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Nanny Sues Labor Figure, Alleges Abuse

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A director of labor relations for the city Department of Education is being sued by her former nanny for abusing labor laws. She is accused of paying the childcare worker less than the minimum wage and forcing her to work overtime without pay.

The nanny contends that Michelle Jung, who handles labor re-

lations for school facilities, pushed her to work more than 10 hours a day, six days a week, for paltry pay, and then fired her when she got sick on the job in June 2006.

"It was an unjust firing," the nanny, Silvia Medina, said.

Ms. Medina said she is a Mexican immigrant who had lived in the city for two years when she was first hired through a Queens-based agency to care for Ms. Jung's newborn in June 2002. Once Ms. Medina began working for Ms. Jung and her husband, John McCullough, who runs a Korean import business based in New Jersey, they allegedly began piling on cleaning and other tasks in addition to her nanny duties, according to the court papers.

Ms. Medina is suing for overtime and unpaid wages, but the lawsuit did not specify Ms. Medina's hourly pay. Ms. Jung and Mr. McCullough did not return a phone message seeking comment, and Department of Education representatives said they were unaware of the lawsuit, which was filed yesterday.

Ms. Medina said she was hoping her lawsuit would help other domestic workers by increasing support in the state Legislature for a Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights.

The Bill of Rights, which would set the minimum wage for domestic workers at \$14 an hour, has failed to pass before. But advocates said they hope Ms. Medina's case would give the bill a boost next year.