

Ex-students say John Jay College, professors created a 'cesspool of sexism'

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Two former students are suing John Jay College of Criminal Justice and four professors, saying they created a “cesspool of sexism, misogyny, sexual harassment and illegal drug use” — allegations first revealed by The Post.

Claudia Cojocaru, 40, and Naomi Haber, 25, filed a federal civil-rights suit in Manhattan late Monday night seeking unspecified damages for discrimination and retaliation.

The federal complaint includes new accusations that veteran anthropology professor Ric Curtis plied Cojocaru with booze and sexually assaulted her in an area of the Manhattan campus known as “The Swamp.”

“John Jay must provide its students and faculty with an environment that is free from any form of sexual violence — period,” lawyer David Gottlieb said.

The suit comes less than a month after John Jay president Karol Mason announced that the school was moving to fire three professors over sexual harassment and misconduct claims.

Cojocarú and Haber's suit targets Curtis, Anthony Marcus, Barry Spunt and a former adjunct professor, Leonardo Dominguez.

The complaint repeats accusations reported by The Post in September, including that Marcus allegedly raped Haber in a Washington hotel room while they attended an academic conference in 2015.

It also alleges that in the summer of 2015, Curtis "encouraged Ms. Cojocarú to drink alcoholic beverages" in a seventh-floor suite of offices in John Jay's Annex on West 59th Street.

"Ms. Cojocarú suddenly began feeling dizzy and nauseous, and Mr. Curtis groped, touched and sexually assaulted her," the papers say.

The suite where it allegedly took place was dubbed "The Swamp" and a photo that's included in the filing shows Curtis in his office with what appears to be a marijuana "blunt" between his lips.

Curtis' lawyer, Robert Herbst, said that Cojocarú and Haber's "false allegations" were found to be "not credible" by Manhattan DA Cy Vance and that a John Jay investigator also cleared him.

Dominguez's lawyer, Carmen Jack Giordano, said his client "provided irrefutable evidence of the falsity of Ms. Haber's allegations" and filed a grievance over John Jay's probe.

Marcus said only, "I'm not talking to the press. Thank you."

John Jay spokesman Richard Relkin said, "John Jay will promptly, thoroughly, and fairly investigate any allegations of misconduct and hold accountable anyone — without exception — who is found to violate our policies."