

This material is part of a collection that documents the harassment, discrimination, and retaliation perpetrated against Alaska's women research scientists by their supervisor, with full knowledge (and arguably, "tacit approval") of their federal employer, the USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS)

Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development
Appeal Tribunal
3301 Eagle Street, Suite 206
Anchorage, AK 99503-4149

Re: Docket # B 10 2533

October 1st, 2010

Dear Tribunal Staff,

On September 27th, 2010, I received a Notice-of-Appeal-Filed to determine my eligibility for unemployment benefits, which are currently being challenged by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). According to the letter's instructions, I am allowed to submit these additional documents in support of my upcoming appeals hearing (Docket # B 10 2533).

On September 6th, 2010, I submitted a claim for Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE), in accordance with 20 CFR § 609.3 (Eligibility Requirements for UCFE).

On September 16th, I received a notice from the Anchorage UI Claim Center acknowledging my eligibility to receive UI benefits (\$9,620). However, on September 23rd (and presumably after a challenge by the USDA), I received another notice from the Claim Center informing me that I had been disqualified from receiving benefits. The reason given: "you left when you did not achieve your results of having that supervisor removed from the chain of command".

In fact, I quit (unexpectedly) as a condition of an EEOC-mediated settlement (August 19th), which occurred in response to the harassment, discrimination, and retaliation against me (and every other woman research scientist) while working for the USDA Agricultural Research Service in Alaska. The Anchorage UI Claim Center was aware of the ARS's unlawful actions through documents that I sent to them on September 7th.

For many years I have endured unlawful discrimination, retaliation, and harassment within the USDA Agricultural Research Service in Alaska, simply because I was born female. I've also been forced to watch the other ARS women research scientists suffer in similar ways, while our grievances and EEO claims were trivialized within the USDA complaint system. In the end, I lost my career, and with it, my career identity as a research scientist. Now, as I struggle to start a new life, I find myself still being harassed by the federal agency that launched me into my current unemployment, (since my "immediate resignation" was a condition of the EEOC-mediated settlement with USDA that I signed on August 19th, 2010).

Make no mistake, I quit my job with the USDA Agricultural Research Service, since "voluntarily resigning" was the only means offered, if I wanted to escape the

unlawful activities being perpetrated against me. The Agency is well aware of that fact and I believe their current attempts to deny my unemployment benefits constitute federal obstruction, in violation of 20 CFR § 609.12 (Inviolate rights to UCFE).

The last six years have taught me that the USDA is a powerful government organization that has resources to defeat even the most legitimate claims. Since this is my only opportunity to submit documents throughout this and future appeals, I respectfully request that in accordance with 8 AAC 85.153(c), all of the attached evidence be admitted as material to the disposition of my claim:

Thank you for the opportunity to attend an appeals hearing on this matter.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Bower

(Unemployed Research Scientist)

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