

## Westin Times Square Hotel baker awarded \$3M by federal jury because hotel spied on him

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A hotel baker who claimed he was tormented with vile taunts and even physically abused at work was awarded \$3 million by a federal jury Wednesday.

But [Moises Mendez's](#) tale of being mocked for stomach scars and his ethnicity at the [Westin Times Square Hotel](#) isn't what swayed jurors.

Instead, they decided he deserved a whole lot of dough because after he complained, the hotel installed a hidden camera over his work station. The jury awarded Mendez \$1 million for pain and suffering and ordered Westin and parent company [Starwood Hotels](#) to pay him \$2 million in punitive damages. "It is like a big building has been lifted from my shoulders," Mendez said. "They spied on me and wanted to find ways to get rid of me. It shows what I went through just trying to do my job."

He still works at the hotel and plans to show up to work today, his lawyer [Ken Thompson](#) said.

"This hotel spied on a man who dared complain about how he was treated. That's something that shouldn't happen in [America](#)," said Mendez' lawyer Ken Thompson.

Starwood's lawyers said they would seek to have the verdict overturned. At first, management said the camera was supposed to protect Mendez from harassment and was approved by his union. They later corrected the statement to note the union never signed-off on the camera.

"If fact, when we found out about it, we demanded that it be removed immediately, and it was," said [John Turchiano](#), a spokesman for the [New York Hotel Trades Council](#).

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