



Cornell University
ILR School

Cornell University ILR School
DigitalCommons@ILR

Consent Decrees

Labor and Employment Law Program

9-9-2005

EEOC v. Gargiulo, Inc.

Judge John E. Steele

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.ilr.cornell.edu/condec>

Thank you for downloading this resource, provided by the ILR School's Labor and Employment Law Program. [Please help support our student research fellowship program with a gift to the Legal Repositories!](#)

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Labor and Employment Law Program at DigitalCommons@ILR. It has been accepted for inclusion in Consent Decrees by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@ILR. For more information, please contact catherwood-dig@cornell.edu.

If you have a disability and are having trouble accessing information on this website or need materials in an alternate format, contact web-accessibility@cornell.edu for assistance.

EEOC v. Gargiulo, Inc.

Keywords

EEOC, Gargiulo, Consent Decree, 2:05-CV-460-FTM-29SPC, Disparate Treatment, Retaliation, Sexual Harassment, Termination, Sex, Female, Manufacturing, Employment Law, Title VII

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
FORT MYERS DIVISION

UNITED STATES EQUAL EMPLOYMENT)
 OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION,)
)
 Plaintiff,)
)
 VIERGELA JEAN-FRANCOIS, CHANGOLIA)
 JULIEN, CARMELIA PIERRE, LOUNDY)
 SAINT-HILAIRE, and SOLANGE MARCELIN)
)
 Plaintiff- Intervenors,)
)
)
 v.)
)
 GARGIULO, INC.,)
)
)
 Defendant.)
)
 _____ /

CIVIL ACTION NO. :
2:05-CV-460-FTM-29SPC

CONSENT DECREE

1. This Consent Decree (the “Decree”) is made and entered into by and between Plaintiff, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (hereinafter referred to as the “Commission” or “EEOC”); Plaintiff-Intervenors, Viergela Jean-Francois, Changolia Julien, Carmelia Pierre, Loundy St. Hilaire and Solange Marcelin (hereinafter referred to collectively as Plaintiff-Intervenors); and Defendant, Gargiulo, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as the “Company or “Defendant”). The Commission, Plaintiff-Intervenors and Gargiulo, Inc. are collectively referred to herein as “the Parties.”

2. On September 29, 2005, EEOC initiated this action by filing its Complaint in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida, Civil Action 2:05-CV-460-FTM-

29SPC, and an Amended Complaint, based upon charges filed by Viergela Jean- Francois (EEOC Charge No. 150-2005-01674), Changolia Julien (EEOC Charge No.150-2005-00268), Carmelia Pierre (EEOC Charge No.150-2005-00264), Loundy St. Hilaire (EEOC Charge No.150-2005-01431), and Solange Marcelin (EEOC Charge No. 150-2005-00262). EEOC's Amended Complaint alleges that Defendant violated Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, including but not limited to, amendments authorized by the Civil Rights Act of 1991, 42 U.S.C. Section 2000e *et seq.* ("Title VII") by subjecting Ms. Jean-Francois, Ms. Julien, Ms. Pierre, Ms. St. Hilaire, Ms. Marcelin and other similarly situated individuals to sexual harassment by their supervisor, and to retaliation for rejecting their supervisor's unwelcome sexual advances and/or complaining to other management about it. Defendant denies all the allegations.

3. On December 8, 2005, Ms. Jean-Francois, Ms. Julien, Ms. Pierre, Ms. St. Hilaire and Ms. Marcelin were permitted to intervene in this action and filed a Complaint on January 11, 2006 alleging claims of sexual harassment and retaliation under Title VII and under the Florida Civil Rights Act of 1992, Section 760.01 *et seq.*, Fla. Stat. (1997) ("FCRA"). On January 3, 2006, Plaintiff-Intervenors filed an Amended Complaint alleging claims of sexual harassment and retaliation under Title VII and the FCRA.

4. In the interests of resolving this matter, to avoid the costs of litigation and as a result of having engaged in comprehensive settlement negotiations, the Parties have agreed that this action should be finally resolved by entry of this Decree. This Decree is final and binding upon the Parties, their successors, affiliates and assigns. Defendant is not admitting any liability for the allegations in Plaintiff EEOC or Plaintiff Intervenors' Complaint.

5. The Parties agree that this Decree resolves all claims alleged against the Defendant

in EEOC Charge Numbers: 150-2005-01674, 150-2005-00268, 150-2005-00264, 150-2005-01431, 150-2005-00262; and the Complaints and Amended Complaints filed by Plaintiff EEOC and Plaintiff Intervenors in this action.

6. NOW, THEREFORE, the Court having carefully examined the terms and provisions of this Decree, and based on the pleadings filed by the parties, it is ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED THAT:

JURISDICTION

7. This Court has jurisdiction of the subject matter of this action and over the Parties for the purposes of entering and enforcing this Decree.

8. No party shall contest jurisdiction of this federal court to enforce this Decree and its terms or the right of the EEOC to seek enforcement in the event Defendant breaches any of the terms of this Decree.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

9. Defendant, its officers, employees, and its successors, affiliates and assigns agree not to engage in conduct which violates Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by adversely affecting the terms and conditions of any individual's employment because of their gender, and agree not to retaliate against any employee who opposes any of Defendant's practices which the employee believes to be unlawful employment discrimination, who files a charge of discrimination with the EEOC alleging violation(s) of such statute; who cooperates with the EEOC in the investigation and/or prosecution of any charge of discrimination; or who cooperated in the investigation or prosecution of this case.

DISCRIMINATION POLICY AND TRAINING

10. Defendant will adopt a written policy against sexual harassment and retaliation by February 28, 2007 to be submitted to the EEOC for review and approval. Such policy will include a reporting procedure that provides Haitian and Hispanic employees with a Creole and Spanish language interpreter through which employees can report any complaints they may have arising under the policy.

11. Defendant agrees that all of its employees and managers in Immokalee and Naples will be provided a complete copy of its policy against sexual harassment and retaliation within thirty (30) days of the adoption of the policy. Defendant also agrees that all new employees shall be given a copy of its policy against sexual harassment and retaliation within their first ten days after their employment.

12. In order to further ensure the effective implementation of Defendant's anti-discrimination policy, Defendant agrees to conduct a training session for all of its employees at the Immokalee and Naples packinghouse annually for the duration of this Decree. During this training session, Defendant agrees that it will describe and explain to Defendant's employees for that season the laws covered by Defendant's policy against sexual harassment and retaliation and the reporting procedure established under the policy. The training will be conducted by an individual selected by Defendant's counsel, who will notify to the EEOC the name of the person selected to do the training.

13. In order to further ensure the effective implementation of Defendant's anti-discrimination policy, Defendant will also conduct a two (2) hour annual training for all of its Immokalee and Naples packinghouse managers and supervisory personnel with specific emphasis on recognizing harassment, on acts that could constitute retaliation, and on the proper procedure to be followed if they become aware of harassment in the workplace or if they receive complaints of

discrimination. Defendant agrees to provide the EEOC, at least two weeks notice before it conducts its training session(s), with the date(s) and location(s) of the training and the identification of the training materials to be used at the training session. The training will be conducted by an individual selected by Defendant's counsel, who will notify to the EEOC the name of the person selected to do the training.

14. Defendant agrees that the training described in paragraph 13 shall be conducted within sixty (60) days of the entry of this Decree. The training should thereafter take place annually in the same format, by December 30, for the duration of this Decree. Defendant further agrees that the discrimination policy and training materials utilized for the training described in paragraph 13 shall be presented to and explained to all new managers and supervisors in Immokalee and Naples packinghouse, who did not attend the annual training, within thirty (30) days of being placed in a management or supervisory position.

POSTING

15. Defendant will post a laminated 11 x 14 copy of the Notice, attached as Exhibit A, in Immokalee and Naples packinghouse, no later than thirty (30) days after the entry of this Decree. Specifically, the Defendant will post copies of Exhibit A in both an English (attached), Spanish and Creole version. Said notice shall be posted for the duration of this Decree in a conspicuous location accessible to all employees such as an employee bulletin board or break/lunch room.

MONITORING

16. Defendant will retain all employment and/or investigative records relating in any way to any complaint or allegation of harassment for the duration of this Decree and as required under federal law.

17. Defendant will certify to the EEOC semi-annually throughout the duration of this Decree that it is in compliance with all aspects of this Decree. The first such certification will be due no later than June 30, 2007. With each certification Defendant will further provide the EEOC with the name, address, and phone number of any person who alleges they have been harassed while working for Defendant during the preceding six month period. Defendant will also state the actions taken in response to each such allegation and provide any and all documentation associated with such complaint. The certifications required to be submitted to the EEOC pursuant to this Consent Decree shall be mailed with the notation GARGIULO, INC. MONITORING to: United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Attention: Office of the Regional Attorney, 1 Biscayne Tower, Suite 2700, 2 South Biscayne Boulevard, Miami, Fl 33131.

MONETARY RELIEF

18. Defendant agrees to pay a total amount of \$ 215,000.00 to resolve this litigation. The payments referenced herein shall issue within fifteen (15) calendar days of the Court's execution of this Decree and be distributed as set forth below in Exhibit B attached hereto.

19. If Defendant fails to tender the above-mentioned payments as set forth in paragraph 18 above and Exhibit B, then Defendant shall pay interest on the defaulted payment at the rate calculated pursuant to 26 U.S.C. Section 6621(b) until the same is paid, and bear any additional costs incurred by the EEOC caused by the non-compliance or delay of the Defendant.

ENFORCEMENT OF DECREE

20. The Commission shall have independent authority to seek the judicial enforcement of any aspect, term or provision of this Decree.

COSTS

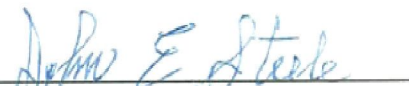
21. Each Party shall bear its own costs associated with this litigation.

DURATION OF CONSENT DECREE

22. The duration of this Decree shall be three (3) years from the date of entry of the Decree.

23. The Court will take whatever measures necessary to effectuate the terms of this Decree.

SO ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED at Fort Myers, Florida, this 22nd day of January 2007.



JOHN E. STEELE
United States District Judge