Date Filed 8/16/2024 9:01 AM Superior Court - Hampden Docket Number

# COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT

HAMPDEN, ss.

MOIRA MCDONALD,

Plaintiff

V.

MDSINE, LLC d/b/a SURGERY CENTER OF NEW ENGLAND,

Defendant(s)

HAMPDEN SUPERIOR COURT
CIVIL ACTION NO.

24Cv463

COMPLAINT WITH DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

### **JURISDICTION**

- 1. This action is authorized and instituted under 804 CMR 1.04(12) (2020) and Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 151B. Jurisdiction is founded on Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 151B, § 9.
- 2. Jurisdiction is also founded on that Plaintiff, Moira McDonald ("McDonald"), filed a charge with Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination more than ninety (90) days ago and the statute of limitations has not exceeded three years since the initial incident.

#### **VENUE**

3. The claims asserted in this action arose within this county and the alleged unlawful conduct and damage occurred within this county. This venue is proper pursuant to Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 151B, § 9.

### THE PARTIES

4. The Plaintiff, Moira McDonald, is a natural person with a residence in Thorndike, Massachusetts.

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5. The Defendant, MDSINE, LLC d/b/a Surgery Center of New England ("SCEN"), is a corporation organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts with a usual place of business at 55 St George Rd, Springfield, Massachusetts.

#### **FACTS**

- 6. The Plaintiff was hired as an X-Ray Technician by the Defendant SCEN on or about November 2016.
- 7. Plaintiff had a good work record and received positive performance evaluations.
- 8. On or around January 26, 2023, the Plaintiff was photographed inappropriately by two male employees of Defendant, one of whom is a supervisor.
- 9. Sometime shortly after taking the photographs, the two male employees showed said photographs to all or substantially all of the Defendant's staff.
- 10. On or around February 8, 2023, Plaintiff become aware that fellow employees who were shown the subject pictures reported this incident to Human Resources, and Human Resources stated to said fellow employees that it would investigate, but no investigation was initiated.
- 11. On or around February 13, 2023, a further report was made to Defendant's Human Resources department. However, Human Resources still did not initiate an investigation.
- 12. There was absolutely no response to either report by either Human Resources or management on site.
- 13. On or around March of 2023, Plaintiff learned that the Defendant had received an anonymous letter complaining about the pictures and dissemination of same.
- 14. Thereafter, on or around March 14, 2023, Plaintiff was called into the administrator's office and asked if she knew about "photos", to which she responded in the negative

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because, at that time, she was unaware that inappropriate pictures had been taken of her and disseminated in the workplace.

- 15. On or around March 24, 2023, almost two months later, Plaintiff finally learned of the photos, and that the photos had been shown to substantially all of the Defendant's staff.
- 16. After learning of what had occurred, Plaintiff has suffered severe emotional distress, lack of sleep, depression, anxiety, and humiliation. Plaintiff has been forced to seek treatment for the same and has been out of work due to stress.
- 17. Meanwhile, both of the male employees who took the unauthorized photos of Plaintiff are still working for the Defendant with no apparent discipline and the management team that allowed this environment to exist also continue to report to work each day. Meanwhile, Plaintiff is traumatized and forced to seek medical treatment.
- 18. On or around May 1, 2023, Plaintiff was constructively discharged from her position as an X-Ray Technician due to the Defendant's failure to take action.

## M.G.L. C. 151B SEXUAL HARASSMENT

- 19. The Plaintiff realleges her allegations set forth in paragraphs 1 through 18 and further alleges the following:
- 20. The Plaintiff was treated differently as to the terms and conditions of her employment based upon the sexual harassment of the Plaintiff by employees of the Defendant.
- 21. This sexually hostile environment and the conditions imposed upon the Plaintiff related to and adversely affected the terms and conditions of her employment.
- 22. The Plaintiff was severely and adversely affected by Defendant's conduct and the failure of Defendant to take reasonable steps to ensure that this discriminatory conduct and sexual harassment would not continue.

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff, Moira McDonald, respectfully prays for judgment against the Defendant, MDSINE, LLC d/b/a Surgery Center of New England, and for all damages available pursuant to M.G.L. ch. 151B.

## COUNT II M.G.L. C. 151B SEX/GENDER HARASSMENT

- 23. Plaintiff repeats and realleges her allegations set forth in paragraphs 1 through 22 and further alleges the following:
- 24. The harassment of the Plaintiff, as described herein, violates the express provisions of M.G.L. c. 151B with regard to sex/gender.
- 25. There is direct and circumstantial evidence of gender bias on the part of Defendant including, but not limited to, the incidents of harassment set forth above.
- 26. This environment and the conditions imposed upon the Plaintiff and the adverse action taken against the Plaintiff related to sex/gender adversely affected the terms and conditions of her employment with Defendant.
- 27. The Plaintiff was severely and adversely affected by the Defendant's conduct and the failure of Defendant to take reasonable steps to stop this conduct.

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff, Moira McDonald, respectfully prays for judgment against the Defendant, MDSINE, LLC d/b/a Surgery Center of New England, and for all damages available pursuant to M.G.L. ch. 151B.

## <u>COUNT III</u> M.G.L. C. 151B SEX/GENDER DISCRIMINATION

28. Plaintiff repeats and realleges her allegations set forth in paragraphs 1 through 27 and further alleges the following:

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- 29. The discriminatory treatment of the Plaintiff, as described herein, violates the express provisions of M.G.L. ch. 151B with regard to sex/gender.
- 30. There is direct and circumstantial evidence of gender bias on the pard of the Defendant including, but not limited to, the incidents of discrimination set forth herein.
- 31. The environment and the conditions imposed upon the Plaintiff and the adverse action taken against the Plaintiff related to sex/gender and adversely affected the terms and conditions of her employment with Defendant.
- 32. The Plaintiff was severely and adversely affected by the Defendant's conduct and the failure of Defendant to take reasonable steps to stop this conduct.
- 33. The conduct of the Defendant, individually and through their agents, supervisors and employees, as described above, constitutes unlawful discrimination prohibited by M.G.L. ch. 151D such that the Defendant is liable to Plaintiff for damages and other relief as set forth below.

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff, Moira McDonald, respectfully prays for judgment against the Defendant, MDSINE, LLC d/b/a Surgery Center of New England, and for all damages available pursuant to M.G.L. ch. 151B.

### COUNT IV M.G.L. C. 151B RETALIATION

- 34. Plaintiff repeats and realleges her allegations set forth in paragraphs 1 through 33 and further alleges the following:
- 35. The Plaintiff was treated differently as to the terms and conditions of her employment based upon her reporting of sexual harassment and discrimination.

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- 36. This environment and the conditions imposed upon the Plaintiff related to and adversely affected the terms and conditions of her employment. The Plaintiff was constructively discharged from her employment with Defendant.
- 37. The Plaintiff was severely and adversely affected by Defendant's conduct and the failure of Defendant to take reasonable steps to ensure that this discriminatory conduct and sexual harassment would not continue.

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff, Moira McDonald, respectfully prays for judgment against the Defendant, MDSINE, LLC d/b/a Surgery Center of New England, and for all damages available pursuant to M.G.L. ch. 151B.

## THE PLAINTIFF DEMANDS A TRIAL BY JURY ON ALL COUNTS SO TRIABLE

Respectfully submitted,

The Plaintiff, Moira McDonald, by their counsel.

ŤIMÓTHY M. NETKOVICK, ESQUIRE

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Dated: August 16, 2024

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