

Former East Bridgewater bartender claims sexual harassment

Woman claims she was fired in retaliation

By **Maria Papadopoulos**

[Enterprise Staff Writer](#)

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EAST BRIDGEWATER —

A former bartender at an East Bridgewater pub has filed a discrimination complaint with the state claiming that her former boss sexually harassed her, retaliated against her and then fired her, her lawyer said Wednesday.

Tammy Souza of Easton, a former bartender at Patriot Pub & Grille on Bedford Street, says she endured unwelcome sexual comments and advances from her manager, Shannon Woodward, said her lawyer, Matthew J. Fogelman of Newton.

“This is quite an unfortunate situation. Ms. Souza endured months of sexual advances and comments from her manager,” Fogelman said.

When reached at the pub on Wednesday afternoon, Woodward disputed Souza’s claims.

“Not at all (true). Not at all. I don’t want to talk about this. I’ve got to go,” said Woodward, who then hung up the phone.

Souza filed a complaint with the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination this week, Fogelman said.

Barbara Green, commission spokeswoman, said Wednesday she could not confirm the complaint until the respondent has been notified, a process that takes about a week.

Souza, 43, began working at Patriot Pub & Grille in July 2010. According to her complaint, Woodward would often make sexual remarks to Souza at work, and followed her home one night in October 2010 and gave her a rose, Fogelman said.

When she told him to stop, Woodward threatened to fire her, Fogelman said. He also retaliated against her by ordering her to clean the bathroom, a job outside of her regular duties, and by putting another bartender on the shift to decrease her tips, Fogelman said.

On May 17, 2011, Souza refused to serve an intoxicated customer, Fogelman said. The customer swore at Souza and told her he knows the owner and that she would be fired the next day, he said. Woodward called Souza the next morning and fired her, Fogelman said.