, front pay and compensates these women for the discrimination they have had to deal with while working for the Forest Company.

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