

Ex-Goldman Sachs VP told he 'sounded too gay' by co-workers sues firm

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By [Lia Eustachewich](#)

A gay vice president at Goldman Sachs claims his sexual orientation was the subject of “office fodder” — and that he was once excluded from a conference call because he “sounds too gay,” according to a lawsuit filed Wednesday.

William Littleton, 31, said he was abruptly fired from the financial giant after complaining to human resources about being mistreated for two years, his Manhattan Supreme Court complaint says.

Littleton worked at Goldman for eight years, most recently as a vice president within the product strategy group, and also served as one of the company’s highest-ranking LGBTQ advocate.

“Mr. Littleton was well aware that being openly gay at a financial institution could lead to discrimination and ridicule,” the suit says.

In March 2014, he said he was about to hop on a scheduled conference call with a client — but was booted at the last minute by the call’s moderator.

A colleague later explained that the moderator wanted Littleton dropped from the call because “he sounds too gay,” the complaint says.

When he flagged the comment to his supervisor, Sirion Skulpone, she brushed it off.

“That sucks,” Skulpone allegedly told him before ultimately deciding to notify employee relations about the incident because it would “look bad if she did not do something,” court papers allege.

Littleton said he decided not to take further action out of “fear of retaliation due to ER’s reputation for taking little action to support employees.”

The offensive comments allegedly continued a year later on the Monday after the LGBT Pride parade in Manhattan — a day Littleton scheduled to have off.

During a team meeting, one of his other bosses, Rachel Schnoll, allegedly wondered out loud, “Oh, Will’s not in? He must be hungover from Pride festivities.”

In 2016, Littleton's sexual orientation was dredged up again in a workplace quarrel with Skulpone, the suit says.

"What's wrong with you? Do you act this way because you're gay?" she allegedly asked him.

After filing a discrimination complaint with employee relations last year, Littleton claims he was retaliated against with a negative annual review by Schnoll and Skulpone, who said his "performance has been inconsistent."

Then, he was fired altogether due to what they claimed were "performance issues" that "manifested this year," the suit says.

"In short, Mr. Littleton was retaliated against for finally having the courage to pursue his complaints of discrimination internally with Goldman's ER," the complaint alleges.

Littleton is suing Goldman, Schnoll and Skulpone for unspecified damages.

"Wall Street continues to struggle to create an environment that is inclusive and accepting of LGBTQ+ employees," said David Gottlieb, one of the attorneys representing Littleton. "Mr. Littleton's experiences demonstrate that Goldman Sachs in particular has failed to embrace this important responsibility."

Goldman didn't immediately comment.

Schnoll and Skulpone didn't immediately return messages.