## Six Weinstein accusers urge judge to reject almost \$19M settlement

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Six women who accused <u>Harvey Weinstein</u> of sexual assault urged a judge to reject an almost \$19 million settlement between the movie producer, the board of his former studio and other accusers in a Monday filing.

The six accusers said in the Manhattan federal court filing obtained by The Hill that the settlement would give only \$10,000 to \$20,000 to accusers after subtracting legal fees and costs. The settlement announced on June 30 designates accusers to claim between \$7,500 to \$750,000 each.

The settlement would also end litigation by New York Attorney General Letitia James. The accusers argued that the settlement "absolved" Weinstein, his brother Bob Weinstein and the former directors of The Weinstein Company; gave them collectively about \$15 million; and made them the "main winners."

"Although the deal speaks about individual awards up to \$750,000 and the New York State Attorney General has bragged about a 'win' for victims, that is all a cruel hoax," the accusers said.

They said that if the settlement is approved, it would be "one of the most one-sided and unfair class settlements in history."

The settlement needs to be approved U.S. District Judge Alvin Hellerstein.

A lawyer for Weinstein Cos. declined to comment. James's office did not immediately return a request to comment.

Harvey Weinstein is currently serving a 23-year prison sentence after he was convicted of sexual assault and rape. The former movie mogul is appealing the charges and also faces rape and sexual assault charges in Los Angeles.

His sentencing came a little more than two years after the beginning of the "Me Too" movement, where women were inspired to come forward with stories of abuse at the hands of powerful men in several industries.