



## Lord & Taylor sued over lunch pay

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A Cambridge woman is suing Lord & Taylor, alleging the department store chain failed to pay her for all the hours she worked at its Boston store.

The proposed class-action lawsuit claims Lord & Taylor violated state wage laws by short-changing Lanelle Swanson's paycheck when she didn't take her lunch break or full lunch break.

"Lord & Taylor automatically deducts an hour of lunch for all of its sales associates, so that even if they don't take lunch or take a shorter lunch . . . they still lose an hour's pay," Shannon Liss-Riordan, Swanson's attorney, said.

Swanson worked at Lord & Taylor from 2006 to last April, according to the lawsuit filed in Middlesex Superior Court yesterday.

"This is an issue that is unfortunately not uncommon among companies that use timekeeping systems where they automatically deduct for breaks," Liss-Riordan said. "(It) tripped up Wal-Mart in a major case that was settled about a year ago."

A judge last year approved a settlement in which Wal-Mart agreed to pay \$40 million to 90,000 current and former Bay State workers after allegedly withholding their wages and cutting short or denying their breaks.

New York-based Lord & Taylor, which is owned by NRDC Equity Partners, could not be reached for comment.

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