

Description of Discrimination Complaint

During the license term, applicant/station responded to one (1) complaint of unlawful employment discrimination involving Milwaukee PBS. The complaint was filed by John Vogel, a former Coordinator, Digital Television, whose employment was terminated October 9, 2018. On January 16, 2019, Mr. Vogel filed a Complaint of Discrimination with the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development – Equal Rights Division (ERD) alleging that his employment had been unlawfully terminated because of his disability of anxiety and depression. Pursuant to a work-sharing agreement, the ERD accepted the complaint for investigation (ERD Case No. CR201900142), and it was cross-filed for notice only with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC Case No. 26G201900427C).

Equal Rights Officer Gretchen Vollrath-Sharkey conducted an investigation of the complaint. On August 6, 2019, Ms. Vollrath-Sharkey issued her determination, which concluded that there was probable cause the station/applicant violated the Wisconsin Fair Employment Law. A hearing was subsequently set for before Equal Rights Division Administrative Law Judge James Schacht.

In December 12, 2019, the applicant/station and complainant reached a voluntary, confidential settlement agreement with no admission of liability or wrongdoing by applicant/station. The complainant submitted the Request to Withdraw Complaint on January 3, 2020. As such, the complaint was dismissed with prejudice on January 10, 2020 by Administrative Law Judge James Schacht.