

2 N.J. news anchors among 5 suing NY1 for age and gender discrimination

[nj.com/news/2019/06/2-nj-news-anchors-among-5-suing-ny1-for-age-and-gender-discrimination.html](https://www.nj.com/news/2019/06/2-nj-news-anchors-among-5-suing-ny1-for-age-and-gender-discrimination.html)



Roma Torre and Kristen Shaughnessy, two anchorwomen for NY1 who live in New Jersey, are among five suing the network for age and gender discrimination, The New York Times reports.

In the lawsuit, filed in Federal District Court in Manhattan Wednesday, the plaintiffs say that after Stamford, Connecticut-based Charter Communications acquired NY1 in 2016, they were sidelined through reductions in airtime and were left out of promotional campaigns.

Torre, 61, who has been with NY1 since 1992, lives in Montclair. Shaughnessy, 50, has worked for the network since 1995 and lives in Scotch Plains.

"We feel we are being railroaded out of the place," Torre told the Times. "Men age on TV with a sense of gravitas, and we as women have an expiration date."

"At some point, we were branded malcontents and told to stop complaining," she said.

Torre's airtime was reduced from three hours as a solo anchor on weekdays to one hour. The lawsuit alleges that Torre's salary is less than half that of morning anchor Pat Kiernan.

We are 5 award-winning female journalists calling on [@NY1](#) to end its practice of pushing out older female talent in favor of younger women & men. Read this NY Times article to learn more about the lawsuit we filed today. [#BroadcastWomen](#) [#UnseenOnTV](#) <https://t.co/v7TXP52DW1>

— Unseen On TV (@UnseenWomenOnTV) [June 19, 2019](#)

Kiernan, the suit says, was also treated differently than Torre when it came to acknowledging his long tenure at the network. NY1 rolled out an ad campaign to celebrate his 20 years working there, while Torre, who has been there for 27 years, received “no special promotion whatsoever,” it says.

Torre and Shaughnessy’s fellow anchors Amanda Farinacci, 40, Jeanine Ramirez, 49, and Vivian Lee, 44, are part of the group suing the network.

“Women in media should be celebrated for their diversity of experience and wisdom,” the group wrote as part of an [open letter](#) on Medium. “We should be long past the days that women of a certain age are deemed expendable. We call out all newsrooms nationwide to look in their collective mirror.”

The anchorwomen used the letter to launch an [@UnseenWomenonTV](#) Twitter account and [#BroadcastWomen](#) campaign.

“Our five clients have clearly been told that their careers are over, as NY1 seems to believe that younger faces, when it comes to women, are a ‘better look’ for the bottom line,” their lawyer, Douglas Wigdor, told the Times.

“We take these allegations seriously, and as we complete our thorough review, we have not found any merit to them,” Charter spokeswoman Maureen Huff said in a statement. “NY1 is a respectful and fair workplace, and we’re committed to providing a work environment in which all our employees are valued and empowered.”