

Weinstein's accusers want federal judge to block global settlement

pagesix.com/2020/07/13/weinstein-accusers-want-federal-judge-to-block-global-settlement

By Rebecca Rosenberg

July 13, 2020

Six Harvey Weinstein accusers want a judge to block the proposed \$46.8 million global settlement against the convicted rapist and his production company, calling it one-sided and unfair.

A lawyer for the women, Douglas Wigdor, filed a motion Monday in Manhattan federal court opposing the deal touted last month by New York state Attorney General Letitia James, whose office helped negotiate it.

While \$19 million is earmarked for the victims, their attorney fees would first be deducted from that sum, leaving substantially less cash to divvy up, the attorney wrote.

He called the portrayal of the class-action settlement as a win a “cruel hoax” for a majority of the victims, who would get payouts of just \$10,000 to \$20,000 each.

“The main winners of this deal, if approved, are Harvey Weinstein, Robert Weinstein, and the ultra-wealthy former directors of the Weinstein Company, who will be absolved from liability, contribute nothing to the settlement,” Wigdor wrote.

The deal sets aside about \$15 million to cover the legal fees of Weinstein, his brother, Robert Weinstein, and The Weinstein Company’s board of directors, none of whom have to admit any wrongdoing or pay any money toward the settlement, the court papers say. Another \$7.3 million would go to the company’s creditors.

Weinstein and TWC’s insurance companies would pay a nominal amount toward the deal and be released from any future liability, Wigdor wrote.

He blasted the agreement as “the most one-sided and unfair class settlement in history.”

The attorney — who represents Rowena Chiu, Wedil David, Dominique Huett, Zelda Perkins, Kaja Sokola and Tarale Wulf — said Weinstein would not have to admit any wrongdoing.

On Friday, another accuser, model Zoe Brock, also filed a motion objecting to the deal.

US District Judge Alvin Hellerstein will make the final decision on whether the global settlement moves forward despite the objections.

Weinstein’s lawyer said that holding out for a more generous settlement is unrealistic.

“The practical reality is that those who opt-out of the settlement face an uncertain financial recovery, with The Weinstein Company bankrupt, and Mr. Weinstein defending legal matters, facing debt and judgments, frozen assets, marital and child support obligations, and a line of creditors looking for compensation,” said Imran Ansari. “Mr. Weinstein’s current and future financial state is far from healthy, not only has his personal liberty been taken from him, but his financial liberty as well.”

The disgraced movie mogul was sentenced to 23 years in prison in March after a Manhattan jury found him guilty of forcibly performing oral sex on former “Project Runway” staffer Miriam “Mimi” Haley in 2006 and raping hairstylist Jessica Mann in 2013.

More than 100 women have accused the former Hollywood rainmaker of sexual misconduct.