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Contact: Jennie Anderson: 415-986-1400

Brad Seligman: 510-693-1645

**NATIONWIDE SEX DISCRIMINATION HIRING CLASS ACTION FILED
AGAINST DEERE & CO AND JOHN DEERE LANDSCAPES, INC.**

(SAN FRANCISCO, CA—March 16, 2011) A Northern California woman today filed a nationwide class action in the United States District Court in San Francisco charging that Deere & Co. and its landscaping division discriminate against women who seek entry level customer service, sales and shipping and receiving positions. *Artis v. Deere & Co.* (Civ 10-05289 WHA). The suit charges Deere, a leading farm, agricultural equipment and landscaping company with over 50,000 employees, with systematically denying such jobs to women and discouraging them from even applying. It seeks an order requiring Deere to adopt nondiscriminatory policies, and for lost pay and punitive damages.

The plaintiff, Holly Artis, 33, of Modesto, California, applied for a customer service position at Deere's landscaping facility in Livermore, California. Despite having over five years of sales and service experience, she was told that Deere "frowned upon hiring women," and was denied the job. She was falsely told that the position had been cancelled, when in fact it was given to a man with less experience.

"They lied to me," Artis said. "I was qualified for the job but they just didn't want a woman. That isn't fair and it should be stopped."

Deere is a male-dominated company—nearly all senior executives and most hiring managers are male. All 19 executives in the equipment and landscaping divisions are male. Women hold only 2.2% of sales jobs at larger landscaping facilities, even

though the industry average is over 50%. In California, women hold only 1.6% of the customer sales and service position for which Artis applied.

“Deere should not be allowed to continue to deny qualified women employment or discourage them from applying because of their gender,” says co-lead counsel Jennie Lee Anderson of the San Francisco law firm, Andrus Anderson LLP.

www.AndrusAnderson.com. “Female applicants must be given the opportunity to compete on a level playing field—that’s the law and it’s also the right thing to do.”

“Deere gets away with giving female applicants the run-around because they rarely advertise or post openings for these jobs” explains co-lead counsel Brad Seligman of the Oakland firm, Lewis, Feinberg, Lee, Renaker & Jackson, P.C.

www.LewisFeinberg.com “Hiring managers have few objective hiring standards—instead, they rely on their subjective decisions, made in this traditionally male oriented firm.” Seligman is lead counsel in the landmark Wal-Mart class action that will be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court on March 29, 2011.

The class is also represented by Jocelyn D. Larkin of the Berkeley-based non-profit firm, Impact Fund. www.impactfund.org.

For further information: www.deereclass.com