

NEWS

NYPD Officer gets 40 Months for Firearms and Stolen Goods

Joseph Trischitta, 43, a former New York City Police Department (NYPD) officer was sentenced in Manhattan federal court recently to 40 months in prison for engaging in a scheme involving the illegal interstate transport of firearms and stolen goods.

In addition to the prison term, Judge Pauley sentenced Trischitta, of Staten Island, New York, to two years of supervised release and ordered him to pay a \$50,000 fine and a \$200 special assessment fee. Trischitta also has agreed to a money judgment of \$11,500 representing his share of the crime proceeds and has relinquished his interests in guns seized from him at the time of his arrest.

Manhattan U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara said, "Joseph Trischitta's sentencing is the latest reminder of the consequences of public corruption. It does a disservice to the overwhelming majority of public servants who conduct themselves so honorably and to the people they serve."

East Rockaway Tax Preparer Bared

CENTRAL ISLIP:

A federal court in Central Islip, N.Y., has permanently barred Diana D. Bertocci-Aliffi from preparing federal tax returns for others, the Justice Department announced last week.

The civil injunction order, to which Aliffi agreed without admitting the government's allegations, was signed by Judge Joanna Seybert of the U.S. District Court of the Eastern District of New York.

The government complaint in the case alleged that Aliffi, of East Rockaway, claimed false Indian Employment Tax Credits (IETCs) for customers who were not eligible for the credits.

The IETC is a credit for employers of certain qualified employees who are or whose spouses are members of an enrolled Indian tribe. It is not a credit for Native Americans who have no qualified employees.

According to the complaint, Aliffi falsely told her customers, many of whom lived on or near the Shinnecock Indian Reservation in Southampton, N.Y., that they were eligible for the credit simply because they were Native Americans and lived on or near a reservation.

Aliffi allegedly prepared federal income tax returns for these customers and improperly claimed the IETC on the returns. Aliffi also allegedly fabricated wage income and tax withholding on other customers' tax returns in order to obtain larger tax refunds.

The government complaint alleged that Aliffi was incarcerated from February to August 2009 after pleading guilty in a New York state court to 76 counts of grand larceny, identity theft and forgery related to her tax preparation activities.

Coke Work Places Dubbed "Cesspools of Racial Discrimination"

By Shirley Irons, Freelance Writer

Three Jamaicans Evon Douglas, 32, Oral Forbes, 40 and Wayne Morrison, 41, who worked at the Coca-Cola bottling plant in Elmsford, New York are making similar accusations against The Coca-Cola Company as did sixteen Black and Hispanic workers who filed a racial discrimination lawsuit in January.

The lawsuit alleges that the Coca-Cola plants in Elmsford and in Queens, New York are "Cesspools of racial discrimination." Workers with similar grievances who work at Coke facilities in Smithtown, New York and Carlstadt, New Jersey are also fighting back against the company for horrific injustices done to them because of their color and ethnicity.

The lawsuit claims that Black and Hispanic workers have suffered from biased work assignments and allotment of hours, unfair discipline and retaliation, and a caustic work environment. Minority workers at Coca-Cola are typically assigned to the most undesirable and physically dangerous positions.

Managers contravene the seniority system by giving better jobs and more overtime hours to white workers with less seniority than minority workers.

Minority workers are also denied opportunities for promotion within the company. Coca-Cola management retaliates against minority workers through unwanted scrutiny, unfair disciplinary actions, suspensions and terminations.

Douglas, who was unjustly fired said "I would often hear employees use the word 'nigger' loudly in front of management with no repercussions, although this was in violation of company policies. The management would do nothing to stop this. Supervisors would constantly harass me. My breaks and lunches were constantly being watched and timed, and I felt like if I was in a concentration camp or a high security prison. They would even follow minority employees into the bathroom and demand that the worker get back to work".

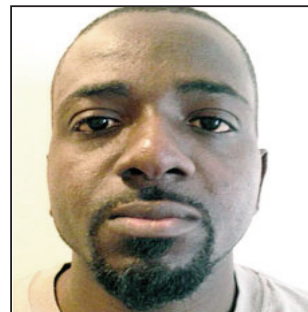
Forbes worked ten years for Coca-Cola before he was fired. "During my 10 years with the company," he said, "I had no disciplinary problems at all. In fact, I had lots of commendations for my work performance. A co-worker constantly hurled racial slurs at me which I challenged but the company unjustly retaliated against me. During this time, I had a house, two children and my wife. Due to the loss of my job, I lost my home, my car and everything and had to move my family to my in-laws' home. I was unfairly treated and discriminated against."

Morrison is married with five children. He started working with Coca-Cola in 2008 as a merchandiser. He felt he was in a good job with a prestigious company and saw endless opportunities. When Coca-Cola started "cleaning house", he was subjected to harassment, abuse and racial slurs by co-workers and supervisors alike.

Supervisors would say, "I'll be damned if my subordinate will make more



EVON DOUGLAS



ORAL FORBES



WAYNE MORRISON

money than me." Mr. Douglas also overheard statements like "we already have too many Jamaicans in this warehouse" and "Jamaicans are taking over."

These statements were all said in front of managerial staff with no corrective action. These men and other victims of Coca-Cola's racial discrimination, past and present, have suffered significant emotional trauma and financial hardship.

To learn more about other cases and The Coca-Cola Company's ugly history of discrimination worldwide labor and human rights violations and environmental abuses visit www.stopcokediscrimination.org and www.killercoke.org.

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