

Press Release of April 10, 2006: New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, Shreveport Sun, Texarkana Gazette, Shreveport Times

Please state the paramount effects of what this ruling says to corporations in the south and nationwide. Mark Chadick stated after the verdict was made known to him that it would send the message that "you can't treat people that way anymore..."

On Thursday April 6, 2005, a Federal Court Jury in Shreveport, Louisiana entered a verdict for eight black railroad workers of the Kansas City Southern Railroad Co. diesel shop (mechanical department) in the amount of one million dollars in punitive damages, to punish and deter KCS for continuing in illegal misconduct, encouraging a racially hostile work environment in Shreveport, La.

The plaintiffs were jointly represented by S. Reed Morgan of Morgan and Chadick of Comfort, Tx, & Pine Bluff, Ark., and Gregory Paul, the Pierce Law Firm, Pittsburgh, Pa. The jury found the Kansas City Southern Railroad Company encouraged and tolerated a hostile work environment in the rail car and locomotive shops at the Shreveport Terminal. The railroad workers presented five days of evidence that KCS intentionally engendered racial hostility, thereby violating the working men's civil rights under Federal Laws prohibiting a racially hostile work environment. The men presented testimony under cross examination of the CEO, Michael Haverty and two vice presidents that promoted a Ku Klux Klansman to assistant shop superintendent, knowing he had been convicted of a felony in 1992 for Ku Klux Klan activities. The former Klansman and supervisor worked from 1994-2002 at the facility. The men showed the existence of two hangmen nooses at the KCS rail shops, one that hung for several years, and another at the Vicksburg, Ms. shop, and supervisors used racially derogatory epitaphs, including calling the evening shift the Coon Shift. Supervisors parked daily by the Oil House where the noose was hung in the Shreveport Terminal.

Note: In an earlier release, on 4-8-06, it is stated promotions denied. Please omit. This is an error on my behalf. Jeanene Deen