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THE SUNDAY TIMES

Circulation (6 May) 1,155,000

20 May 1990

No 8,648

Price 60p

Price to pay for female partnership

THE GIANT accounting firm of Price Waterhouse appears to be using employment practices that we thoroughly disapprove of.

Next week Ann Hopkins, a 46-year-old divorced mother of three, will watch as Washington federal district judge Gerhard Gesell signs papers ordering the firm to make her a partner in Price Waterhouse and give her backpay of \$370,000. Gesell has ruled that she was discriminated against because she was a woman when first rejected for partnership at Price Waterhouse seven years ago. The accounting firm says it is considering its position.

Hopkins was first nominated to join the partnership in 1983. She was the only woman among 88 candidates and bought in more business than any of her male contemporaries. However, the partnership decision was delayed that year and when she was not nominated the following year she sued for sex discrimination.

She is currently working for the World Bank and told us last week: "The difference between myself and the other 88 candidates up for partnership at that time was that I was a woman."

In 1983 Price Waterhouse had an estimated seven women among its 250 partners. Last year the female contingent was a miserly 27 out of 900. Disgraceful.