

April
3, 1995

Hechinger Co. hit with another suit

Ex-employee charges Mercer with sexual harassment

PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY, Md. — A former Hechinger employee filed sexual harassment charges against Hechinger Co. and its senior vp-store operations, Gary Mercer, last month.

The charges, filed in circuit court here on March 16, allege that Mercer sexually harassed Deborah Savoie, a former Hechinger employee when she worked at the company in 1992 and 1993, and

again later when she was an employee of a vendor doing business with Hechinger.

The document charges Mercer and Hechinger with two counts each, including assault and battery and negligent hiring and detention of Mercer. Savoie seeks damages of \$5 million on each count.

The suit also contains a copy of a letter to John Hechinger Jr. dated June 25, 1994, from another former employee,

Tami Brown Schanbacher, alleging sexual harassment against Mercer. The filing infers that the company knew of Mercer's alleged actions and did nothing about them.

Hechinger cfo W. Clark McClelland said on March 22 he is aware of the suit, but that Hechinger has not yet been served with documents. He said he couldn't comment on the suit because it is in litigation.

Hechinger
- Savoie