

PUBLISHED IN ASSOCIATED PRESS

May 5, 2011

CALIFORNIA GAS STATION OWNERS SUE BP SUBSIDIARY

The Associated Press wire service reported on May 5, 2011, that more than 100 gas station owners have filed suit in Los Angeles Superior Court against BP's California subsidiary alleging more than \$200 million in damages. The suit claims that BP forced the owners to purchase faulty electronic payment systems that sometimes overcharged and sometimes overcharged customers, and occasionally crashed, leaving the stations inoperable for hours on end. The suit was filed by Los Angeles attorney Mark Geragos and Brian Kabateck of Kabateck Brown Kellner. The suit was also brought against PayPoint Electronic Payments Systems and Retalix. The suit also alleges that BP manipulates gas prices, takes kickbacks from food and drink vendors, and forces dealers to sell gasoline gift cards with no compensation.

"The Retalix program has been an unmitigated disaster for plaintiffs," according to the suit.