



NY Civilian Review Board Chair Quits After Retaliation Suit

By **Kat Greene**

Law360, Los Angeles (April 13, 2016, 9:27 PM ET) -- Attorney Richard Emery of [Emery Celli Brinckerhoff & Abadi LLP](#) resigned from New York City's Civilian Complaint Review Board a day after the board's executive director filed a suit alleging he retaliated against her for complaining when he called her names, her attorney confirmed Wednesday.

CCRB Executive Director Mina Malik said Emery called her a gender-based slur when she and another female employee questioned his approach to a complaint, according to a suit she filed in New York state court on Tuesday.

"I don't know why everyone is acting like a bunch of pussies," Emery allegedly said when she and the other female employee questioned him, according to the suit.

Malik said that she complained to the city about the conduct, but the administration sat on her complaint for months, and that Emery began laying the groundwork for her termination as retaliation for her speaking up, according to the suit.

Malik's colleague, Robia Charles, the board's deputy executive director for policy and strategic initiatives, said in the suit that she also faced an unfair environment in which she was micromanaged by Emery while her male colleagues weren't.

Charles said that she also complained to the city and that she was also promptly retaliated against by Emery, made even more stressful because she's pregnant, she said in the suit.

According to the suit, Emery had planned to "lay the groundwork" to terminate both Malik and Charles at Wednesday's CCRB meeting, perhaps even launching a vote to have them both ousted.

A CCRB meeting scheduled for Wednesday night was abruptly canceled, according to the board's website.

“We are pleased that filing this lawsuit had such a quick and positive impact on the CCRB, and by extension the entire city,” Douglas H. Wigdor of [Wigdor LLP](#), who represents the plaintiffs, said in a statement. “Mr. Emery’s decision to resign was the right one, and we expect that the CCRB will now be able move forward and more effectively protect the rights of the people of this city.”

The plaintiffs also questioned whether Emery’s work on the board was a conflict of interest with his law practice, according to the suit. Emery was still collecting profits from Emery Celli after his appointment by Mayor Bill de Blasio to the CCRB, even though the firm represents plaintiffs in suits against the city, Malik and Charles said in Tuesday’s complaint.

Emery didn’t immediately respond to a request for comment on Wednesday.

Malik and Charles are represented by Douglas H. Wigdor and Michael J. Willemin of Wigdor LLP.

Counsel information for Emery couldn’t be immediately determined.

The case is Mina Quinto Malik et al. v. The City of New York et al., case number 153118/2016, in the Supreme Court of the State of New York, New York County.

--Editing by Patricia K. Cole.