

# Wigdor LLP Represents Guzel Ganieva in Defamation and Sexual Violence Lawsuit against Leon Black

June 2, 2021 • News & Press

On Tuesday, June 1, 2021, Wigdor LLP filed a lawsuit on behalf of Guzel Ganieva against Defendant Leon Black, co-founder and former CEO of Apollo Global Management, asserting claims of defamation, defamation *per se*, intentional infliction of emotional distress and gender-motivated violence.

As detailed in the Complaint filed in New York State Supreme Court, Mr. Black intentionally defamed Ms. Ganieva when he issued a false statement to Bloomberg and other media in which, *inter alia*, he characterized his abusive and violent sexual relationship with Ms. Ganieva as a “consensual affair” and claimed to have been “extorted by Ms. Ganieva for many years.”

As alleged, Mr. Black’s public statement could not be further from the truth. The Complaint outlines how Mr. Black wielded his money, power and influence to coerce Ms. Ganieva into a violent and abusive sexual relationship for years. As alleged, when Ms. Ganieva tried to free herself from the sadistic cycle, he intimidated her into silence by, *inter alia*, threatening her with criminal charges and pressuring her to sign a non-disclosure agreement.

Ms. Ganieva is represented by Wigdor LLP Partner [Jeanne M. Christensen](#) and Associate [Lindsay M. Goldbrum](#).

[Statement from Jeanne M. Christensen, Partner at Wigdor LLP:](#)

“This case is the epitome of why #MeToo exists. In textbook fashion, men with wealth, power and an army of elite lawyers continue to escape accountability for their heinous acts by twisting the legal system to penalize their victims for speaking up. Sadly, until prosecutors consistently go after sexual predators that wrongly accuse sexual assault victims of extortion, it is clear that #MeToo has many miles to go.”

[Read the Full Complaint Here](#)

## Axios

“Private equity giant Leon Black accused of sexual assault”

June 2, 2021

[Read PDF](#)

[Read Online](#)

Wigdor LLP Represents Guzel Ganieva in  
Defamation and Sexual Violence Lawsuit against  
Leon Black

**Bloomberg**

*"Leon Black Sued by Woman Who Alleges Defamation, Sexual Violence"*

June 1, 2021

[Read PDF](#)

[Read Online](#)

**Bloomberg**

*"Leon Black Accuser Asks Court to Toss His Counterclaims"*

August 6, 2021

[Read PDF](#)

[Read Online](#)

**Bloomberg**

*"Leon Black Accused of Flying Model to Epstein Home for Sex Acts"*

August 9, 2021

[Read PDF](#)

[Read Online](#)

**Business Insider**

*"A woman is suing former Apollo CEO Leon Black, saying he raped her, paid her \$1 million, and falsely accused her of extortion"*

June 1, 2021

[Read PDF](#)

[Read Online](#)

**Business Insider**

*"A Russian model claims Wall Street billionaire Leon Black flew her to Palm Beach to 'satisfy the sex needs' of Jeffrey Epstein"*

August 10, 2021

[Read PDF](#)

[Read Online](#)

**CNBC**

*"Woman's lawsuit accuses Leon Black of defamation, violent behavior"*

June 2, 2021

[Read PDF](#)

[Read Online](#)

**The Daily Beast**

*"Ex-Model Who Accused Epstein Pal Leon Black of Sex Abuse Sues Him for Defamation"*

June 1, 2021

[Read PDF](#)

[Read Online](#)

**The Daily Beast**

Wigdor LLP Represents Guzel Ganieva in  
Defamation and Sexual Violence Lawsuit against  
Leon Black

*"Billionaire Leon Black Accused of Flying Model to Epstein's Palm Beach Pad for Sex"*

August 9, 2021

[Read PDF](#)

[Read Online](#)

### **The Daily Mail**

*"Wall Street billionaire and former Jeffrey Epstein associate Leon Black is accused of being a 'violent and sadistic' sexual predator by a former model who claims he raped her before coercing her into signing an NDA"*

June 1, 2021

[Read PDF](#)

[Read Online](#)

### **The Daily Mail**

*"Russian model claims billionaire Leon Black flew her to Jeffrey Epsteins mansion for sex attempt"*

August 10, 2021

[Read PDF](#)

[Read Online](#)

### **Dealbreaker**

*"Leon Black, Jeffrey Epstein Have More In Common Than An Interest In Tax Efficiency"*

June 2, 2021

[Read PDF](#)

[Read Online](#)

### **Financial Times**

*"Ex-Apollo CEO Leon Black raped and harassed Russian model, lawsuit alleges"*

June 1, 2021

[Read PDF](#)

[Read Online](#)

### **Forbes**

*"Woman Accusing Billionaire Leon Black Of Sexual Abuse Asks For Texts Recordings He Claims Show His Innocence"*

July 20, 2021

[Read PDF](#)

[Read Online](#)

### **Forbes**

*"Apollo Billionaire Leon Black Tried To Make Russian Model Have Sex With Jeffrey Epstein Court, Filing Claims"*

August 9, 2021

[Read PDF](#)

[Read Online](#)

**Hyperallergic**

*"MoMA Trustee Leon Black Accused of Defamation and Sexual Abuse in Lawsuit"*

June 2, 2021

[Read PDF](#)

[Read Online](#)

**Institutional Investor**

*"Leon Black Said He Was Being Extorted. Now He Is Facing a Lawsuit."*

June 1, 2021

[Read PDF](#)

[Read Online](#)

**Law & Crime**

*"Ex-Hedge Fund Exec Who Resigned Amid Jeffrey Epstein Scandal Dubbed a 'Predator' in Lawsuit"*

June 2, 2021

[Read PDF](#)

[Read Online](#)

**Law360**

*"Former Apollo CEO Accused Of Rape, Defamation In NY Suit"*

June 1, 2021

[Read PDF](#)

[Read Online](#)

**Miami Herald**

*"Hedge fund guru tied to Jeffrey Epstein scandal hit with lawsuit over alleged hush money"*

June 1, 2021

[Read PDF](#)

[Read Online](#)

**New York Daily News**

*"Billionaire investor Leon Black sued for defamation by woman claiming he forced her into 'sadistic sexual acts'"*

June 1, 2021

[Read PDF](#)

[Read Online](#)

**New York Daily News**

*"Billionaire investor Leon Black tried to make woman have sex with him and Jeffrey Epstein: Suit"*

August 9, 2021

[Read PDF](#)

[Read Online](#)

**New York Magazine**

*"Leon Black Tried to Sex-Traffic Russian Model for Epstein: Lawsuit"*

August 9, 2021

[Read PDF](#)

[Read Online](#)

**New York Post**

*"Leon Black defamed accuser by claiming she extorted him, suit alleges"*

June 1, 2021

[Read PDF](#)

[Read Online](#)

**New York Post**

*"Leon Black flew model to Florida to have sex with Jeffrey Epstein, lawsuit claims"*

August 9, 2021

[Read PDF](#)

[Read Online](#)

**New York Law Journal**

*"Lawsuit Accuses Former Apollo Global Management CEO Leon Black of Defamation, Sexual Violence"*

June 1, 2021

[Read PDF](#)

[Read Online](#)

**Reuters**

*"Woman's lawsuit accuses Leon Black of defamation, violent behavior"*

June 1, 2021

[Read PDF](#)

[Read Online](#)

**Reuters**

*"Russian model suing Leon Black alleges billionaires ties to Jeffrey Epstein"*

August 10, 2021

[Read PDF](#)

[Read Online](#)

**Telegraph**

*"Leon Black's fightback over rape allegations grips Wall Street"*

July 24, 2021

[Read PDF](#)

[Read Online](#)

**Town & Country Magazine**

*"Leon Black in Winter"*

June 3, 2021

[Read PDF](#)

[Read Online](#)

**Vanity Fair**

*"You Have to Let Them Do Whatever They Want": Billionaire Leon Black Flew a Russian Model to Meet Jeffrey Epstein, New Legal Filing Claims"*

August 9, 2021

[Read PDF](#)

[Read Online](#)

**The Wall Street Journal**

*"Leon Black Accused of Defamation and Sexual Violence in Lawsuit"*

June 1, 2021

[Read PDF](#)

[Read Online](#)

**Wall Street Journal**

*"Leon Black Accuser Amends Lawsuit Alleging Ties With Jeffrey Epstein"*

August 9, 2021

[Read PDF](#)

[Read Online](#)

**Washington Examiner**

*"Former hedge fund titan accused of rape, intimidation, and hush money payments in defamation lawsuit"*

June 2, 2021

[Read PDF](#)

[Read Online](#)