

Coalition for A Better Inglewood

Facts About Wal-Mart and Racial Discrimination

Wal-Mart has been the subject of dozens of race discrimination lawsuits and complaints across the country. The company has paid millions of dollars in awards over the past decade. Here are a few examples:

RACIAL HARASSMENT

- In 1997, a federal jury in Houston, Texas, awarded \$1.7 million to an African-American woman who claimed she was harassed and fired because of her race. She was terminated after reporting racial harassment to senior management.
- A Mexican-American in Augusta, Maine, was awarded \$650,000 in 2000 when Wal-Mart violated his civil rights by not stopping employees from harassing and assaulting him and his family after "White Supremacy" was painted on the store's parking lot.
- Wal-Mart settled a 2001 civil rights suit for an undisclosed amount after a racial slur was written on a layaway receipt.

UNEQUAL TREATMENT

- The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ordered Wal-Mart in Texas to pay \$143,000 to African-American shipping employees for lack of promotions and pay raises.
- In 2001, a federal jury in Colorado awarded 10 fired Latino employees \$467,000, citing race as a "motivating factor" for the dismissal.
- Three African-American men in Minneapolis, Minnesota, sued Wal-Mart after they were mistaken as robbers. Police found no evidence of robbery after responding to a 911 call on March 27, 2000, reporting "three suspicious black men, one possibly armed" in the store.

INTER-RACIAL DATING

- In 2001, the Kentucky Human Rights Commission ordered Wal-Mart to pay \$40,000 to two people who claimed that Wal-Mart fired them because they were an interracial couple.
- In Dallas, Texas, a white female former employee sued Wal-Mart for racial discrimination because she was fired for dating an African-American man. In 1998, the court awarded the woman \$94,000.

Sources: News reports, www.wal-martlitigation.com

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Paid for by the Coalition Against Measure 4A, Committee #1263781