


# Five New York Anchorwomen Allege Age and Gender Discrimination: "We as Women Have an Expiration Date"

 [vogue.com/article/ny1-anchorwomen-file-age-and-gender-discrimination-lawsuit](https://www.vogue.com/article/ny1-anchorwomen-file-age-and-gender-discrimination-lawsuit)

Five New York anchorwomen for the longtime local news station, NY1, filed a gender and age discrimination lawsuit on Wednesday. Roma Torre, Kristen Shaughnessy, Jeanine Ramirez, Vivian Lee and Amanda Farinacci—anchors and reporters aged 40 to 61 who have collectively worked at NY1 for more than 100 years—accuse their employer, Charter Communications, of "dramatically" reducing their on-air time in favor of younger men and woman with less experience, and paying and promoting them less than their male counterparts.

"Ever since NY1 was taken over by Charter in 2016, [the] Plaintiffs' then-blossoming careers have wilted," [the suit](#), posted by *The New York Times*, read.

Torre, 61, an Emmy-winner and a well-known face at the channel since 1992, says that her previous, three-hour weekday solo-anchoring slot was cut back to one hour, along with some co-anchoring time, and that her theater reviews were pulled from "On Stage," NY1's weekly program on Broadway. Meanwhile, during the same period, Torre alleges, she was being paid less than half the salary of her male counterpart, Pat Kiernan, who was elevated to lead anchor of NY1's new show, *Mornings on 1*; Torre says she was shot down for so much as asking to use Kiernan's new set, or one of his makeup artists. The suit notes that NY1 toasted Kiernan's 20th anniversary on the network with an ad campaign and celebratory on-air segments, while Torre's longer tenure—25 years—"received no special promotion whatsoever."

Among the other claims in the suit: that Charter demoted Lee to a fill-in anchor and canceled her weekly arts and culture show, "Spotlight," in January; that all of the women, despite excellent performance reviews, saw their airtime dwindle as the network groomed younger women with similar looks to take their places—they provided photographic backup in the suit.

"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."

A Charter spokesperson denied the claims, saying, "We take these allegations seriously, and as we complete our thorough review, we have not found any merit to them. 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."

But Torre, Lee, Shaughnessy, Ramirez, and Farinacci say their alleged mistreatment is part of a system of elevating men, while marginalizing more experienced women of TV news. See: the idea of elder anchorman as distinguished and trustworthy, while their female counterparts are disposable. The lawsuit points to the example of another local New York station, where anchor Chuck Scarborough celebrated 45 years on-air, while his longtime female co-anchor, Sue Simmons, made it clear that her departure in 2012 was not voluntary.

It is precisely this system that Torre says she and her colleagues are attempting to break down. Even as the veteran women of NY1 are allegedly marginalized, they are using their voices behind the scenes in an effort to instigate industry change. "We don't have animosity toward the younger people who are taking our jobs," she told the *Times*. "But they're going to get older, too, one day. And this cycle has got to stop."