

# 60 Minutes producer sues CBS for gender discrimination

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by Mike Brest

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A producer for CBS's *60 Minutes* filed a lawsuit against her employer for "unlawful discriminatory conduct" and "unlawful retaliatory conduct" after she attempted to report her superior for inappropriate behavior.

Cassandra Vinograd, a London-based associate producer for *60 Minutes* who previously worked at NBC, the *Associated Press*, and the *Wall Street Journal*, joined CBS in June.

Months after starting the position, she "emailed senior executives and the general counsel, to describe her serious concerns regarding 'highly inappropriate, unprofessional and upsetting events'" involving her boss, longtime CBS producer Michael Gavshon, according to the *Hollywood Reporter*. She claims he sent her an inappropriate photograph showing him urinating on what appeared to be smoldering coal and that he drank excessively during work hours.

She asked for an investigation and to be protected from "retaliation," but was removed from much of her daily work.

"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 suit claims. "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."

A CBS investigation into Gavshon's behavior determined that the photo "should not have been shared with you," but added that, "Michael has assured us that he sent the photo to you by accident and that he was appalled and embarrassed for inadvertently doing so. 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."

The lawsuit comes less than a year-and-a-half after the network's longtime chairman, president, and CEO Les Moonves resigned after facing a slew of accusations that he was physically and sexually abusive toward female employees.

Neither CBS nor Vinograd immediately responded to requests for comments.

