Server sues over alleged rape by manager at Paul Sevigny's Soho club

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By Julia Marsh

A server at a swanky Soho club owned by actress Chloe Sevigny's brother claims she was raped by a manager there — and that her boss dragged his feet over the allegations until she lawyered up, according to a new Manhattan lawsuit.

The bottle-service waitress claims Paul Sevigny, who owns Paul's Casablanca, took away her lucrative shifts after she reported the alleged October 2017 incident and then hired a fumbling investigator who botched the probe into her allegations.

It took the server five months to "work up the courage to inform the club's owners about the sexual assault," she says in her Manhattan Supreme Court suit.

"The decision to approach Paul Sevigny was made easier by the fact that his famous sister, actress Chloe Sevigny, is an outspoken supporter of women's rights who advocates for 'smashing the patriarchy," her suit says.

That left the woman "hopeful that the club would respond in an appropriate manner to her extremely serious complaint. Tragically, the club's response was anything but appropriate," the court filing says.

The plaintiff declined to comment through her attorney about whether she reported the alleged attack to police. There is no record of a criminal complaint, according to the NYPD.

The manager, who has since been fired, and Paul Sevigny did not immediately return requests for comment.

The plaintiff claims the manager slipped a date-rape drug into the glass of champagne she was sipping after her shift in the early morning hours of Oct. 8, 2017.

She only remembers flashes of what happened next, including the manager "having sexual intercourse with her from a rear-entry position," she says in the suit.

"The following afternoon [she] awoke in her apartment covered in blood, and with cuts and bruises all over her body," the suit says. "She was naked and had no recollection of how she got home."

She contacted co-workers who told her that when they left the Spring Street club that morning, she had stayed behind with the manager.

"Desperate to learn more about what had occurred [she] approached defendant ... within a couple of weeks to ask what he had done," she recounts in court papers. He "responded that he did not want 'any drama,' and he refused to discuss what he had done."

Court papers say the manager "also smugly indicated that he was impressed that [she] had even mustered the courage to approach him."

After she reported the alleged incident to her boss Paul Sevigny, she was moved to a different schedule while the manager got to keep the more profitable weekend shifts, the suit says.

Weeks later, the club hired an investigator who had no experience handling sexual assault cases, the suit claims. When the woman broke down in tears as she recounted the alleged assault, the investigator told her, "Please, I didn't want you to cry. I don't like your crying," according to court papers.

The manager was fired after the accuser hired a lawyer, the suit claims.

"This sort of conduct is exactly why many women who have been sexually assaulted or raped are afraid to come forward," said her attorney, Michael J. Willemin, a partner at Wigdor LLP.

<u>In an interview with the Daily Beast</u> in March, Chloe Sevigny, who starred on HBO's series "Big Love," cheered the #MeToo movement.

"Time's Up, Me Too, all that, yes," she said. "Smash the patriarchy. Anything that gives more power to the people, I'm all for it."

Chloe Sevigny's reps did not respond to messages.