

Billionaire Leon Black Sued for Raping Autistic Teen at Epstein's Home

trendydigests.com/2023/07/27/billionaire-leon-black-sued-for-raping-autistic-teen-at-epsteins-home

July 27, 2023

A woman who has Down syndrome and autism has filed a federal lawsuit accusing billionaire Leon Black of raping her when she was 16 years old in 2002 at the Manhattan townhouse of Jeffrey Epstein, the disgraced financier who was convicted of sex trafficking and died in prison in 2019.



Book case of old books.. Original public domain image from [Wikimedia Commons](#).

The woman, identified as Jane Doe, claims she was trafficked by Epstein and his associate Ghislaine Maxwell, who was sentenced to 20 years in prison last year for recruiting and grooming teenage girls to be sexually abused by Epstein. She alleges that she was sexually abused by Epstein, Maxwell and others, including Black, who co-founded the investment firm Apollo Global Management and was an associate of Epstein's.

According to the lawsuit, which was filed on Tuesday in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, the plaintiff was preparing to give Black a massage when he pinned her down and penetrated her with "adult toys" in an attack that left her bleeding. "The violent and sadistic nature of Black's rape left an indelible mark on her, both physically and psychologically," the lawsuit states.

It also says that Epstein later found her crying, but refused her request to see a doctor, saying Maxwell would take care of her instead. The plaintiff says she was born with mosaic Down syndrome and has a “developmental age” of around 12 years old.

Black, who stepped down as CEO of Apollo Global Management earlier this year after an independent review found he paid Epstein \$158 million for tax advice between 2012 and 2017, has denied the allegations and called them “frivolous and sanctionable”.

Susan Estrich, an attorney for Black, said in a statement that her client had never met the plaintiff and accused the law firm behind the suit, Wigdor LLP, of having a “vendetta” against Black related to multiple cases. “These vicious and defamatory lies, masquerading as allegations, have been intentionally manufactured by the Wigdor law firm as part of the firm’s vendetta against Mr. Black for vigorously and successfully defending himself over the past two years,” Estrich said.

Black has faced other sexual abuse accusations in the past, which he has also denied, and has sought sanctions against Wigdor LLP for “wantonly filing complaints without reasonable investigation”. The law firm also represents Cheri Pierson, who filed a lawsuit in November 2022 alleging that Black raped her in Epstein’s townhouse in 2002. That case is ongoing.

The lawsuit is one of several civil cases related to Epstein’s sex trafficking network that have been filed under the Child Victims Act in New York, which extended the statute of limitations for survivors of childhood sexual abuse. The case is one of dozens that have been filed under New York’s Child Victims Act, which opened a window for survivors of childhood sexual abuse to sue their abusers regardless of how long ago the abuse occurred. The law expires on August 14.

Relevant articles:

- Lawsuit alleges billionaire Leon Black raped autistic teen at Epstein’s townhouse, NBC News, July 26, 2023
- Billionaire Leon Black accused of raping autistic teen in Jeffrey Epstein’s home: lawsuit, Fox Business, July 26, 2023
- Lawsuit accuses Leon Black of raping autistic teen at Jeffrey Epstein’s house, Washington Post, July 26, 2023
- Epstein associate Leon Black accused of raping autistic teen, New York Post, July 25, 2023

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