

## Business

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### Ex-worker sues D.R. Horton over use of software

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A former employee of D.R. Horton Inc. is suing the Fort Worth-based home builder, claiming that its San Antonio and Austin offices never paid him to use a software program he designed.

D.R. Horton executives did not return phone calls about the lawsuit.

According to the lawsuit filed in Bexar County District Court in January, Abraham Ledesma claims he designed a home pricing program called AbesWay while he was working in the Austin office of Continental Homes.

D.R. Horton later bought Continental Homes.

Ledesma said in the lawsuit that he gave test copies of AbesWay to the Austin and San Antonio offices of Continental Homes in the late 1990s and to the Atlanta office of D.R. Horton in 2001 when they expressed interest in buying the software.

After negotiations collapsed with each office, Ledesma claims he told company executives to stop using his software "unless they paid him," according to the lawsuit. Executives of both builders told him they would stop using the product.

Ledesma said he reiterated his request when he left D.R. Horton in 2003. But he later learned that D.R. Horton employees were using his software in May 2006 in the Austin and San Antonio offices, according to the lawsuit.

Ledesma is asking the court to order D.R. Horton to pay him \$5 million in damages for using his personal property to enrich the company without compensating him, his attorney Adam Loewy said.

"We have reason to believe that D.R. Horton is using AbesWay nationwide, based on negotiations he had to purchase it at the national office," Loewy said.

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