

Wigdor LLP Files Pregnancy Discrimination Lawsuit Against USA Today

November 21, 2019 • News & Press

On November 21, 2019, Wigdor LLP filed a pregnancy discrimination lawsuit on behalf of Serena Bhaduri against Gannett Co. Inc, the parent company of USA Today. Also named as Defendants in the lawsuit are Estee Cross and Anna Riddle, two of Ms. Bhaduri's former supervisors at USA Today. Ms. Bhaduri was a Digital Sales Director at USA Today beginning in October 2017 and quickly became a top performer, the Complaint alleges.

As set forth in the Complaint, Ms. Bhaduri returned from maternity leave in February 2019 after her infant son tragically passed away the month prior. As alleged, after Ms. Bhaduri returned from maternity leave following this tragic loss, Ms. Cross and Ms. Riddle cruelly accused her of having a "negative" attitude that was causing "low morale" among employees. Ms. Cross also began micromanaging Ms. Bhaduri and subjecting her to heightened and unwanted criticism, even though Ms. Bhaduri had quickly reestablished herself as an asset to USA today and began performing on par with or better than her peers, the Complaint alleges.

Moreover, Ms. Cross inexplicably stripped Ms. Bhaduri of many of her high-revenue clients just days before Ms. Bhaduri went on a one-month bereavement leave to which she was entitled in order to grieve her son's passing; as alleged, these clients were assigned to a newly hired, single male employee with no children.

While on bereavement leave, Ms. Bhaduri learned that she was pregnant again, according to the Complaint. As alleged, on August 13, 2019, just two weeks after disclosing her pregnancy to USA Today, Ms. Bhaduri was fired. Shockingly, Ms. Bhaduri was allegedly told that the termination was based on Ms. Bhaduri's "negative attitude" which was purportedly contributing to a "toxic" workplace. Ms. Bhaduri was also told that her termination was not related to performance.

Finally, the lawsuit alleges that USA Today fired another high-performing pregnant employee on Ms. Bhaduri's team just weeks after Ms. Bhaduri was fired.

"Suggesting that Ms. Bhaduri appeared to act more negative, as compared to how she acted before the death of her son, or that this was a problem for supervisors at USA Today is appalling," federal lawsuit filed today against [@USATODAY](https://t.co/EUCx0XPdMw) alleges. <https://t.co/EUCx0XPdMw> – Wigdor LLP (@WigdorLaw) [November 21, 2019](#)

Ms. Bhaduri is represented by Wigdor LLP Partner [Jeanne M. Christensen](#), Senior Associate [Tanvir H.](#)

Rahman and Associate [Taylor J. Crabill](#).

Statement from Jeanne M. Christensen, Partner at Wigdor LLP:

“USA Today’s mission is to ‘serve as a forum for better understanding and unity to help make the USA truly one nation.’ What happened to Ms. Bhaduri is the opposite of this stated mission. If USA Today wants to serve as a forum for meaningful discussion, it needs to get its own house in order and right this horrific wrong.”

[Read the Full Complaint Here](#)

The Daily Beast

“USA Today Harassed and Fired Pregnant Employee as She Grieved for Infant Son’s Death: Lawsuit”

November 21, 2019

[Read PDF](#)

[Read Online](#)

New York Post

“Mom whose child died fired from USA Today over ‘negative attitude’: suit”

November 21, 2019

[Read PDF](#)

[Read Online](#)

Fox Business

“USA Today exec fired for ‘negative attitude’ while grieving baby’s death: Lawsuit”

November 23, 2019

[Read PDF](#)

[Read Online](#)

CNN

“USA Today sued by fired digital sales director for pregnancy discrimination”

November 21, 2019

[Read PDF](#)

[Read Online](#)

Law360

“USA Today Shunned Grieving Mom, Pregnancy Bias Suit Says”

November 21, 2019

[Read PDF](#)

[Read Online](#)

Daily Telegraph

"Employee claims she was fired after the death of her baby son"

November 24, 2019

[Read PDF](#)

[Read Online](#)