

Welcher & Welcher

Pro Bono Legal Advice

SO YOU WORK IN AN OPPRESSIVE WORKPLACE!

When a 'Get Well Soon' or 'Happy Birthday' card makes the rounds of your office, do you often find that someone has already taken the liberty of signing your name, five or six times, in crayon? Do you come back from a smoko break to find a cocker spaniel at your desk reading your emails? Have you had your tie or skirt stapled to your desk as part of what your colleagues jokingly call 'Staple Day'? Do your workmates find it 'funny' to punch you? Set you on fire? Douse you in hydrochloric acid? Murder you – to death?

If you've answered 'yes' to any of these questions, then there is a chance that you might work in an oppressive workplace.

Some Common Questions

• *Why me?*

It is quite common for a victim of workplace abuse to think they somehow 'deserve' their misfortune. Remember, the only thing you deserve is a safe and friendly environment in which to work, and possibly a cheese sandwich. (However, if you persist in wearing cartoon ties, a suede bomber jacket in place of a suit, or demanding your work mates address you as 'Gandalf', then you're probably asking for it.)

• *But it's just a bit of fun, right?*

Is it? That's exactly what a workplace bully *wants* you to think. At first, physical abuse or crude remarks made at your expense might seem the norm. One of our clients recently spoke of how, for 16 years, he thought having his head shoved through his computer monitor on Thursdays was 'all part of the job'. Only later did a wandering Franciscan friar point out to the man that he was suffering brain damage.

• *Won't I lose my job if I speak up?*

In the past, employees who have spoken out over oppressive workplace conditions have rarely found it comfortable to remain in their job. We can assist you in finding new employment opportunities – indeed, many of our clients have gone on to further bullying in other exciting, rewarding jobs.

Some Statistics

- In the time it takes you to read this sentence, six million people will have died somewhere. Don't ask me their names because I don't know them.
- In a 1996 survey, a staggering 59% of Germans said they'd never heard Woody Allen's moose routine
- Four-fifths of Greenland is covered in moss – *red* moss!
- An incredible 73% of Chinese peasants own at least one album by Emerson, Lake and Palmer

How We Can Help

At *Welcher & Welcher*, we can assist you in seeking worker's compensation, pursuing a criminal complaint, or suing for breach of contract. If it is discovered that some of the workplace bullying has in fact been warranted, we can recommend a reputable course in self-esteem. You stupid loser.