

Apple Manager's Interrogation Ruled Illegal by US Labor Board



In a significant ruling involving Apple Inc., the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) found that a manager at an Apple retail store in Manhattan violated U.S. labor law. The ruling, the first of its kind concerning the tech giant, determined that the manager's questioning of an employee regarding their support for a union campaign constituted unlawful interrogation. This decision was based on the employee raising concerns about pay during a group meeting.

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Violation of Labor Laws Confirmed

The NLRB affirmed the ruling by an administrative judge, further asserting that Apple had unlawfully prohibited workers at the World Trade Center store from distributing union flyers. Despite Apple's denial of any wrongdoing, the company must adhere to the NLRB's decision. It has the option to appeal the ruling to a federal appeals court.

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Union Efforts and Ongoing Complaints

Unionization efforts within Apple have gained momentum, with at least two stores in the U.S. unionizing since 2022. Unions are actively working to organize several other locations, including the World Trade Center store. However, the journey has not been without its challenges, as workers and unions have filed numerous complaints with the NLRB alleging various forms of unlawful conduct by Apple.

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Legal Ramifications and Next Steps

While Apple contests these allegations, the NLRB's ruling underscores the importance of adhering to labor laws. In this case, the company's argument that the manager's intent was not to threaten the worker was dismissed by the board. As a result of the ruling, Apple is required to post notices at the store acknowledging the violation of labor laws and informing workers of their legal rights.