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Google Express sued over employee-contractor distinction



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A client represented by Boston lawyer Shannon Liss-Riordan last week sued Google for allegedly misclassifying workers for its Google Express service as independent contractors.

Anna Coorey, a Haverhill resident who said in court documents that she worked as a courier for Google Express for nearly a year, accused Google Inc. and the courier company Beavex Inc. of depriving her and other couriers of wages. It's the latest of [a string of lawsuits](#) Liss-Riordan has filed against companies that use independent contractors to provide their services, including the car service Uber.

In her lawsuit filed Friday in Suffolk Superior Court, Coorey alleged she was "subject to control by Google," which required her to wear a uniform with Google logos, work in four-hour shifts, assent to GPS monitoring, and follow scripts when interacting with customers. Those factors chip away at her assigned status as an "independent" contractor, the case argues.

Coorey said in the suit that she and other drivers were paid a flat rate of \$50 for each shift that didn't vary depending on how far she drove or how many packages she delivered. She was responsible for paying for the upkeep on her own car.

"The employers are shifting the expenses of running a business onto the workers," Liss-Riordan said.

Google and Beavex didn't immediately reply to requests for comment.

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