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Nine West sex-harass lawsuit

By BRUCE GOLDING Last Updated: 1:17 AM, March 15, 2012 Posted: 1:17 AM, March 15, 2012

What a heel!

The former creative director of the Nine West shoe company is a bigoted sexual-harasser, according to a discrimination lawsuit filed yesterday.

Fred Allard, a second-generation shoe designer from France, was also accused of ordering his subordinates to "knock off," or copy, their competitors' products, despite being explicitly told not to do so by his COO.

Dorimilt Torres made the accusations in a Manhattan federal court filing that says she was forced out of a job as Nine West's design director by Allard's "continuous, persistent and relentless" harassment.

Torres' high-profile lawyer, Joe Tacopina, called it "utterly outrageous" that Nine West let Allard engage in "such vile harassment and racial insults."

Ira Dansky, general counsel for the company's corporate parent, said it "conducted a thorough internal review" of Torres' claims in 2010 "and found no evidence of any unlawful or otherwise inappropriate behavior."

The company also said Allard's departure was "unrelated to this situation."

Allard didn't return a call for comment.

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