

Three Connecticut bus drivers sue CT Transit after exposure to harmful chemicals during the COVID-19 pandemic

Law Offices for Tricia S. Lindsay is representing three CT transit drivers who have been left without compensation.

HARTFORD, CT, USA, June 1, 2023 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Three Connecticut bus drivers sue CT Transit after exposure to harmful chemicals during the COVID-19 pandemic

The Law Offices for Tricia S. Lindsay is representing three drivers who have been left without compensation or apology despite severe medical complications

Three Connecticut bus drivers have filed charges of employment discrimination with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) after their employer, CT Transit, failed to compensate them for illnesses and injuries sustained when their buses were sprayed with chemicals at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In April 2020, the three drivers, Clifford McCrae, Nastassia Campbell, and Garrett Brown, began experiencing severe reactions after CT Transit increased the levels of chemical spraying of their vehicles in an attempt to disinfect them.

The plaintiffs suffered symptoms including bloodshot eyes, headaches, and hives, which were alleviated only when they stepped off the buses. As their exposure to the chemicals increased, so too did the effects. Some severe symptoms persist more than three years later, with one of the plaintiffs suffering loss of memory, kidney problems, and neurological issues.

As per company policy, the plaintiffs called their supervisors at the first sign of workplace illness, and were told to meet the approved occupational health services at the local hospital. The doctor said they should not drive again while the chemicals were still in use, but the CT Transit Workers Compensation liaison refused to authorize compensation, or move them onto lighter duties, stating that their illnesses: "did not arise out of the course of employment and there are no clinical objective findings to support causation."

As a result, the drivers were unable to work, and unable to claim any of the benefits they were contractually entitled to.

The three workers are being represented by the Law Offices of Tricia S. Lindsay, and are claiming four months' of Workers Compensation that was originally denied, plus further damages.

"The defendant (CT Transit) denied these front-line workers compensation payments, despite their own doctors stating they should not return to work until the chemical spraying was discontinued," said Attorney Tricia Lindsay. "This demonstrates a culture at CT Transit where management were able to sit safely in their offices while drivers were exposed to harm and denied support in the most difficult working environments they have ever had to deal with." During this time, Connecticut's Governor, Ned Lamont, even mandated that all state workers work from home and not come into the offices, per restrictions of pandemic safety.

The complaint details how representatives for CT Transit were unable to explain why the Plaintiffs were denied benefits that the drivers are contractually entitled to, including "their right to seek the appropriate level of treatment as recommended by the Defendant's medical provider." It goes on to detail further examples of CT Transit putting employees and the public in danger without warning them of the potentially harmful effects that the chemical spraying may cause.

"It is hard to overstate the level of disregard shown by CT Transit, both for their employees and for the public using their services," Ms. Lindsay said. "The people spraying the buses wore protective hazmat suits, but the drivers were expected to sit for many hours at a time, exposed to toxic chemicals. At a time when public health and safety was at the forefront of the agenda, these dedicated workers were put in harm's way and then relieved of their duty without apology or acknowledgement."

The three plaintiffs' case against CT Transit remains ongoing.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT (New Haven)
CIVIL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 3:22-CV-00217-JBA

You may find all information supporting all claims at:

chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/USCOURTS-ctd-3_22-cv-00217/pdf/USCOURTS-ctd-3_22-cv-00217-0.pdf

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About The Law Offices of Tricia S. Lindsay

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