

Sportscaster Warner Wolf accuses Don Imus of firing him over his age in wrongful termination suit

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By Stephen Rex Brown

Famed New York sportscaster Warner Wolf sued Don Imus Thursday for wrongful termination — let's go to the videotape!

Wolf, a fixture on the New York sports scene for decades, says the famed shock jock routinely cracked "inappropriate" jokes about his age, such as "time to put (Wolf) out to pasture" and "shoot him with an elephant dart gun," according to his suit filed in Manhattan Supreme Court.

Wolf, 80, began appearing on "Imus in the Morning" in 1996 — but things went south in 2016 when he tried contributing to the show from Naples, Fla. where he lives. Imus, 77, is retiring in March and broadcasts from his Texas ranch while the rest of the crew works from New York.

"You asked me if I was ok with you doing sports from Florida. I said I was. We tried it. It sucks," Imus wrote in an email shortly before Wolf's final appearance on Nov. 4, 2016. "If you're in the studio in New York ... it's terrific. Anything else is not."

But Wolf — an early pioneer of the use of sports highlights known for his catchphrase "Let's go to the videotape!" — says that Imus merely used Florida as an excuse to fire him.

Wolf "was discriminatorily terminated ... based upon his age," the suit says.

Wolf cites Imus's alleged comments about an elephant dart gun and putting Wolf "out to pasture" as evidence of the discriminatory intent.

Cumulus Media, the broadcaster of "Imus in the Morning," refused to honor Wolf's \$97,500 severance, according to the suit. Cumulus, which is in bankruptcy, is not named as a defendant. Its senior vice president, Mike McVay, and WABC's program director, Craig Schwalb, are named as defendants.

Following a Daily News article about [Wolf's termination](#), Imus wrote to warn the sportscaster "don't go to war with me," the suit says.

Wolf was replaced on "Imus in the Morning" with Sid Rosenberg, a radio personality who is in his 50s. Rosenberg was fired from "Imus" in 2005 after cracking a joke about singer Kylie Minogue's breast cancer diagnosis.

Wolf seeks damages to be determined at trial. Efforts to reach Imus were unsuccessful.

"It is hard to imagine a more iconic sportscaster than Warner Wolf," Wolf's attorney Doug Wigdor said. "It is shameful that despite his continuing abilities at providing insight into the world of sports he was terminated because of his age and not even provided the severance for

which he was contractually entitled."