



## Racial slap at No. 1 law firm

By PHILIP RECCHIA

A fired Asian-American staffer at America's largest law firm — which frequently advises corporations on employment-law issues — says his boss refused to let minorities sit together in the Manhattan office “because they will spend all day talking.”

Jonathan Jung, booted from his \$80,000-a-year job as an international tax adviser with Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom last year for poor performance — despite his good performance reviews, raises and promotions — is suing the powerful Times Square firm for racial discrimination.

Among the allegations is that Jung's supervisor, firm treasurer Susan Dornfeld, “made racially derogatory comments to” and “used abusive language toward” him and other Asian-American employees.

After the firm moved part of its operations to White Plains in 2003, Jung charges, Dornfeld paired Asian-American staffers with African-American staffers as officemates, as she felt having Asians sitting near Asians and blacks sitting near blacks would be unproductive.

“I don't want to have Orientals [sitting together] and blacks sitting together because they will spend all day talking,” she said, according to the lawsuit

filed in Manhattan federal court three months ago.

Jung also cites an instance in which Dornfeld, who later implied in an evaluation that Jung was unskilled in English, called him into her office and began yelling, “What the f--- are you talking about? I don't understand what the f--- you just said.”

In an interview last week with The Post, Jung, 37, who moved to the United States when he was 8, spoke perfect English — with virtually no accent.

Jung also charges that he and other minority employees at Skadden Arps were often asked to work late while white colleagues were allowed to leave as normally scheduled.

“It was a hostile environment for all minorities,” he told The Post.

A Skadden Arps spokesperson responded: “The firm is proud of our personnel record and does not engage in discrimination in any of its personnel policies or decisions. Mr. Jung's suit is without merit, and we will defend against it vigorously.”

Jung, who was born in South Korea, worked for Skadden Arps for five years before his firing in June 2004. Two months later, a major Wall Street investment bank hired him as an associate director of human resources.