

## **Two Columbia tax preparers sue Block over training issue**

Kansas City Star – January 26, 2010

Two tax preparers in Columbia, Mo., have sued H&R Block Inc. seeking wages for unpaid training they said they're required to take each year.

The lawsuit, filed Monday in U.S. District Court in Kansas City, seeks to represent other Block employees it claims are due the minimum wage under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

An H&R Block spokesman was unable to comment Tuesday.

According to the suit, "a company-wide policy and practice" requires tax professionals to "complete 24 hours of mandatory training" at the end of each tax season to be eligible for employment during the next tax season.

But Block doesn't pay employees for the time and "failed and refused" to pay the two tax preparers in Columbia, the suit said. It said failure to pay them and others in a similar situation the minimum wage violated federal labor law.

The suit sees to recover double those unpaid wages as provided under the standards act, said **George Hanson**, an attorney representing the former Block employees who sued.

The suit was brought by Barbara Petroski and Cathy Camden, both of Columbia, against Block, H&R Block Enterprises LLC, H&R Block Eastern Enterprises Inc. and unidentified entities tied to the Kansas City-based company.