

# Former Goldman Sachs VP Littleton says bank discriminated against him because he's gay

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Goldman Sachs Group Inc. has been sued by an ex-employee who claims the New York-based bank discriminated against him because he's gay.

According to a copy of the complaint, Goldman Sachs (NYSE: GS) allegedly fired former Vice President William Littleton in January due to his sexual orientation. The lawsuit was filed Wednesday in a New York state court.

Littleton, 31, is a 2010 Amherst College grad who went on to work as a Goldman analyst and eventually moved on to the firm's specialty solutions team within the so-called product strategy group.

Over the course of eight years, Littleton claims he received positive performance reviews but was subjected to demeaning comments and insults.

For instance, Littleton said he was excluded from a call with a Goldman client because "he sounded too gay."

Littleton, a Manhattan resident, is seeking unspecified compensation from Goldman Sachs plus punitive damages.

Patrick Scanlan, a Goldman Sachs spokesperson, did not immediately comment on the suit.

Littleton's legal advisor says this case underscores a larger cultural problem across Wall Street. David Gottlieb, a partner at Wigdor LLP, said:

Wall Street continues to struggle to create an environment that is inclusive and accepting of LGBTQ+ employees. Mr. Littleton's experiences demonstrate that Goldman Sachs in particular has failed to embrace this important responsibility. We intend to send a message to all businesses in New York, and Goldman in particular, that this type of treatment towards LGBTQ+ employees will not be tolerated.

Littleton is also being represented by Wigdor founding partner Douglas Wigdor and associate Julia Elmaleh-Sachs.