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The Metro Section

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U.S. Sues Fox News In Harrassment Case

By The Associated Press

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission filed a sexual harassment lawsuit yesterday against Fox News Network.

In the lawsuit, the E.E.O.C., a federal agency, charges that the company, which is part of the News Corporation, discriminated against a former employee, Kim Weiler, and retaliated when she and others complained. The discrimination resulted in the "constructive discharge" of Ms. Weiler and others, court papers say.

The complaint, filed in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, charges in part that a vice president of Fox News, Joe Chillemi, denigrated women.

"At a department discussion about a segment on sexism in the workplace, Chillemi said that in choosing who to hire 'if it came down between a man or a woman, of course I'd pick the man. The woman would most likely get pregnant and leave,' " the court papers say.

A lawyer for Fox News, Steven Mintz, said company had investigated the charges in the lawsuit and had found them to be baseless.

The complaint contends that Fox News Network LLC discriminated against Ms. Weiler and others by assigning them primarily to freelance positions.

The lawsuit asks the federal court to order Fox News to institute new policies providing equal employment and to compensate Ms. Weiler by an amount to be determined.