

In Brookfield hotels, lawsuit over worker recruitment stirs up dirt

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Brookfield — In an industry that thrives in an atmosphere of elegance and grace, Brookfield's two largest hotels are getting down and dirty.

A battle between the posh Sheraton Hotel and neighboring

Embassy Suites Hotel has erupted into a public brawl involving allegations of predatory competition and employee raiding.

In a lawsuit filed in Waukesha County, Embassy Suites charges that Sheraton managers covertly enlisted supervisors of the Em-

bassy's housekeeping staff to distribute job applications and recruit defectors en masse.

One Embassy housekeeper recalls being summoned into a meeting in the hotel's laundry room for a clandestine Sheraton recruiting session.

The Sheraton fired back that

Embassy managers have "unclean hands," a legal term that, roughly translated, suggests the Embassy has engaged in sleazy dealings of its own.

Industry insiders say the Brookfield brouhaha surpasses any competitive skirmish they have seen before, with the possi-

ble exception of antics in the dog-eat-dog world of New York City.

That this donnybrook is being waged in an upscale community promoted as Milwaukee's "suburb with style" makes the episode all the more surprising —

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