

# RACISM AND CIVIL RIGHTS VIOLATION LOTUS BANK, NOVI VS. 2 ASIAN INDIAN CUSTOMERS



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[Novi-based Lotus Bank executives bashed Indians, lawsuit says | Detroit Free Press | freep.com](#)

[patch.com](#) Apr 05, 2013

[Lotus Bank Protestors Urge Customers to Close Accounts After Allegations of Racism - Plymouth-Canton...](#)

[detroitstar.com](#) Apr 10, 2013

[Novi-based Lotus Bank executives bashed Indians, lawsuit says | Detroit Star](#)

[Lotus Bank Customers to Protest Racial Discrimination Today - Plymouth-Canton, MI Patch](#)

2 Asian Indians, Jasit Takhar and Anil Gupta, have filed a lawsuit against Lotus Bank in Novi in Oakland County Circuit Court. The lawsuit names bank president Neal Searle, executive vice presidents Richard Bauer and John Westerheide and charges them with violation of civil rights by creating a hostile business environment.

Supporting documents included emails exchanged between president and CEO Neal Searle and Lotus Bank vice presidents Richard Bauer and John Westerheide that included the following:

- In May 2010, Bauer emailed Westerheide asking whether "any of the chimps from Lotus called him" in reference to Indian board members.
- in June 2010, Bauer received an email asking if he wanted tickets to an Indian singer's concert at the Pontiac Silverdome for his "Indian peeps." He responded, "Only if someone is going to detonate an incendiary device; if so, I will get tix for all of them."
- In July 2010, Bauer sent an email stating, "I will leave you with this sage advice from General Custer, and most Pakistanis ... the only good Indian is a dead Indian."



Neal Searle, CEO,  
Lotus Bank

Attorneys for Lotus Bank are asking for dismissal of the lawsuit; Liz Thomson, attorney (at Hertz Schramm, PC) for Takhar and Patel has requested for a trial and jury.

We're seeking support from civil rights, social justice, and community organizations to support this lawsuit. A hearing has been scheduled on Aug.. Your presence at the hearing will make a huge difference.

We need your support.

For more information, please contact Prasanna Vengadam [prasanna.vengadam@gmail.com](mailto:prasanna.vengadam@gmail.com)

**Time 9am  
Pontiac Courthouse, Pontiac, MI  
Wednesday, August 21, 2013**



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