



Welcome to the Consumerist Archives

Thanks for visiting Consumerist.com. As of October 2017, Consumerist is no longer producing new content, but feel free to browse through our archives. Here you can find 12 years worth of articles on everything from how to avoid dodgy scams to writing an effective complaint letter. Check out some of our greatest hits below, explore the categories listed on the left-hand side of the page, or head to CR.org for ratings, reviews, and consumer news.



ONE SMALL VICTORY

NLRB Judge Rules That Walmart Illegally Punished California Workers For Participating In Protests



([Nicholas Eckhart](#))

In recent years, some Walmart workers have staged public protests about inadequate wages and unfair treatment. A number of these employees claim that management has retaliated against them for expressing their views. Now a court has ordered Walmart to reverse disciplinary action taken against protesting workers and put a stop to future retaliation.

[The New York Times reports](#) that a National Labor Relations Board judge found that managers at Walmart stores in Richmond and Placerville, CA, acted illegally by penalizing employees for going on strike, threatening to close a store if many of its employees joined a group demanding higher wages and telling employees that co-workers returning from a one-day strike would be looking for a new job.

Wednesday's ruling is a response to a complaint filed by Our Walmart, a union-backed group of employees, that accused managers at the California Walmart stores of illegally intimidating workers following protests in 2012.

The [National Labor Relations Act prohibits](#) employers from retaliating against workers for supporting a union and from making intimidating statements that discourage workers from backing a union.

In two specific instances, N.L.R.B. judge Geoffry Carter ruled that managers at the California stores purposefully and illegally intimidated workers who support Our Walmart.

One event included a manager telling protesting workers, "If it were up to me, I'd shoot the union." The other incident involved a manager telling an Our Walmart supported who had a rope tied around his waist, "If it was up to me, I would put that rope around your neck."

Additionally, Carter found that Walmart unlawfully disciplined six Richmond employees for engaging in a one-day strike in 2012, the Times reports.

As part of the ruling, Walmart was ordered to stop intimidating workers in Richmond and to remove any reference to disciplinary write-ups ordered because the six employees had gone on strike.

“Walmart cannot continue its abuse of power any longer,” one of the affected workers says in a statement released by Our Walmart [PDF]. “Our families and our communities cannot thrive when companies like Walmart create an economy of low pay, erratic scheduling and illegal threats.”

The Times reports that Wednesday’s ruling is separate from a case in which the N.L.R.B.’s general counsel charged [Walmart with illegal activities with regards to disciplining 60 workers – allegedly firing 19 of them – for participating in protests and strikes in 14 states.](#)

Since 2012, Walmart has become a target for employees and wage advocates that claim the company doesn’t pay workers a living wage.

For the past three years, employees who support Our Walmart have [staged a number of protests](#) against the store, including [several on the company’s biggest day of business, Black Friday.](#)

And just last month, workers [chained a massive food donation bin](#) outside the home of Alice Walton, the daughter of Walmart founder Sam Walton. The bin, which read “Walmart Owner Alice Walton: We don’t want charity. We want decent pay. Love, Walmart Workers,” was a response to the company’s efforts to [hold food drives for employees.](#)

[Walmart Illegally Punished Workers, Judge Rules](#) [The New York Times]

Want more consumer news? Visit our parent organization, **Consumer Reports**, for the latest on scams, recalls, and other consumer issues.

12.11.14 By [Ashlee Kieler](#)  [@akieler](#)

[ONE SMALL VICTORY](#)

[WALMART](#)

[PROTESTS](#)

[NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD](#)

[OUR WALMART](#)

[ILLEGAL ACTIONS](#)

[WAGE WARS](#)

[< PREVIOUS](#)

[NEXT >](#)

Actor Who Played Jethro On 'Beverly Hillbillies'
Suing CBS Over BBQ Restaurant

Someone Just Paid \$25K For A Pair Of First
Generation 8GB iPhones



RELATED

YOU'RE REHIRED?

BIG WALMART IS WATCHING YOU

**LABOR BOARD ORDERS WALMART TO REHIRE
16 EMPLOYEES FIRED FOR STRIKING**

DON'T TALK AMONGST YOURSELVES

**WALMART USED DEFENSE CONTRACTOR
LOCKHEED MARTIN TO MONITOR EMPLOYEES**

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

**WALMART WARNS WORKERS: DON'T
DOWNLOAD CHAT APP FROM LABOR
ORGANIZATION**

**WALMART RAISES SUSPICIONS AFTER
CLOSING 5 STORES IN SAME DAY FOR
"PLUMBING" PROBLEMS**

CONSUMERIST

Part of **CR**

Founded in 2005, Consumerist®
is an independent source of
consumer news and information
published by Consumer Reports.

[About Us](#)

[Connect With Us](#)

[No Commercial Use
Policy](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[User Agreement](#)

[Work With Us](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[User Agreement](#)

© 2018 Consumer Reports