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## Work Week

A Special News Report About Life  
On the Job — and Trends  
Taking Shape There

DON'T FIB about the job when recruiting, some courts say.

That's the lesson in a growing body of court decisions involving jobs that allegedly turned out to be less than promised. In 1995, MicroTouch Systems Inc., Methuen, Mass., hired Alisa Behne from competitor Elo Touchsystems Inc., Fremont, Calif. Ms. Behne says she was forced to share the sales-director job with her predecessor. Later she was reassigned to a smaller division and soon fired for not doing her job. Earlier this year, a California jury awarded Ms. Behne \$2.6 million. MicroTouch, which is appealing, says the job wasn't shared.

Four years ago, the El-Jay unit of Cedarapids Inc., Raytheon Co.'s rock-crushing division, recruited workers to its Eugene, Ore., plant. A year later the plant closed. Four of the new hires sued, alleging the company had decided before it hired them to close the plant. In January, a federal appellate court reversed a lower court's ruling that the company had no disclosure obligation and ordered a trial on alleged misrepresentations.

*"The courts are saying [employees] can't be treated like this," says Joseph Garrison, an employment lawyer in New Haven, Conn.*