

# Indian woman raped by Uber driver in 2014 sues startup for allegedly accessing her medical records

 [nydailynews.com/news/national/indian-woman-raped-uber-driver-sues-violation-privacy-article-1.3250479](https://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/indian-woman-raped-uber-driver-sues-violation-privacy-article-1.3250479)

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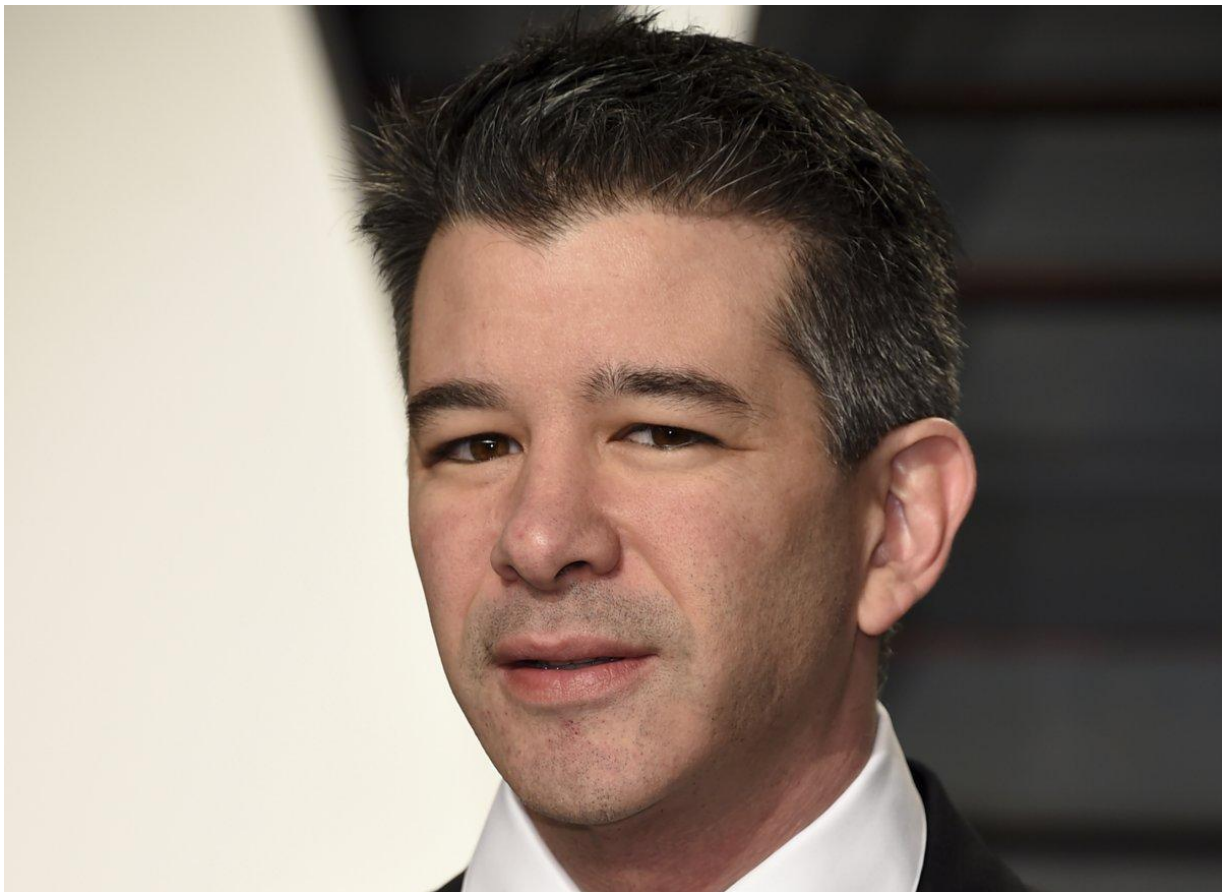
An Indian woman raped by an Uber driver in 2014 filed her second lawsuit against the besieged company Thursday, alleging its execs had accessed her medical records and then “callously disregarded her privacy” in discussing them.

The violation of privacy and defamation suit — filed in California federal district court by New York-based attorney Douglas Wigdor — named Uber, on-leave CEO Travis Kalanick, and recently departed bigwigs Eric Alexander and Emil Michael as defendants.

“It is shocking that Travis Kalanick could publicly say that Uber would do everything to support our client and her family in her recovery when he and other executives were reviewing illegally obtained medical records and engaging in offensive and spurious conspiracy theories about the brutal rape she so tragically suffered,” Wigdor said in a statement.

“Rape denial is just another form of the toxic gender discrimination that is endemic at Uber and ingrained in its culture,” he added.

The court filing came roughly a week after tech site [Recode](#) reported Alexander — then president of business for Uber Asia Pacific — had been axed from the ride-hailing company after obtaining the rape survivor’s medical records.



## **Uber CEO Travis Kalanick announced he would take an indefinite leave of absence this week.**

(Evan Agostini/Evan Agostini/Invision/AP)

“No one should have to go through a horrific experience like this, and we’re truly sorry that she’s had to relive it over the last few weeks,” an Uber spokesperson told the Daily News in response to the lawsuit.

Michael and Alexander could not immediately be reached for comment.

After the woman reported her Dec. 5, 2014 assault to police, she underwent a medical exam that produced a “highly confidential” report containing “extremely sensitive details about the brutal rape,” the suit alleged.

Kalanick decried the “horrific” attack in a public statement two days later, vowing to help bring the perp to justice and provide support to the woman, while stressing the need for beefed-up background checks.



## **Eric Alexander was until recently Uber’s Asia Pacific president of business.**

(Hindustan Times/Hindustan Times via Getty Images)

But less than a week later, the suit claims, Alexander “intentionally obtained” the rape survivor’s medical records from Delhi police.

He showed the records to Kalanick and Michael, and the three men discussed them with other Uber staffers, the filing alleged — further claiming the execs spread a theory she had “made up” the rape and colluded with an Uber rival in India.

Alexander carried the sensitive records around in a briefcase and repeatedly “waved (her) medical information around Uber’s office,” the lawsuit said.

“Alexander obtained Plaintiff’s records and shared them with Kalanick and Michael so that he could attempt to defame and undermine her very serious allegations of sexual assault and rape,” the lawyers wrote.

Following the attack, Delhi [imposed a ban](#) on Uber until June of 2015. Driver Shiv Kumar Yadav, convicted of rape, kidnapping and criminal intimidation, was [sentenced to life in prison](#) that year.

The woman, who now lives in Texas, [filed a separate suit](#) against Uber in 2015 over its safety protocols, but ultimately agreed to withdraw the filing. The two parties reached a settlement upwards of \$1 million, a source close to the case told The News.

Uber has been roiled in recent months by personnel turnover and allegations of sexual misconduct. Ex-employee Susan Fowler spoke out in February about alleged harassment and discrimination she faced during her tenure, and the company recently axed several high-level managers.

Kalanick announced this week he would take an indefinite leave of absence from the startup.