

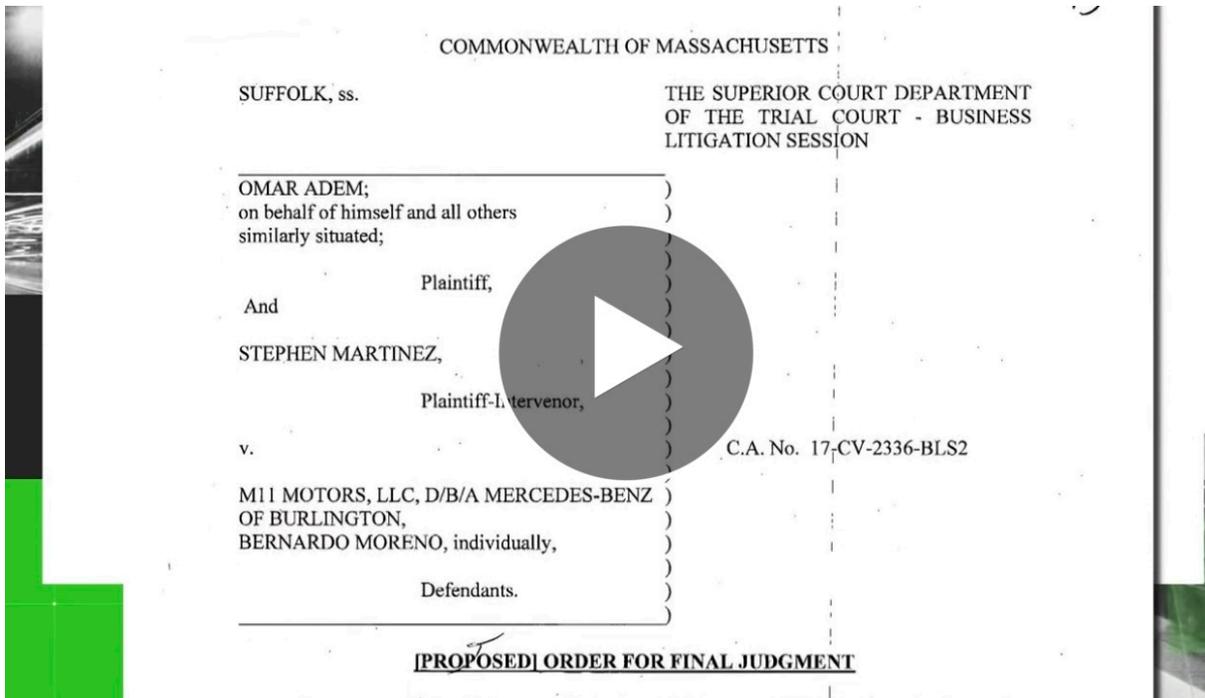


For Immediate Release • February 12, 2024

BERNIE MORENO CAUGHT LYING ABOUT WAGE THEFT LAWSUITS

February 12, 2024
WKYC | Stephanie Haney

***"We can verify that Moreno's claims about the outcome of the lawsuit
against him are false"***



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CLEVELAND — Republican candidate for an Ohio US Senate seat Bernie Moreno recently dismissed the outcome of a Massachusetts lawsuit that he lost related to overtime wage theft, by **making false claims about the result.**

THE CLAIM: On January 23, 2024, Moreno made these claims on the Always Right Radio show with Bob Frantz: "The Massachusetts case was an extreme lunatic judicial Supreme Court over there that overturned federal law. They made the ruling retroactive so that sales people's overtime could not be deducted from their commission."

SOURCES: To **VERIFY** Moreno's claims that the court overturned federal law, and it retroactively required something new and unexpected of employers, we looked at the following:

- Massachusetts court documents
- Massachusetts state regulations
- The federal Fair Labor Standards Act
- We also talked with labor and employment lawyer Joyce Goldstein.

THE ANSWER: **Based on all of this, we can verify that Moreno's claims about the outcome of the lawsuit against him are false.**

First, the Massachusetts courts did not overturn federal law. The courts did not change any law. The courts affirmed the 2015 Massachusetts regulation, and confirmed how it interacts with previously existing federal law.

Second, nothing new and unexpected was retroactively required of employers, in either court's verdict. Once the 2015 state regulation went into effect in 2015, employers were required to pay for overtime worked, even for workers who earn commission on sales.

ADDITIONAL CONTEXT: To add additional context here, Moreno was sanctioned by the court in the lawsuit against him for destroying overtime records that he was ordered to keep while the case moved forward.

Those records were destroyed in 2020, after the Massachusetts supreme court affirmed that workers who earn commission must be paid separately for overtime.

As punishment for destroying those records, the judge instructed the jury members that they could assume that the destroyed evidence would have hurt Moreno's defense.

Moreno lost that lawsuit, and he was ultimately ordered to pay \$416,160 to his former employees, after having been found liable for stolen overtime wages. He went on to settle more than a dozen similar lawsuits, before announcing his candidacy for Ohio's US senate seat in 2023.

Read the full story [here](#).

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