

# Jury Awards \$21 Million to Hotel Dishwasher After She Was Forced to Work on Sundays

A federal jury in Miami set a \$21.5 million verdict for a Haitian immigrant in a religious accommodation case who lost her job at a Conrad Hotel because she would not work on Sundays because of religious beliefs.

*The Washington Post* **reports** that Marie Jean Pierre informed the hotel when she was hired about a decade ago that she was a missionary for the Soldiers of Christ Church. Most of the time the hotel allowed her to have Sundays off, but in 2015 a kitchen manager started insisting that she work on Sundays.

“Pierre’s attorney, Marc Brumer, said the hotel had an obligation to ‘reasonably accommodate’ their employees’ religious beliefs – and argued they could have easily done so for Pierre. Instead, he said, they charged her with absenteeism and fired her,” writes the *Post*’s **Amy B. Wang**.

A cap on punitive damages will limit the payout to about \$300,000 if the verdict is upheld.

**Read the *Post*’s article.**