

60 Minutes producer sues CBS after she was 'ostracized' for complaint about inappropriate photos

 [dailymail.co.uk/news/article-7803189/60-Minutes-producer-sues-CBS-ostracized-complaint-inappropriate-](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-7803189/60-Minutes-producer-sues-CBS-ostracized-complaint-inappropriate-)

December 17,
2019

- **London-based Cassandra Vinograd claims her boss Michael Gavshon sent a photo of himself and 'friends urinating on what appeared to be smoldering coal'**
- **She claims she expressed concerns about his 'excessive drinking' and described 'highly inappropriate, unprofessional and upsetting events' to CBS execs**
- **Vinograd says she asked to be protected from retaliation in a September email but her boss removed her from stories and CBS did not to stop the retaliation**
- **She claims she was 'isolated and penalized' for calling out 'inappropriate conduct'**

A 60 Minutes producer is suing CBS accusing the company of gender discrimination as she claims she was 'ostracized' after complaining that a male executive sent her an inappropriate photograph.

London-based Cassandra Vinograd claims she asked to be protected from retaliation from her boss Michael Gavshon, 63, after she received 'an old photo of Gavshon and some friends urinating on what appeared to be smoldering coal' and expressed concerns about his 'excessive drinking'.

In the lawsuit she cites 'unlawful discriminatory conduct' and 'unlawful retaliatory conduct', as she alleges the company punished her almost immediately after she 'emailed senior executives and the general counsel, to describe her serious concerns regarding "highly inappropriate, unprofessional and upsetting events"'.

London-based Cassandra Vinograd (left) claims her boss Michael Gavshon (right) sent a photo of himself 'and some friends urinating on what appeared to be smoldering coal' She complained in a September email

She claims she expressed concerns about his 'excessive drinking' and described 'highly inappropriate, unprofessional and upsetting events' to CBS execs. The CBS logo is seen at the CBS Building, headquarters of the CBS Corporation, in New York City

'In the ensuing days, through a series of swift moving events, Cassie was ostracized, isolated and penalized for calling out what she perceived as inappropriate conduct by Gavshon,' the lawsuit claims about the event after her electronic communication in September.

'Gavshon quickly removed her from all stories in production, including a segment she had pitched and performed the majority of the work on. In deference to Gavshon, CBS executives did nothing to stop his blatant retaliation.

'Worse, senior executives ratified his personal vendetta by willingly sending temporary associate producers to replace Cassie and work with Gavshon.'

the Pulitzer Center grantee - who previously worked for the Associated Press, NBC and the Wall Street Journal - said his actions made her feel 'disgusted, uncomfortable and scared'.

CBS investigated after she was sent the inappropriate image but after Gavshon said it was meant for his sister, they told the producer 'this is clearly a photo that should not have been shared with you'.

'Michael has assured us that he sent the photo to you by accident and that he was appalled and embarrassed for inadvertently doing so,' CBS allegedly responded.

'We accept his explanation that he sent this photo to you entirely by accident and believe that this was an isolated incident with no malicious intent on the part of Michael.'

She claims the company advised her to stay home if she was uncomfortable working with Gavshon, and told her she should meet with Gavshon and try to 'work through' things, according to the complaint.

CBS did not immediately respond to DailyMail.com's request for comment.

'We look forward to holding CBS accountable for its unlawful conduct as alleged in the complaint by our client Cassandra Vinograd,' Wigdor LLP partner Jeanne M. Christensen said in a statement.

'Contrary to CBS's claims that it is doing the right thing when female employees report gender-related misconduct, as alleged, it appears that no meaningful changes to the culture at CBS have been made.

'It appears that CBS continues to protect senior male talent at the expense of junior women — business as usual.'

CBS executives have been the subject of other sexual harassment allegations in recent years, with anchor Charlie Rose, CBS Corp President Leslie Moonves and 60 Minutes Executive Producer Jeff Fager being fired from the company or resigning under pressure.

Rose apologized for his 'inappropriate behavior'. Fager has denied allegations of sexual harassment.

Moonves has denied any wrongdoing and has described his sexual encounters as consensual. Following reports of the allegations against Moonves, CBS said: 'CBS is very mindful of all workplace issues and takes each report of misconduct very seriously.'

