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Goldman Sued for Pregnancy Bias by Ex-Vice President (Update3)

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(Adds company comment in fifth paragraph.)

By David Glovin

March 24 (Bloomberg) -- Goldman Sachs Group Inc. was sued for bias by a former vice president who said she was pushed onto the "mommy-track" and eventually fired after she chose to work part-time following her pregnancy.

The lawsuit, which alleged violations of the U.S. Family Medical Leave Act, gender and pregnancy discrimination, was filed today in Manhattan federal court. It seeks unspecified damages.

Charlotte Hanna joined Goldman in 1998 as an associate and rose to vice president while at Goldman Sachs University, an internal training program, according to the complaint. After deciding to work part-time when she became pregnant with her first child, she said she was channeled into lesser positions that compromised her earnings and prospects for better jobs.

"When Ms. Hanna decided to take the 'off-ramp' provided by the firm to devote time to her children, there was no 'on-ramp' that enabled her to return to full-time employment," her lawyer wrote in the complaint. "The 'off-ramp' was a direct path to a mommy-track that ultimately derailed Ms. Hanna's career."

Gia Morón, a spokeswoman for Goldman Sachs in New York, declined to comment. Douglas Wigdor, the lawyer representing Hanna, won a \$7.5 million jury verdict against Wal-Mart Stores Inc. in 2005 in a disability bias case. Damages were later reduced by an appeals court.

Hanna, who is unemployed, said she was demoted, lost her office and pushed into a job in operations in the training program, according to the complaint. She said she was fired before her return from her second maternity leave in 2008.

Hanna notified the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission of her intention to file the suit, as required by law. The agency declined to pursue the case, Wigdor said.

The case is *Hanna v. Goldman*, 10-cv-02637, U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York (Manhattan).

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