

CHESTER, W.Va.

A former state legislator fired from her 12-year job as the public face of Mountaineer Casino, Racetrack & Resort is suing over alleged gender discrimination.

Tamara Pettit, marketing and public relations director from 1989 until mid-August, named General

Manager Jack Sours and human resources director Vincent Azzarello as defendants in the lawsuit filed Thursday in Hancock County Circuit Court.

Mountaineer is owned by MTR Gaming Group Inc.

"The company does not comment on pending litigation," publicist Liz Brady said Friday. "However, we believe the allegations have no merit."

Pettit claims Sours berated and belittled her in front of public officials at a company event Aug. 7. She complained three days later to Azzarello that male employees weren't treated the same way and demanded an investigation.

She was fired Aug. 13 and claims Azzarello told her that her position was being eliminated.

Another woman, Leslie Campbell, is now director of marketing and public relations.

Pettit, a Democrat, was appointed to represent Hancock County in of the House of Delegates by then-Gov. Gaston Caperton in November 1989, when her predecessor resigned. Pettit was

## Ex-spokeswoman sues W.Va. casino over firing - BusinessWeek

Written by Administrator

Friday, 22 October 2010 16:32 -

---

elected in 1990 and re-elected four more times.

Her lawsuit claims Sours has violated state human rights laws, discriminating against her because of her gender, then firing her in retaliation for her complaint.

She's seeking unspecified compensatory and punitive damages.

[Powered by WizardRSS](#) | [Full Text RSS Feeds](#)

**Source:** <http://news.google.com/news/url?sa=t&fd=R&usg=AFQjCNEySdFP-nqqjGV E8d0zsdHCKuF7lg&url=http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9J0TAK01.htm>