

## LOCAL

### Long Island man, 76, sues company for age discrimination after 'workforce reduction' of one man

Robert Dobkin is filing a lawsuit in Brooklyn Federal Court seeking \$700,000 for overtime pay from U.S. Seal Manufacturers, where he worked since 1962.

BY [JOHN MARZULLI](#) / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

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Robert Dobkin (right) and his attorney Douglas Wigdor have filed a law suit against U.S. Seal Manufacturers claiming age discrimination.

A 76-year-old Long Island man is suing the company where he worked for more than 50 years after he was the only employee fired as part of a "reduction in workforce."

Robert Dobkin is filing an age discrimination lawsuit in Brooklyn Federal Court and seeking \$700,000 in overtime pay owed to him, said lawyer Douglas Wigdor.



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The company newsletter ran a headline 'Is That Guy 'Bob' Still There?' with a photo of Robert Dobkin, who had worked with the company for 51 years.

Dobkin was employed as a manager at U.S. Seal Manufacturers since 1962 moving with the company through the years from its offices in lower Manhattan to upstate New York and later to New Jersey.

A company newsletter in 2012 commemorated Dobkin's golden anniversary with the headline, "Is That Guy Bob Still There?" and acknowledged in the article that U.S. Seal "would be lost without him," and lauded his role in creating the company's catalogue, according to the complaint.



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Robert Dobkin's briefcase topped with a brochure that he originally designed for U.S. Seal Manufacturers.

His salary was \$99,000, but Dobkin claims he routinely worked 12-hour days without overtime compensation. "They used to joke that I worked half days - from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m.," Dobkin told the Daily News.

Dobkin was summoned by his boss to a meeting on Oct. 17 where he was handed a severance package and then escorted out of the building.

"After 51 years of dedicated service to his employer, it is hard to imagine a more blatant example of age

discrimination," Wigdor said.

The company's general manager did not return a call seeking comment.