

## 'My name is Matthew Lodge, I come in peace': Terrified residents file a law suit against drunk former NRL player who broke into their New York apartment block

- Matthew Lodge was arrested in October for stalking women in New York
- He faced [New York City](#) court in October and surrendered his passport
- Three people have filed a lawsuit against him over alleged drunken attack
- He is accused of also breaking into a couple's Upper West Side apartment

By [DAILY MAIL REPORTER](#) PUBLISHED: 19:22 EST, 22 December 2015 | UPDATED: 22:30 EST, 22 December 2015

Former Australian rugby league player Matthew Lodge has been slapped with a lawsuit accusing him of battery, assault and false imprisonment after an alleged drunken attack on several people in [New York](#).

Joseph Cartright, Ruth Fowler and Carolin Dekeyser filed the federal lawsuit against the former Wests Tigers player after he was arrested in October for allegedly stalking two women and breaking into a stranger's apartment during a drunken rampage while on holiday.

The 20-year-old, who had been sacked by his rugby league club after an earlier incident in [Sydney](#), allegedly followed two women back to the Upper West Side apartment building where they were staying on October 16.



Former rugby league player Matthew Lodge has been slapped with a lawsuit accusing him of battery, assault and false imprisonment after an alleged drunken attack on several people in October in New York

The lawsuit states Carolin Dekeyser and a friend were returning to the apartment at 4am when an intoxicated Lodge allegedly attacked and threatened them after a cab driver refused to pick him up.

He allegedly told the women 'this is the night you die' after he asked them to return to Australia with him and they refused.

The women claim they ran into the apartment building where their friend lived but became stuck in the foyer with Lodge allegedly cursing and repeatedly threatening their lives.

He is accused of grabbing one of the girls and screaming in her face.

The other plaintiffs, Joseph Cartright and Ruth Fowler, live in the same building and helped the women as they allegedly tried to get away from Lodge.

The lawsuit states Lodge then broke into Mr Cartright's apartment where his nine-year-old son was sleeping. Mr Cartright claims he pleaded with the rugby league player to leave but Lodge allegedly put him in a headlock and hit him multiple times in his left ear and skull.

He also allegedly paced the apartment room shouting, 'My name is Matthew Lodge. I come in peace. Salaam Alaikum' and 'My lawyer will take care of all this, do not worry'.

Lodge is accused to locking Mr Cartwright out of his apartment while his wife and son hid in a locked bathroom. He could allegedly be heard breaking plates and glass in the kitchen until eventually the NYPD arrived and arrested him at gunpoint, the lawsuit states.



Matthew Lodge kept his head down as he entered Manhattan court in October after after he was arrested for stalking two women and breaking into a stranger's apartment during a drunken rampage while on holiday

Mr Cartwright and his wife say the alleged attack violated the sanctity of their home.

'Early in the morning of October 16, 2015, the lives of five innocent people including a young boy of nine years old, were forever changed by the vicious and violent attacks by Defendant Matthew Lodge, a professional rugby player with a history of violence and animosity towards women,' the lawsuits reads.

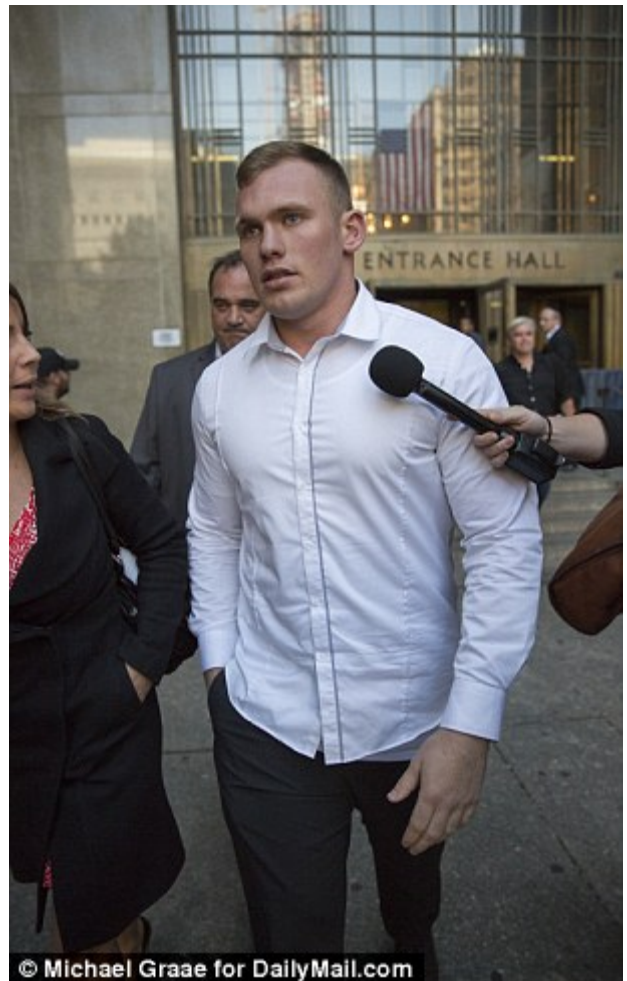
All three plaintiffs are suing for battery, assault, intentional infliction of emotional distress, false imprisonment, gender related violence. They are seeking unspecified damages for the alleged attack on them.

Lodge was arrested and charged with criminal mischief, reckless endangerment, criminal trespass, assault and menacing.

He appeared in Manhattan court in October where he was ordered to hand over his passport, forcing him to remain in the country until his next hearing in February.



Lodge (pictured leaving court in October) was ordered to turn over his Australian passport in court and will have to remain in the country until February when his next hearing is scheduled



Lodge, who had been sacked by his rugby league club after an earlier incident in Sydney, allegedly followed two German women back to the Upper West Side apartment building where they were staying on October 16



The other plaintiffs, Joseph Cartright and his Ruth Fowler, live in the Upper West Side apartment building (pictured) and helped the women as they allegedly tried to get away from Lodge