Hedge fund's legal mess over nude pix

BY OREN YANIV DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

TOPLESS HONEYMOON photos of the wife of a hedge fund honcho have sparked a steamy legal war - and accusations of blackmail.

The pictures were taken in July 2008 when financier Russell Abrams and his wife Sandra took a trip to Italy, where she posed barebreasted on a private boat.

Five months later. Abrams asked assistant Danielle Pecile to get prints of the pics made from a CD.

Pecile filed a complaint with the Equal Em-

ployment Opportunity Commission in June, claiming sex discrimination and harassment at Titan Capital, which Abrams owns.

The 26-year-old wrote that when she gave the prints to her boss, "he smirked callously. taking pleasure in my embarrassment and discomfort."

Former secretary Cristina Culicea, 27, joined in the complaint. Their lawyer, Douglas Wigdor, said Abrams had Culicea make prints of him and his wife naked in a tub.

She didn't save the CD, he said. But the honeymoon snaps were attached to copies of the EEOC complaint.

Enter Sandra Abrams, who has slapped both women with a suit this week demanding return of the pictures and suggesting they were being used in a shakedown.

Her suit says that just before the EEOC complaint was filed, Pecile and Culicea's lawyer demanded \$2.5 million to settle the sex harassment claim and "resolve this matter amicably without the need for a lawsuit and the media coverage that will certainly be generated."

Sandra Abrams, who is seven months pregnant, claims in the suit that her hubby had no idea Pecile looked at the topless images. She's asking for \$1 million in damages.

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