

## Frustrated Drug Rep Sues Eli Lilly

After 18 years of working for the drug maker Eli Lilly, Susan Schaefer LaRose quit her job due to uncompensated long hours of work that invaded weekends and vacations. Shortly after she quit, she decided to sue them for the uncompensated hours of work. Her lawsuit against Eli Lilly is one of many seeking to be paid for overtime work. Mrs. LaRose told Forbes, "I was told when I started with Eli Lilly that I was exempt from overtime, I figured they were the large employer and I never thought to question it." The lawsuits filed against Eli Lilly seek overtime wages dating anywhere from 2 to six years. Other companies that are being affected with similar lawsuits include, Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals Inc., AstraZeneca PLC, Pfizer Inc., Johnson & Johnson, Amgen Inc., Hoffmann-La Roche Inc., GlaxoSmithKline PLC and Bayer AG. Mrs. LaRose claims that work weeks began to lengthen soon after cell phones and email became a everyday use. Mrs. LaRose also told Forbes that "Lilly does not allow sales reps to log onto the company's computer system between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., prime hours for calling doctors, which forces reps to do reports on nights and weekends. Dana Higgins, another plaintiff seeking compensation for unpaid overtime said, "What they required of us was unfair, My boss told me that I needed to be engaged in business 24/7." Not all drug reps believe the case is fair for the pharmaceutical companies. Workers that are happy with their jobs argue that the longer hours and more time they put into their jobs, the more money they make negating the need to be compensated for overtime work.

## About the Author

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