

Weinstein reaches tentative \$25 million settlement with accusers

bizjournals.com/newyork/news/2019/12/11/weinstein-reaches-tentative-25-million-settlement.html

Harvey Weinstein and the board of his bankrupt film studio have reached a tentative \$25 million agreement with dozens of his alleged sexual misconduct victims, according to The New York Times.

Under the agreement, the Oscar-winning producer would not have to admit wrongdoing or pay anything to his accusers himself.

The settlement would require court approval and a final sign-off by all parties.

As for where the money would come from, the Times says it would be paid by insurance companies tasked with representing The Weinstein Co.

The payout to the accusers would be part of an overall \$47 million settlement intended to close out the company's obligations.

The proposed global legal settlement has gotten preliminary approval from all the major parties involved, per the report, citing lawyers involved in the proceedings. However, some of the women who have accused Weinstein of wrongdoing are not part of the agreement.

More than 30 actresses and former Weinstein employees are expected to share in the payout. Potential claimants may join in coming months, the Times continued.

While the agreement would settle most of the civil suits against him, Weinstein still faces a criminal trial, which is set to start in New York next month. In that case, he is accused of sexually assaulting two women.

Weinstein has denied all wrongdoing in both the civil and criminal cases.

The deal comes more than two years after an investigation into the "Shakespeare in Love" producer led to the bankruptcy and sale of his eponymous company.

A few women have decided to not be part of the agreement.

A lawsuit by the actress Ashley Judd, who has said she intends to take Weinstein to trial, would not be part of the deal.

Two other women who have brought civil suits against Weinstein — producer Alexandra Canosa and actress Wedil David — have also walked away from the tentative deal and intend to challenge it.

Legal advisors for David, Douglas Wigdor and Kevin Mintzer, sent this statement to the New York Business Journal:

We reject the notion that this was the best settlement that could have been achieved on behalf of the victims. It is shameful that \$12 million of the settlement is going to the lawyers for the directors who we alleged enabled Harvey Weinstein and it is even more outrageous that the proposed settlement will seek to bind non participating members by providing a release to the insurance companies and the directors of the Weinstein Co. itself. While we don't begrudge victims who want to settle, we plan to vigorously object to any provision that tries to bind victims who want to proceed with holding Harvey Weinstein accountable for his actions which is exactly what we intend to do.