

Stamford-based Charter Communications faces second discrimination suit at NY1 channel

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STAMFORD — Charter Communications was sued Wednesday for alleged gender-discrimination at its Spectrum News NY1 channel by two women who formerly worked as on-air journalists at the cable news channel, marking the second-such lawsuit against the company in the past two months.

Filed in federal court in New York, Michelle Greenstein and Thalia Perez's lawsuit accuses the station of discriminating against and later firing them because they were in their 40s and had become pregnant. Their complaint follows a [gender-discrimination complaint filed last month](#) by five other female journalists at NY1 who are older than 40.

"NY1/Charter clearly made a decision to limit the on-air time of older women, in favor of younger women and men," Perez said in a statement. "Unfortunately, I was a victim of this decision-making — and the fact that I was pregnant clearly counted as only an additional mark against me."

A message left for Stamford-based Charter was not immediately returned. The company, which took over NY1 through its \$55 billion acquisition of Time Warner Cable in 2016, denied the allegations in last month's lawsuit.

Among NY1's on-air talent, 57 percent are women, 55 percent are older than 40 and 25 percent are women older than 40, according to Charter data.

Perez, a part-time anchor, was fired at 43. She lost her job in her third trimester after she complained that she had been discriminated against and denied additional on-air opportunities because she was pregnant, according to the lawsuit.

Greenstein, who worked as part-time traffic reporter, was dismissed at age 40. Her termination came three months after she complained about being told she was being denied on-air opportunities because she was a new mother, the lawsuit said.

After Perez and Greenstein were fired, their roles were filled by much younger women and men, the complaint said.

Wigdor LLP, the Manhattan-based law firm that also represented an executive of Point72 Asset Management in a [similar complaint](#) filed last year against the Stamford-based hedge fund, is representing all seven of the women who have sued Charter in the two lawsuits. Point72 denied the allegations, but it said that the firm was trying to increase the number of women hired.

“As a new mother, being told that my decision to have children would render me disposable to NY1 was extremely demoralizing,” Greenstein said in a statement. “I had previously feared retribution for speaking up about this, but seeing the five current anchors share similar stories of gender and age discrimination, it gave me the strength and motivation to come forward with my experience.”