



## *In The News*



### **Woman sues Baker University Says She Was Fired for Becoming Pregnant** The Associated Press The Kansas City Star - Sat, Jan. 19, 2002

A former public relations employee at Baker University has filed a lawsuit in federal court alleging she was fired because she became pregnant.

Leigh Anne Bathke of Baldwin City, Kan., seeks unspecified damages in the lawsuit, filed Jan. 7 in U.S. District Court in Kansas City, Kan. The lawsuit says the school violated the law and discriminated against her.

The university's attorney, John Phillips, said the school knows of no merit to the allegations.

Bathke, whose son had his first birthday Wednesday, declined to comment directly on the case.

According to the lawsuit:

Bathke received a "commendable" evaluation from her supervisor at her three-month review in March 2000.


A month later, Bathke was traveling with her supervisor, university spokesman John Fuller, when he asked whether she was planning to have children.

"Mr. Fuller also stated that he hated maternity leave," wrote Bathke's lawyer, Brendan Donelon.

Fuller, like other university officials, referred questions to Phillips.


Bathke learned she was pregnant in May 2000. At her six-month evaluation, her performance was downgraded to "satisfactory to marginal."

"She was being held to a different standard of performance after (Baker) became aware of her pregnancy," Donelon wrote.



Bathke's doctor advised her to take a week off work in late November 2000 because of the pregnancy. She was fired on Nov. 30, 2000 -- two days before her one-year anniversary with Baker, when she would have been eligible for pregnancy leave under federal law.

The school cited poor job performance, but Bathke and her lawyer don't agree.



Donelon wrote that any poor job reviews "were untrue, lacked credibility and were inconsistent with standards applied toward other nonpregnant employees and...to (Bathke) prior to her pregnancy."

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission said Bathke had the right to sue in a ruling issued in May. No hearings have been scheduled in the case.

### [Return to News](#)

[Meet Brendan](#) | [News](#) | [Pursuing a Claim](#) | [Case Review Questionnaire](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Home](#)

COPYRIGHT © 2001 DONELON P.C. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. \* Site By [BigEdison](#)