

A New York City woman is suing her ex-boyfriend, saying he had her followed and arrested on false charges after she dumped him

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Michelle Mark Dec 31, 2019, 12:43 PM

- A New York City woman is accusing her ex-boyfriend of having her tailed by private investigators and arrested on false charges after she dumped him.
- Susanne Schafmeister sued Dr. John Kennedy in federal court on December 27, alleging he told her to write a check to herself from his own account and then later threatened to report her to the feds.
- Schafmeister was arrested last month and charged with a felony "based on Dr. Kennedy's false statements to the New York Police Department that she had stolen money from him," the lawsuit said.
- She's also suing NYU Langone, which employed Schafmeister, for its "apathetic approach" to her human resources complaints, Schafmeister's lawyer told Insider. NYU Langone told Insider it is investigating the situation.
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The ex-girlfriend and former office manager of a prominent New York City surgeon has sued him, alleging he had her tailed by private investigators and arrested on false charges after she broke up with him.

Susanne Schafmeister filed [the lawsuit](#) in federal court on December 27, accusing the orthopedic surgeon John Kennedy of harassing her, discriminating against her, and retaliating against her after she ended their relationship.

She also accused their employer, NYU Langone Health, of ignoring her complaints about Kennedy's conduct despite making multiple reports to the human resources department.

"As alleged in the complaint, NYU Langone took a completely apathetic approach to Dr. Kennedy's conduct," Schafmeister's lawyer, Michael Willemin, said in a statement to Insider. "Rather than protected the victim, NYU has chosen to stand by Dr. Kennedy, who is still employed by the Hospital and treating patients. This is completely unacceptable, particularly in the post #MeToo era, and we believe that a jury will agree."

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— John G. Kennedy, MD, FRCS (@drjohnkennedy) [July 1, 2019](#)

Kennedy did not immediately respond to Insider's request for comment.

A spokesperson for NYU Langone Health declined to speak to Insider about Schafmeister's allegations, citing an internal policy against commenting on pending matters, but confirmed that the institution is investigating the situation.

"We take seriously all internal allegations of inappropriate behavior and they have been and continue to be investigated," the spokesperson told Insider in a statement. "Likewise, we will defend the federal complaint in court at the appropriate time."

Schafmeister said in the lawsuit, reviewed by Insider, that she broke up with Kennedy in late 2018 due to "various lies and deceitful conduct on his part," adding that he had multiple other girlfriends and even married one of them — all while dating Schafmeister.

Schafmeister said when she confronted Kennedy about his marriage, Kennedy told her he'd only married the woman "because she had terminal cancer and her 'dying wish' was to marry him." The lawsuit said Schafmeister later learned that wasn't true.

The lawsuit said the couple broke up but agreed to continue working together at NYU Langone. But Schafmeister alleged that Kennedy became "extremely aggressive," especially after Schafmeister began dating another man, and began having her tailed by a private detective — even asking other doctors to notify the detective of when she left work.

Kennedy told Schafmeister to write a check to herself from his account, then threatened to call authorities, the lawsuit alleges

In one particularly jarring incident cited in the lawsuit, Schafmeister said she asked Kennedy for advice on how to receive a bonus she had been guaranteed.

The lawsuit says Kennedy responded by asking whether she could get the money from her new boyfriend. She alleged that Kennedy eventually instructed her to write herself a \$12,000 check from his private practice's business account.

Schafmeister said she did so, since she knew Kennedy had made similar bonus payments from the same account, but that Kennedy reacted bizarrely one week later when his accountant flagged the check Schafmeister had written to herself.

"Screaming and laughing at her in a disturbing and erratic manner, Dr. Kennedy feigned that Ms. Schafmeister had written the check without authorization and yelled, 'Now I've finally got you. You have committed a felony and I will report you to the feds. You will end up behind bars and I will have you deported,'" the lawsuit alleges.

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pic.twitter.com/SnhhPLDjse

— John G. Kennedy, MD, FRCS (@drjohnkennedy) May 14, 2019

Kennedy then demanded Schafmeister wire \$10,000 back to his private practice's account — though it said he "allowed" her to keep \$2,000 — and that Schafmeister grew "absolutely terrified and made the wire transfer that very same day," the lawsuit alleges.

The lawsuit alleges that Kennedy continued threatening to report her to authorities unless she rescinded her HR complaints about him, and after "multiple failed attempts to coerce Ms. Schafmeister ... he finally made good on his threats."

Schafmeister was arrested on November 18 and charged with a felony "based on Dr. Kennedy's false statements to the New York Police Department that she had stolen money from him," the lawsuit alleges.

Kennedy still appears to work at NYU Langone and is taking appointments on the medical network's website.