

# Harvey Weinstein accused in lawsuit of sexual assault on teen model

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By Leonard  
Greene

Among Harvey Weinstein's alleged sexual assault victims was a 16-year-old model from Poland whose American acting dreams were dashed when the disgraced movie mogul took off his pants and "threateningly demanded sex," according to a new lawsuit filed Thursday.

Former model Kaja Sokola was previously identified only as Jane Doe in an earlier class-action lawsuit against Weinstein.

But in a new lawsuit filed in state Supreme Court against Weinstein, his former studio and its previous owner, Walt Disney Co., Sokola says that in 2002, when she was 16, she met him for a lunch where they were supposed to discuss her career.

But instead, the accused film fiend took her to his SoHo apartment where he "aggressively and threateningly demanded sex," the suit says.

Weinstein "instructed her take off her clothes, before he took off his pants and, over her objections, forced her to touch his penis while he grabbed at her breasts," according to court papers.

"When I was 16 years old, I came to New York from Poland to work as a model and to try to become an actor, which had been my childhood dream," Sokola said in a statement. "Not long after I arrived in New York, I was sexually abused by Harvey Weinstein. I have been living with the trauma of that day ever since."

Last week, Weinstein reached a tentative \$25 million settlement with many of his alleged sexual misconduct victims, according to The New York Times, which first reported the deal. The terms are such that Weinstein personally doesn't have to pay a dime, the paper reported.

Under the agreement, the insurance companies representing Weinstein's bankrupt film studio would foot the \$25 million bill for payments to some of his accusers who are blocked by technicalities from filing civil claims.

The deal also does not require Weinstein to admit any wrongdoing.

Among those objecting to the settlement was lawyer Douglas Wigdor, who represents several of Weinstein's alleged victims, including Sokola.

“While others may have decided to settle, albeit under some of the most offensive and one-sided terms, we hope that the filing of this complaint encourages other victims and the New York Attorney General to join us as we continue our efforts at holding Harvey Weinstein and his enablers accountable,” Wigdor said in a statement. “Kaja Sokola, who was sexually abused by Harvey Weinstein when she was only 16 years old, is entitled to justice, and we intend to see that she gets it.”

A Weinstein representative did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Sokola said her encounter with Weinstein made her give up on her career.

“I have long since moved on from modeling and, because of Harvey Weinstein, gave up on my dreams of acting,” Sokola said.

“I am grateful to do important work as a clinical psychologist and psychotherapist. As part of my professional education and experience, I have learned that some wounds never fully heal. Memories of sexual abuse are like a scar after a burn, but because the injury is to the psyche, it is invisible to everyone except the victim. By revealing my own scar, I hope to encourage others to speak up about their own experiences,” she added.