
Avagliano v. Sumitomo: EEOC Complaint and
Background

Sumitomo Shoji America, Inc. v. Avagliano, 457
US 176 - Supreme Court 1982

1-31-1977

Equal Employment Commission Complaint by Reiko Turner

Lewis M. Steel '63

April 1, 1977

Certified Return Receipt Requested

Mr. Arthur W. Stern
District Director
Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

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Att: Lewis M. Steel, Esq.

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Notwithstanding my correspondence with regard to these cases,

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U. Schmidt v. Turner v. Sumitomo

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April 1, 1977

Certified Return Receipt Requested

Mr. Arthur W. Stern
District Director
Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
New York District Office
90 Church Street, Rm. 1301
New York, New York 10007

Re: Reiko Turner v. Sumitomo Shoji America, Inc.

Dear Mr. Stern:

This Title VII complaint is being sent to you for filing.

It is identical in virtually all respects to a series of complaints which have been filed by women against the above corporation, alleging sex discrimination. The first of these complaints is entitled Schneider v. Sumitomo Shoji America, Inc., EEOC Charge No. 021-77-0049.

Frankly, I am somewhat disturbed by the lack of investigative activity on these cases. I have written to you prior to this with regard to this corporation, and pointed out to you that these appear to be appropriate cases for investigation, due to the fact that the respondent is apparently claiming the right to discriminate as a result of a treaty between Japan and the United States.

Notwithstanding my correspondence with regard to these cases, to my knowledge none of my clients have been contacted by members of your staff, nor to my knowledge has anything been done to research these legal questions which may arise. If I am wrong on this, I would appreciate being informed.

April 1, 1977

Page 2

Arthur W. Stern

Re: Turner v. Sumitomo Shoji America, Inc.

If your office does not plan to investigate these cases, I would appreciate being informed, and I would also appreciate your office taking the appropriate steps so that the complainants may proceed to federal court as soon as possible. The Schneider complaint is now extremely old, and I am interested in moving these matters toward resolution. I would most appreciate a reply.

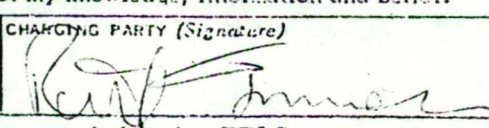
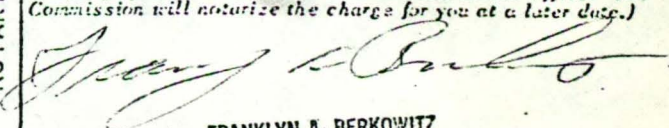
Very truly yours,

Eisner, Levy, Steel & Bellman, P.C.

By _____
Lewis M. Steel

LMS/cpm

Enc. 1

<p style="text-align: center;">INSTRUCTIONS</p> <p>If you have a complaint, fill in this form and mail it to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's District Office in your area. In most cases, a charge must be filed with the EEOC within a specified time after the discriminatory act took place. IT IS THEREFORE IMPORTANT TO FILE YOUR CHARGE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. (Attach extra sheets of paper if necessary.)</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">CAUSE OF DISCRIMINATION</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> RACE OR COLOR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SEX</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS CREED</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NATIONAL ORIGIN</p>	
<p>NAME (Indicate Mr. or Ms.) Reiko Turner (Ms.)</p>		<p>DATE OF BIRTH 1/3/43</p>	
<p>STREET ADDRESS 97 Fair Street</p>		<p>COUNTY Westchester</p>	
<p>CITY, STATE, AND ZIP CODE Carmel, New York 10512</p>		<p>SOCIAL SECURITY NO. 099-48-3341</p>	
		<p>TELEPHONE NO. (Include area code.) (914) 225-1791</p>	
<p>THE FOLLOWING PERSON ALWAYS KNOWS WHERE TO CONTACT ME</p>			
<p>NAME (Indicate Mr. or Ms.) Lewis M. Steel, Esq.</p>		<p>TELEPHONE NO. (Include area code) (212) 966-9620</p>	
<p>STREET ADDRESS Eisner, Levy, Steel & Bellman, P.C.</p>		<p>CITY, STATE, AND ZIP CODE New York, N.Y. 10013</p>	
<p>LIST THE EMPLOYER, LABOR ORGANIZATION, EMPLOYMENT AGENCY, APPRENTICESHIP COMMITTEE, STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT WHO DISCRIMINATED AGAINST YOU (If more than one, list all)</p>			
<p>NAME Sumitomo Shoji America, Inc.</p>		<p>TELEPHONE NO. (Include area code) (212) 935-7000</p>	
<p>STREET ADDRESS 345 Park Avenue</p>		<p>CITY, STATE, AND ZIP CODE New York, N.Y. 10022</p>	
<p>OTHERS WHO DISCRIMINATED AGAINST YOU (If any)</p>			
<p>CHARGE FILED WITH STATE/LOCAL GOV'T. AGENCY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO</p>		<p>DATE FILED</p>	
		<p>AGENCY CHARGE FILED WITH (Name and address) State Division of Human Rights 270 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10007</p>	
<p>APPROXIMATE NO. OF EMPLOYEES/MEMBERS OF COMPANY OR UNION THIS CHARGE IS FILED AGAINST Approximately 400</p>		<p>DATE MOST RECENT OR CONTINUING DISCRIMINATION TOOK PLACE (Month, day, and year) Continuing discrimination to date of filing</p>	
<p>Explain what unfair thing was done to you and how other persons were treated differently. Understanding that this statement is for the use of the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, I hereby certify: Sumitomo Shoji America, Inc. is incorporated in the State of New York and is a trading company with offices in major cities in the United States and its headquarters in the City of New York. The corporation engages in a pattern and practice of discrimination against women in that all or virtually all of its executives, managerial employees and sales personnel are men. I have worked for the corporation continuously since June 26, 1973 when I was hired in a clerical position. Since that time I have received no work promotions although I am qualified for a promotion into the managerial ranks and am qualified to become a salesperson. I have continuously requested of management that I be considered for promotion into either the managerial or sales categories and am qualified to perform such work. I am aware of the fact that other women employees who are also qualified to perform managerial and/or sales work have similarly been denied promotions. The discriminatory practices complained of are continuing.</p>			
<p>I swear or affirm that I have read the above charge and that it is true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.</p>		<p>SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME THIS DATE (Day, month, and year) 31 Jan 1977</p>	
<p>DATE</p>		<p>CHARGING PARTY (Signature) </p>	
<p>Subscribed and sworn to before this EEOC representative.</p>		<p>NOTARY PUBLIC</p> <p></p>	
<p>DATE</p>			