Former sportscaster Warner Wolf, 80, sues Don Imus claiming the shock jock fired him from 'Imus in the Morning' radio show because of his age

Www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5397125/Broadcaster-Warner-Wolf-sues-Don-Imus-age-discrimination.html

Famed broadcaster Warner Wolf claims he was unlawfully fired from 'Imus in the Morning' because of his age and replaced with someone 30 years his junior, a discrimination lawsuit against shock jock Don Imus states.

Wolf, now 80, was fired from the WABC sports radio show in late 2016 after working as a broadcaster on the show since 1996. He was replaced with Sid Rosenberg.

According Wolf's lawsuit, which was filed Thursday, Imus 'routinely made inappropriate comments' about Wolf's age and joked that it was time to put Wolf 'out to pasture' and 'shoot him with an elephant dart gun'.

Warner Wolf (left) is suing Don Imus (left) for age discrimination

Wolf, 80, claims in a lawsuit that Imus fired him from 'Imus in the Morning' in late 2016 because of his age and also refused to pay him the severance he was owed. Wolf is pictured above at the Joe Torre Safe at Home Foundation gala on November 11, 2010 in New York City

Sid Rosenberg took Wolf's place on the WABC morning show in 2016

Wolf said the comments were evidence of discriminatory intent.

The radio broadcaster, who made famous the phrase 'let's go to the videotape', also accused Imus and the company of refusing to pay him 26 weeks of severance pay, amounting to \$97,500.

Wolf's lawyer Douglas H. Wigdor said in December 2015 Wolf began broadcasting from his home in Naples, Florida instead of the New York studio, according to the <u>New York Post</u>.

At the time, Wolf was making \$195,000. Wigdor said Wolf was due 26 weeks of pay if he was ever let go.

In 2016, Wigdor said his client agreed to a pay cut to \$80,000. The lawsuit claims that WABC insisted upon the lower salary so Wolf could continue working from Naples.

Wolf said the severance pay remained part of the new deal and it had been agreed upon via email.

Before Wolf's new agreement could go into affect, however, the company hired Rosenberg and Wolf said he received an email from Imus telling him that working from Naples was not working.

'We tried it,' Imus allegedly wrote. 'It sucks. If you're in studio in New York ... it's terrific. Anything else is not.'

Wolf claims prior to that email, Imus nor the company had ever expressed dissatisfaction with him working from home. He said they also refused to pay his severance.

'Warner is seeking to hold the individuals accountable for their unlawful actions,' Wigdor said.

The lawsuit also names three executives with WABC and its parent company Cumulus Media as defendants. It seeks unspecified punitive and compensatory damages.

Imus and Wolf have long been broadcast fixtures in New York and nationally.

Wolf worked in the 1970s for 'Monday Night Baseball,' then on ABC, and has worked for several local TV and radio stations. He frequently said 'let's go to the videotape' while introducing sports highlights.

'Imus in the Morning' will go off air on March 29, Imus said announcing his retirement.

Wolf, who made famous the phrase 'let's go to the videotape', started working on 'Imus in the Morning' in 1996